

The Firsthand Life



[illegible]

The Affects of Technology

A hand holding a glowing digital globe surrounded by various technology icons like a laptop, smartphone, and social media symbols, with a blurred person in the background.

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Onlookers vs. Travelers



“The ‘balconers’ can overhear the travelers’ talk and chat with them. They may comment critically on the way that the travelers walk. Or they may discuss questions about the road, how it can exist at all or lead anywhere...”

— J.I. Packer

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Onlookers vs. Travelers



“...what might be seen from different points along it, and so forth.

But they are onlookers, and their problems are theoretical only.”

— J.I. Packer

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Onlookers vs. Travelers



“The travelers, by contrast, face problems which, though they have their theoretical angle, are essentially practical—problems of the ‘which-way-to-go’ and ‘how-to-make-it’ type...”

— J.I. Packer

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Onlookers vs. Travelers



“...problems which call not merely for comprehension but for decision and action too.”

— J.I. Packer

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The Secondhand Life

*“The discerning sets his face toward wisdom, but
the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth.”
(Proverbs 17:24)*

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NETFLIX

HBO NOW

 **crunchyroll**

fubo^{TV}

sling

hulu

 **YouTube Premium**

SHOWTIME

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Like · Comment · Share 140

192 people like this.

 Write a comment...

**Lori Todd** I really, really hope that you guys will give page admins an option to see comments chronologically. It's nearly impossible to moderate conversations with the weighting system.
Like · Reply · 75 · March 27 at 7:28am

 Galeri Ariani replied · 22 Replies

**Trollbeads Studio** Please, PLEASE take away the "popular posts float to the top." Or allow this to be optional. I cannot keep track of conversations, and I don't deal in thousands of posts yet. I can't see things in real time. How do I opt out?
Like · Reply · 35 · March 26 at 1:08pm

 DustyJoy.org replied · 2 Replies

**Nelson Doty** This is horrible for admins.. All the comments are out of order. How do you get rid of this crap? I understand being able to reply to comments but why rearrange the comment order? Does anyone know how to opt out.
Like · Reply · 23 · March 27 at 8:40pm

 Jewish Internet Defense Force replied · 3 Replies

**Karen Palmer** the reply feature works just fine but please please please put the comments back into chronological order. Comments make absolutely no sense as they are no longer in context of previous comments. Its impossible to know what you have read and not read.
Like · Reply · 22 · March 30 at 12:07pm

**Julie Neskey Cristal** AWFUL. It is impossible to follow a conversation. Really the worst change you have ever made, bar none. There is a natural flow to a conversation that is now gone.
Like · Reply · 20 · March 30 at 11:02am

 2 Replies

**Madelyn Hubert** The "reply" feature is fine, but please keep posts within the same thread in chronological order. Moving posts from friends to the top of a conversation queue makes it nearly possible to follow what's being said.
Like · Reply · 18 · March 30 at 12:45pm

