

DISTRACTIONS

There's a black ribbon of highway that stretches from California to Utah called Interstate 15. I have travelled that highway several times between semesters at BYU or going to visit relatives in Utah. It never ceases to amaze me at how many distractions there are in Las Vegas, Nevada that can so easily pull a person away from their travel plans. There's food galore - mexican, itallian, steak and eggs, all-you-can-eat buffets. There's gambling, legalized prostitution, car shows, Hollywood entertainers, bright lights, sports events and dozens of other things. It has everything the world can offer.

I am sure that there have been many individuals lured to that town and seriously distracted from what they should have been doing. I like to think that when I am travelling on that stretch of road, that Utah is similar to home (our celestial home) and that the trip is similar to our journey here upon the Earth. Las Vegas represents so many of the distractions that can come in life, distractions designed to keep us from reaching our home.

I am convinced that a lot of people in this life get distracted by a lot of different things. I know one individual that is distracted from the things that are really important in life by work. The person loves his work and loves to work. Unfortunately, he is not active in the gospel, his family suffers, his wife rarely sees him and he has no time for service to others. There are others in this life that get distracted by sports. It becomes there only interest. There's no time for church or family because of NFL football on sundays. For some people it's a hobby or some civic organization that keeps them distracted. These distractions, whatever they may be, keep us from progressing and ultimately reaching our eternal home.

Each one of us has to be very careful not to get so involved in things that have very little to do with us reaching home and receiving our exhaltation. Satan would have each of us get so entangled in one of these distractions that we have a hard time keeping our eyes on those things that are of eternal significance. It is so important to maintain a balance in your life. Many of these things can be good and beneficial, but, when overdone, they distract us from what's truly important.

One of the keys to not being distracted is having a solid testimony of what the Lord would have us do. You get that with all the basic tools we are told to use - prayer, scripture study, church attendance, listening to the prophets, etc.