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Living with a Focus

Colossians 3:1–11



‘A house divided against itself can’t stand.’
Matthew 12:25

‘...set your heart on things above.’ Col. 3:1

‘...set your mind on things above.’ Col. 3:2

**Your head and your heart have to be moving in
the same direction**

**Our heart ~ desires ~ must be directed
toward ‘things above’**

**Our mind ~ intellect ~ must be directed
toward the things of God**

The background consists of several overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in various shades of blue. These shapes include triangles, quadrilaterals, and arrow-like forms pointing in different directions, creating a dynamic and layered visual effect.

‘You can’t serve two masters.’
Matthew 6:24

Hindrance #1: Hanging onto the past

Leave the old way of life behind and begin living a whole new way

You died with Christ *(Col. 2:20)*

You have been raised with Christ *(Col. 3:1)*

Your life is now hidden with Christ *(Col. 3:3)*

Put to death whatever belongs to the earthly nature... You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived, but now you must rid yourselves of all such things...
(Col. 3:5–8)

Hindrance #2: Mixing up priorities

People who keep their priorities in order, keep their lives in order

‘When Christ, who is your life appears, then you will also appear with Him in glory.’
Col. 3:4

‘...if we ask anything **according to His will**, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him.’ *1 John 5:14–15*

Keys to winning the internal civil war

Ask God to change your heart (*Psalm 37:4*)

Ask God to give you the strength to do right,
regardless of how you feel



Hindrance #3: Underestimating the destructive power of sin

‘Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.’ *Col. 3:5*

‘But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, filthy language.’ *Col. 3:8*

‘Do not lie to each other.’ *Col. 3:9*

Sin is sin...and it is all destructive



Don't let the past hold you back

Don't let mixed-up priorities hold you back

Don't let sin hold you back