



Outer Growth - The Internet

Internet shapes the way people think:
minds and heart

**Turn away mine eyes from
beholding vanity, and quicken
thou me in thy way.**

Psalms 119:37

Ideas - James 3:15

Navigate - Colossians 3:2

Time - Acts 19:23

Eyes - Luke 24:16

Risk - Romans 1:22

Neglect - Romans 1:21

Ears - 2 Timothy 4:4

Temptation - Psalms 95:8

Internet sounds similar to the two words "enter net." The combination of these together directs the person to go another way from the norm of doing things. The internet attempts to shape minds and hearts from the natural way of receiving thoughts. This "World Wide Web" steals the opportunity for humans to gain the natural experience of brainstorming and encountering their way of thinking. The human being now has the option to substitute the natural approach for artificial.

On the other hand, the internet can tremendously advance the Kingdom of God, but sadly, it does more harm than

good. As times continue, the false teaching and worldly knowledge of the internet will deceive more and more Christians. The reason is the implementation of programming the system to artificially and virtually assist believers with their needs rather than human resources or the Almighty One, the Spiritual source. Therefore, the approach neglects the interaction and communication of God through His servants to those who need help. God says in Isaiah fifty-five, verse eight, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD." The internet generates deceptive thoughts. Since it provides the opportunity to access a pool of information, the chances for a person to find the information they need on the internet may also encounter data they will not use. However, it could generate ideas to conform to practice for future desires. In Daniel eleven, at the end of verse thirty, "So shall he do: he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant." The internet reminds us of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. They had access to everything the Lord had made and the fruit of the tree not to touch, which was the Tree of Knowledge.

The internet entices users to navigate into other things they had no intention of discovering. God made Adam and Eve aware of the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden of Eden. All they had to do was to stay away from it. However, the forbidden tree was central in the garden, as in Genesis three, verse three, so it would be a challenge not to miss. The fruit from the tree was beautiful and similar to browsing the internet.

The internet can be time-consuming. Ecclesiastes three, verse six says, "A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away." The minute users go on the internet, they intend to

find answers or solutions to whatever they may have in mind. However, some people go online to discover something new of interest: to see and hear what will make their day. Still, the period online can take away from other important things that need attending to family life.

In the Garden of Eden, at the beginning of Genesis three, where the fall of humanity occurs, it does not state where Adam was. Whether he was standing beside or behind Eve, the serpent speaks to Eve in the bottom part of verse one. "And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" Adam and Eve must have been near the forbidden tree for the devil to use this snake to persuade them. If a constant internet user is nearby or has easy access to the service, they will eventually have the temptation to go online.

The internet is a pool of information that could expose users to see and do the wrong thing and change their way of living. The "World Wide Web," arguably one of the nicknames for the internet, can lure a person into seeing things uncommonly through a device wherever and whenever from where they might be. If the internet user wants to see a part of the world or talk to someone in a different area of society, there is no need to travel. However, if a person wants to learn, desire, or fulfill something they are thinking about, the internet has the potential to achieve that.

Adam and Eve knew where the Tree of Knowledge was in the Garden of Eden as they received instruction in Genesis two, verses sixteen through seventeen.

However, the Tree of Knowledge was not the problem because God put it there. God said to Adam and Eve in the first part of verse seventeen of the same chapter, "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it." However, it was the fruit that was on the tree. As the serpent questions Eve in Genesis three,

verse one, she sees the fruit in verse six as the conversation continues throughout verses one through five, tempting her as she continually looks at it.

The internet will advertise things online while searching for information, reading an email, or watching videos. The opportunity to see something unexpected is rapid and regular. Online is commonly known as a "pop-up" because it comes up unannounced, and the user does not see this coming. Many internet users may have devices that have block systems in place, but not everything will be. There will always be some way or avenue of reaching you.

Internet users always have a risk, with the temptation to discover more than necessary. For believers, it does do more harm than good. Why? The internet is a part of the world and not about the word of God. However, it can provide the Bible online for people to read and learn about God, but the internet does not heal, deliver, and bless people as being in the sanctuary of a church where the presence of God dwells. The internet is similar to the Tree of Knowledge: it is there, but the fruit within can harm the soul and fall away from the righteous ways of God into the ungodly lifestyle.

Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden discovered what the Tree of Knowledge was when they ate the fruit from it. They were not aware of what would happen after that. In Genesis three, verse twenty-two, "And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take off the tree of life, and eat, and live forever." The internet is dangerous in exposing the unknown to the user online who is browsing.

Gradually, a person may find out more about things artificially than naturally.

The internet can make a person inattentive to the society that surrounds them. Some people will use the internet to

go online to escape from whatever situations and circumstances they have. After a while, reality sets in as they leave online to go offline and continue in real life as to where they left off. On the other hand, believers who follow the ways of society to escape online from reality instead of depending upon God may experience disappointment. Proverbs three, verse six, says, "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

When Adam and Eve partook of the forbidden fruit from the Tree of Knowledge, their failure opened the door to a new world. After failing to keep the instruction of God, Adam and Eve no longer had the privilege to remain in the Garden of Eden due to disobedience. Negligence causes Adam and Eve to experience life on their own without God leading them because of sin. Why would God allow them to stay if sin is in the camp? Light and darkness do not mix. How could God allow Adam and Eve to stay there?

The internet is like a radio. It has different channels of advertisement, entertainment, and immoral material. Seeing is one thing, but hearing is another. They say the eye is the window of the soul. However, the ears are equally important. In the Garden of Eden, Eve with Adam was with the serpent conversing when persuading them to eat the fruit from the forbidden tree. Eve hears what the serpent says with his question, and she gives in to eating the fruit from off the forbidden tree.

The internet is a pool of information. The user is busy being preoccupied with the desires they have to fulfill their agenda. The serpent found a way to trap Eve and Adam with his words and go the wrong way. The internet is almost the same thing. Go online and see what you could find that could turn against you. No one knows who is good until we go through a test of faith.

Does the internet attempt to shape the minds of people today? Yes. How can believers prevent the overuse of this device? Seek God and not things. When hearts and eyes are on God, the things we desire will gradually come. Luke twelve, verse thirty-one, declares, "But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you."