

**Gathering Question:**

For the most part has technology made your life simpler and more focused or has it made life more difficult and distracted? Explain your answer.

## **Simplicity: Uncluttering Our Lives**

Complicated and cluttered lives can distract us from our goal or becoming more Christ like. Simplifying life frees up time and eliminates distractions that can draw us away from Jesus and a deeper intimacy with God. How can we pursue deep intimacy with God when every minute of our day is muddled with the mundane? How can we be more Christ like when our lives are full of clutter and chaos and controlled by crises? We can't!

The answer to all the clutter is not simply cleaning up and organizing things into big piles. The answer lies in simplicity. Simplicity means that we intentionally decide that we are going to whittle down the clutter so that we have less to manage. How did our lives become so cluttered to begin with? Maybe it happens when you immediately say "yes" every time someone asks you to do something. Or maybe it happens when you don't plan time in your life for leisure and rejuvenation. Or it could happen when you are never satisfied or when your greatest thrill in life is getting more stuff! Or it could even happen when you acquire all the latest technology to simplify your life.

**Read and Reflect:**

II Corinthians 11:23-28; Mark 4:18-19; Luke 10:38-42; 12:15-21, 22-31; and Luke 12:31-34

1. When you read II Corinthians 11, count how many times Paul mentions Jesus. What type of intimate relationship did the passage use to describe the Christian's devotion to Christ?
2. As with a marriage partner, we should only have eyes for Christ. How would you describe Paul's deepest fear in II Corinthians?
3. What three things distracted Corinthian Christians from the simplicity of their devotion to Christ? In what ways could the following deepen an intimate relationship with Christ?
  - Entertainment, leisure, and possessions
  - Prayer, devotions, and Bible Reading
  - Work, ministry, and education
  - Family, friends, and other relationshipsIn what ways can these same things distract us from a simple, pure devotion to Christ?
4. Read the passages from the Gospels and note the things that can clutter your life and distract you from simple devotion to Christ. Which of the passages is most convicting to you?
5. According to Luke 12:31-34, what is God's perspective on our stuff and our priorities?