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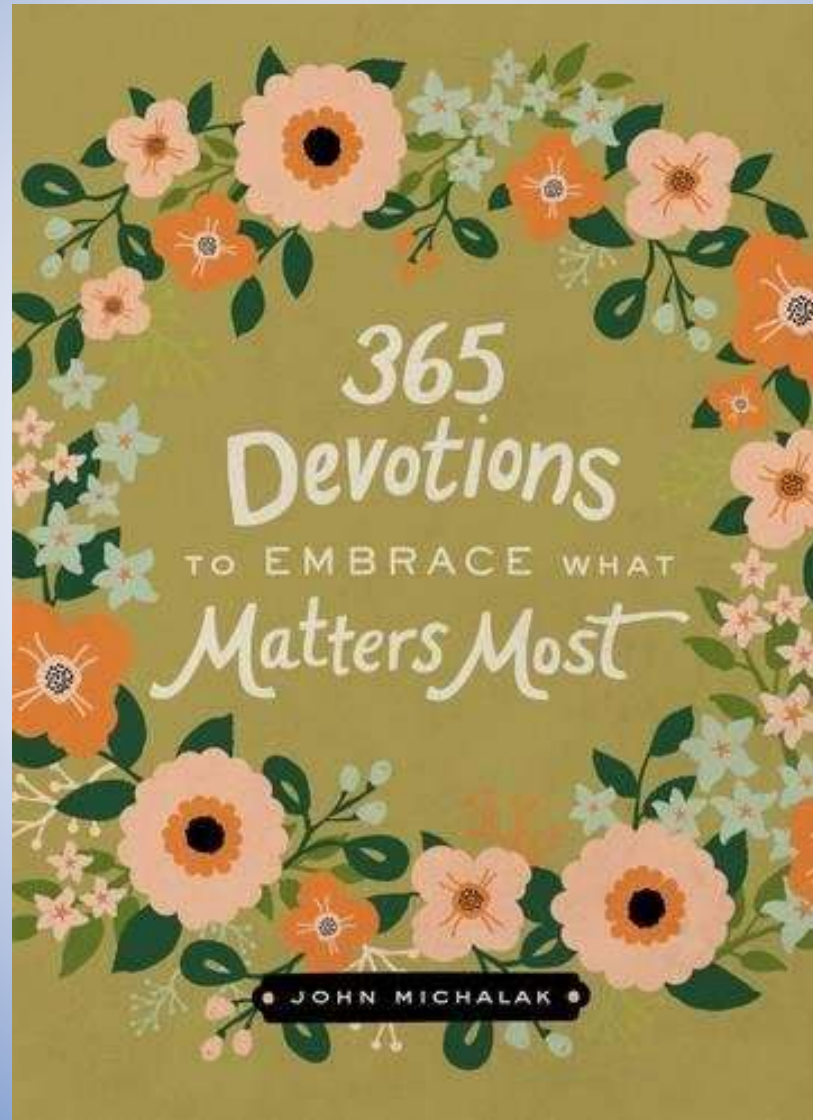


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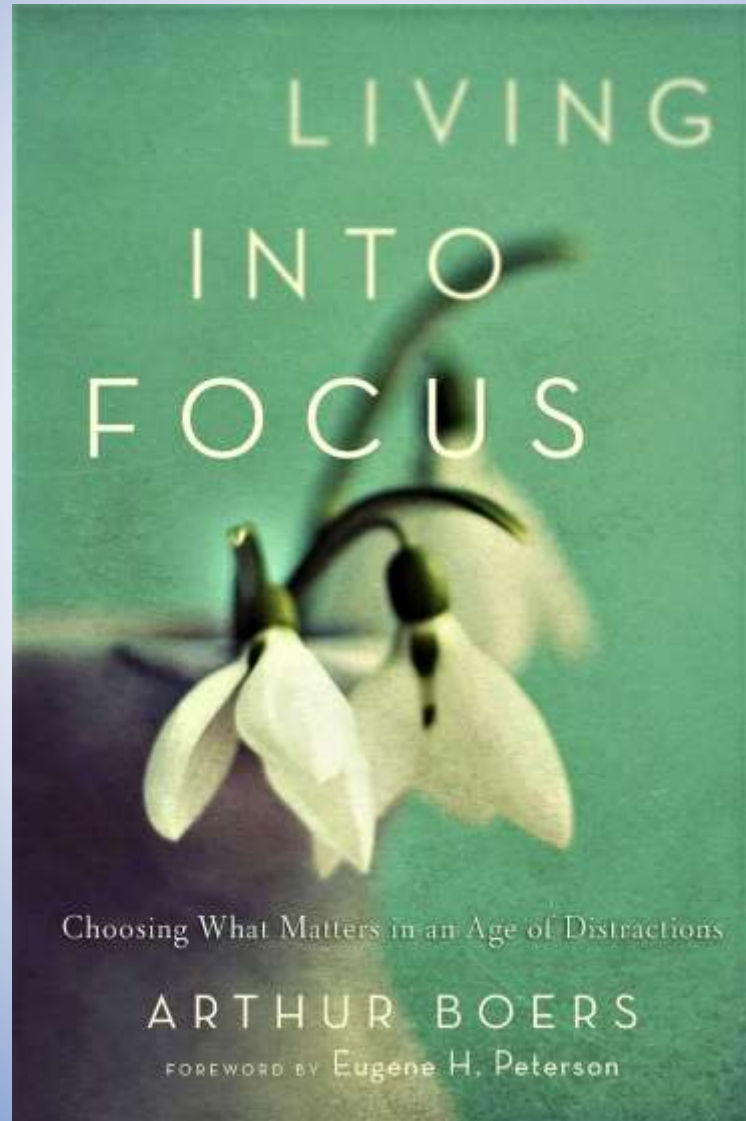
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Where Is Our Focus?

