



Circles

*“Lord, my heart is not proud; my eyes are not haughty.
I don’t concern myself with matters too great or too awesome for
me to grasp.*

*Instead, I have calmed and quieted myself, like a weaned child
who no longer cries for its mother’s milk. Yes, like a weaned
child is my soul within me.”*

King David | Psalm 131:1-2 (NLT)

Like cyclone, it pulls us in: “The world is in crisis—pay attention!”
Facebook. News feeds. X.

We fuel it with friends: “Did you hear about A, Y, Z?”
So we go there... only to pour precious time and energy into matters
too great for us to grasp.

Our curiosity and selfish ambition justify it: “I care. I need to stay
informed. I might need to do something.”

Some truth—but what’s it costing you?

How much of your day disappears?
What about the added worry and stress?

“Generations come and generations go... History repeats itself. Nothing under the sun is truly new.” (Ecclesiastes 1:4–9)

Round and round it goes—we’re sucked into the **Circle of Distraction**.

We’re told this time is urgent, different, unprecedented. Is it?
We’re drawn into concerns too vast—a circle we were never meant to live in.

Here’s the danger: while we’re consumed with what we can’t control, we neglect what God has entrusted to us.

This is where Mission Curve Clarity matters.

Your Spiritual S Curve (your measure of spiritual Intimacy) doesn’t advance by staying informed on everything. It advances by abiding, listening, and obeying—walking in close fellowship with God in the **Circle of Intimacy**.

Your Mission Curve—your Intimacy-inspired works—doesn’t advance by reacting to the world’s noise. It advances by investing daily in carrying your Mission into your **Circle of Service**.

In what Circles is your life being invested?

Reflect: Is my life being oppressed by the Circle of Distraction?

Your time—your life—is an investment that yields returns wherever it’s placed, following a predictable equation: sowing and reaping. You reap

what you sow—and more than you sow. You are formed—or deformed—by whatever you invest in. You become like it.

“And those who make idols are just like them, as are all who trust in them.” (Psalm 135:18)

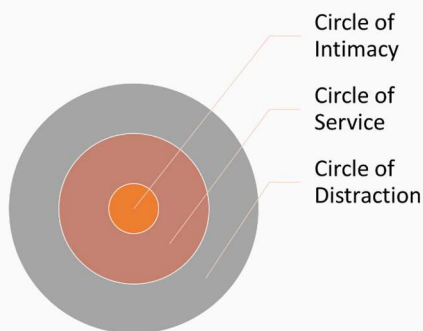
Your Circle of Distraction is full of voices shaping what you do, how you think... and you reap the baggage—fear, worry, stress—that comes with it. What’s been your experience?

The same holds true of your Circles of Intimacy and Service, but their “baggage”—joy, peace, love—is liberating, not burdensome.

Who doesn’t want a life overflowing with this fruit? Yet the Circle of Distraction relentlessly insists, “You need this!” Its billboards are everywhere. The battle lines are set. Which Circles are winning over your life?

Consider: **Mission Curve Clarity Rules overcome oppression.**

Your life is governed by a set of rules—your Rule of Life. It’s not whether they exist, but whether you’ve chosen them intentionally. Spontaneous or structured, you still live by rules—and you’re the author of them.



What rules govern your Circles? More

specifically, the borders between them?

Picture an archery target—Jesus defines the bullseye. What rules help you protect this precious space?

“Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord’s feet, listening to what he taught. But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing... ‘My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it...” (Luke 10:39–42)

From the Circle of Intimacy flow your instructions for living. Is there any doubt about what Jesus—whether directly or through the Apostles—taught? He has enlisted you into his body to serve as he served—sacrificially.

“Soldiers don’t get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them.” The Apostle Paul (2 Timothy 2:4)

You are to carry out your assigned Mission. Soldiers don’t get entangled in the world’s spiraling affairs—the Circle of Distraction. They stay on Mission or risk endangering themselves and others.

What rules keep you in your Circle of Service—clear and steadfast—on Mission?

What rules keep you from getting entangled in what ultimately doesn’t matter?

Perhaps it’s time to be intentional and establish Mission Curve Clarity Rules.

Imagine: Mission Curve Clarity rules my Circles.

Mission Curve Clarity Rules flow from your Circle of Intimacy—from knowing God more deeply. These rules are good!

“By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.” The Apostle Peter (2 Peter 1:3)

As the psalmist wrote, he calmed and quieted himself—he took a long, deep, Spirit-filled breath. Like a weaned child, he gained contentment, trust, and patience—he was maturing. His selfish ambitions were transformed into Kingdom prudence—soul-governing rules: what to let in and what to keep out.

Sick from eating the fruit of the Circle of Distraction? Calm and quiet yourself. Enter the Circle of Intimacy, seeking Kingdom prudence... Life-changing!

With the heart of a weaned child—maturing—grasp Mission Curve Clarity, and let it rule your...

Circles.

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach’s Questions

- **Reflect:** “What is oppressing my life?”

- **Ask:** “What Kingdom prudence—Mission Curve Clarity Rules—will keep me out of my Circle of Distraction? In my Circle of Intimacy?”
- **Challenge:** Keep a daily scorecard—how did it go today?
- Don't know my Mission—[Start here!](#)

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

Rule my Circles with Mission Curve Clarity.

“You say, ‘I am allowed to do anything’—but not everything is good for you. And even though ‘I am allowed to do anything,’ I must not become a slave to anything.”

The Apostle Paul | 1 Corinthians 6:12 (NLT)



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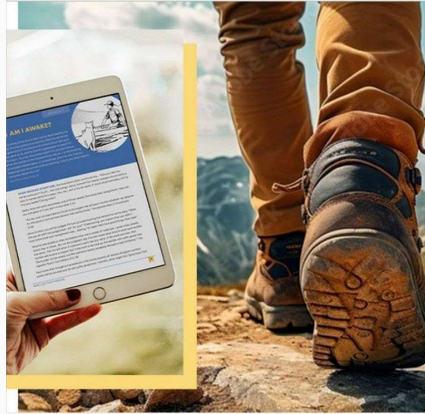
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~ DAN B.

Life Mission: Shaping radical existence in the everyday



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