

“May I Have Your Attention Please?”

By Sam Bates

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (Ephesians 5:15-17)

Do you ever feel that there is so much going on around you that you can't really focus on anything for very long? Does there seem to be many things that easily distract or pull you away from whatever the task at hand may be? The demands of life, family and work can spin you around until you find yourself just trying to meet everyone's expectations, at the risk of losing focus on the few things that really matter.

This can really be a problem in the workplace. Of course, the demands of work are often imposed on us by others, but we jump in to fight all the battles, instead of choosing them carefully. We all know someone who seems to be involved in everything, running from one issue to another, doing battle on all fronts and not really seeming to accomplish much. I think at some point we have all felt this way as we have tried to be all things to all people.

If we are going to do our work with excellence, as unto the Lord, we must be able to focus and become very good at whatever the specific task is before us. Our enemy (also called the “author of confusion” in the Bible) wants to put all types of distraction before us. Not to say that we won't get involved in other issues from time to time, but those things can add up quickly and we'll find that more time is being spent on issues that have very little to do with our real job and its priorities. This results in diminished productivity and a keen sense of swimming upstream instead of gliding along with the current. God truly expects us to be focused on what we are assigned to do and this takes a daily effort of re-examining priorities and seeking God's will for our work.

A Work Prayer

Lord, please help us to recognize what our true focus and priorities should be at work. Help us to be able to say “no” to the myriad of other things that come along during the day that could easily distract us from truly doing the job you called us to do. We pray for wisdom, discernment and silence so that we can hear more clearly what it is you want us to do.
