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The Naz Prayer Ministry



The Lure of the Temporary

I confess!

I have an attitude problem. In fact my mute button will never be the same, and over the last few months I may have done irreparable damage to the poor little thing. It used to just quietly fill its place on my TV remote, content to go unnoticed, but lately I been known to punch the little fellow urgently and unexpectedly.

And, if I don't miss my guess, mute buttons all over this country have been suffering.

This used to be a seasonal phenomenon, corresponding to the political winds every two years before elections. But for the last decade or so, we have been subjected to a major climate change in American politics. The hot, stuffy winds of vitriolic bluster along with the abandonment of truth and reason have grown into a gale force. To make it worse, the game of politics has elevated the skill of the campaign to the level of a sinister art form that goes on *ad nauseum*.

What a disturbing, devilish distraction!

The clang and clamor of partisan perspectives and power plays becomes an endless assault on our equilibrium personally, socially, and even – more tragically – spiritually. As our gaze becomes more and more fixed on the chaos around us along with the cultural morass of social division and endemic immorality, we can easily become distracted, even blind to the eternal. We become so earthly minded that our sense of what lies beyond the confines of this temporal world can become increasingly obscure.

We are being fed a steady diet of appeals that tug at our carnal hunger for one temporary fix after another. There is a constant barrage of enticements that lure us into believing that the latest enchanting boast of beneficence spouted by the latest or loudest political operative will assure us that a life of ease and effortlessness that we have come to believe we deserve is on the horizon.

At the root of all this is the subtle but intentional attempt to redefine us.

The One who created us made us in His image. The Breath of the Living God turned lifeless clay into living beings. We are first and most of all eternal, destined to experience fulfilment through the wonder of realizing that we can only experience completeness in Him. We have been designed for *shalom*, that peace and inward rest that comes from absolute wholeness, a congruency or alignment with His purposes, His heart.

The fabric of that wholeness is interwoven with the threads of relationships through which we share with those around us the wonder of breathing deeply of life eternal. Just as He made us to live in fellowship with Him, He also designed us to know the joy of relationship with each other and ultimately to walk *together* in His presence.

All of the “other stuff” – the demands of our temporal days, the temporary hungers and wants that fade all too quickly, the deception that the tangible and the physical can provide us with meaning – is a distraction designed by the enemy of our souls to diminish an awareness of our true identities as the children of God Most High. He seeks to blind us to all that God designed us to be, to distract us by tethering us to the demand of the immediate, turning into addicts seeking gratification for our next fix.

Taking Our Next Step Together

Lord, help us navigate the narrow channel of the tension between the culture's definition of who we are and the voice of the Father who knows us as His own and whose heart longs for us (Song of Solomon 7:10). We reject the agenda of the politics *du jour* that seeks to subjugate us to temporal shallowness, and we ask that you renew within us a fresh and ever-growing recognition of all that is eternal.