

Are You Giving In to Satan's Mind Games?

What a week ... business problems, church problems, people problems. It seems all of a sudden that nothing but problems are in my life.

A few months ago, I felt as if our business was unstoppable—boy, was I wrong. Business has slowed almost to a stop. I do see light at the end of the tunnel; I just hope it's not a train.

The strains of church have taken hold as well. With the economy, the world problems and individual struggles, people are starting to become depressed and despairing—through which comes with lots of counsel.

With all of this going on, it has taken my focus off of God and placed it on me. That's not a good place to be. I don't know about you, but when I do that, depression and desperation kick in. This seems to be where the whole world is right now.

We are all so focused on ourselves that we have forgotten others are suffering as well. We are focused on the physical instead of the spiritual. This is where Satan wants us, because now he's in control. Taking our focus off of God and focusing on ourselves gives Satan the opportunity to play games with our minds—thus the depression and desperation.

So yesterday, as I am wallowing in my own pity, a ministry opportunity came about and I was able to help someone who was in need. This person was in desperate need of some help, counsel and prayer. I was able to help, and for a moment all my depression and despair went away. It was a wonderful feeling.

Imagine if just for a moment we took all our self-centered

focus and placed it on those around us. How awesome would it be? Imagine how little depression and desperation there would be in the world.

Now imagine if we stayed in the Word every day, we applied it to our lives, and we stayed focused on the others around us. That's a world I want to live in. We would be rid of depression and desperation once and for all. But any time we take our focus off of God, sooner or later the double-Ds will kick in.

So try this with me. Let's all stay in the Word, keep our focus on God and others, and then see how you and I feel. Let me know the success you have.

I would bet it's a better place than being depressed and despairing. I saw a glimpse of that yesterday in Psalm 32:7:

"You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance" (NASB).

God bless, and share your faith.

Jody Burkeen is founder of Man Up God's Way Ministries, birthed out of his desire to help change the way Christian men "do" Christianity.