“What is the primary and ongoing focus of our awareness? Screens and virtual relationships? Family and neighbors? Voyeuristic television ‘reality shows’? Nature and our surrounding environment?

Is our capacity to pay attention, dwell, and be aware diminishing? Are we so overwhelmed with information and stimulation that our ability to respond is affected?”

— Arthur Boers

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Where Is Our Focus?

“People of faith have always asked these types of questions and raised these kinds of issues: Where do you look with your eyes, listen with your ears, focus your minds and imaginations?

Where do you invest yourself and your time?”

— Arthur Boers

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Similar, but Not the Same!



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Similar, but Not the Same!



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Similar, but Not the Same!



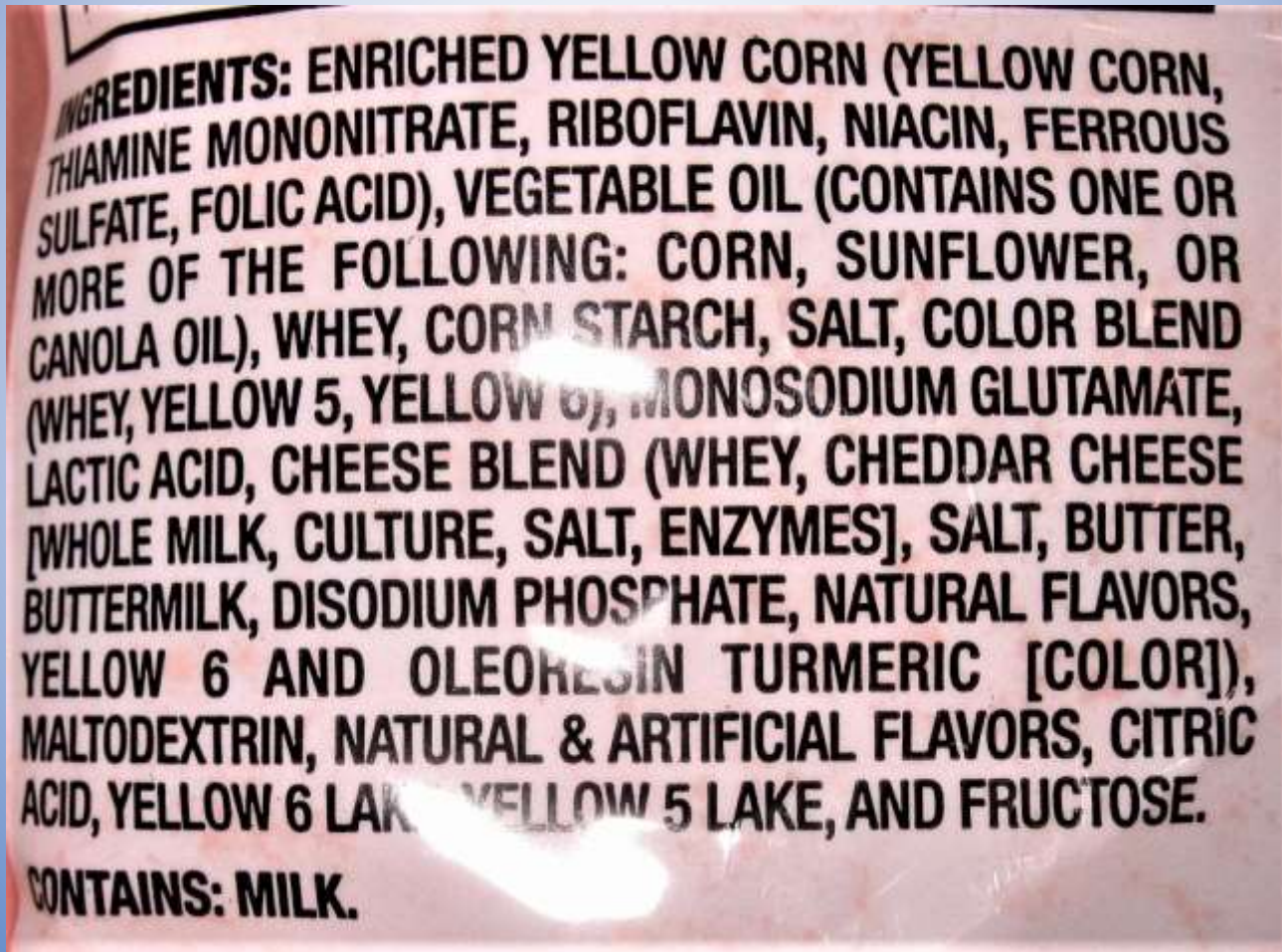
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Similar, but Not the Same!



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Similar, but Not the Same!



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Similar, but Not the Same!



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Similar, but Not the Same!

“There are priests who offer gifts according to the law. They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things.” (Hebrews 8:4-5)

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Similar, but Not the Same!

“Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live.” (Isaiah 55:2-3)

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Similar, but Not the Same!

*“The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was. And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the people of Israel: “You have seen for yourselves that I have talked with you from heaven. You shall not make gods of silver to be with me, nor shall you make for yourselves gods of gold.””’
(Exodus 20:21-23)*

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Similar, but Not the Same!

“Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.” (Psalm 115:4-8)

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Similar, but Not the Same!

“The LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.” (Exodus 33:11)

Living Life Firsthand



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*“Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things
and give me life in your ways.” (Psalm 119:37)*

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“Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:8)

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“The word *focus* comes from the Latin word for ‘hearth’—a woodstove or fireplace, an essential item for comfort and even survival in many climates. A hearth—as its name implies—is often at the heart or center of a house.”

— Arthur Boers

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Living Life Firsthand

Focal Practices:

Activities that center, balance, focus, and orient one's life.

- Eating meals together
- Sharing tea or coffee
- Playing board games
- Making live music in a group
- Opening your home to others

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Focal Practices:

Activities that center, balance, focus, and orient one's life.

- Walking, hiking, running
- Preparing a meal
- Reading together
- Gardening
- Pottery

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Focal Practices:

Activities that center, balance, focus, and orient one's life.

- Letter-writing
- Wood-working
- Quilting
- Bicycling
- Telling stories

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Focal Practices:

Activities that center, balance, focus, and orient one's life.

- Going to the theater or a concert
- Washing dishes
- Playing the piano
- Volunteering

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“For me it’s a release of stress and tension. I can go out there and pull weeds, meditate, pray. Probably more prayers have been said there than in the house.”

— a gardener

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“Because you’re alone out there, you’re with nature, you realize what God is doing with these little tiny seeds that you plant. There’s a certain faith that comes from that.”

— a gardener

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Living Life Firsthand



“Because you’re alone out there, you’re with nature, you realize what God is doing with these little tiny seeds that you plant. There’s a certain faith that comes from that.”

— a gardener

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“These activities produce a sense of wholeness, satisfaction, reward, accomplishment, clarification, and having a glimmer of what matters most...In moments like these we experience pleasure, profound well-being, grateful contentment, and a deep sense of purpose and joy.”

— Arthur Boers

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Firsthand Christianity



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Firsthand Christianity

“ *[In worship]*, I am reconnected to God and God’s reign by singing God’s praises in the company of the faithful, hearing Scriptures read and expounded, praying about essential things, being bonded with fellow believers, remembering that we are not alone, and giving offerings to God. I am caught up not just in a vision of God’s reign but in my experience of it as well.”

— Arthur Boers

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Firsthand Christianity



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Firsthand Christianity

*“The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup.
You hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in
pleasant places. Indeed, I have a beautiful
inheritance.” (Psalm 16:5-6)*



“Technology will be best appropriated, not when it is enclosed in boundaries, but when it is related to a center...”
— Albert Borgmann



“The answer is not to find a line, but to remember and invigorate these centers in our lives that engage our...”

— Albert Borgmann



“...our place, our time, and the people around us.”

— Albert Borgmann

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