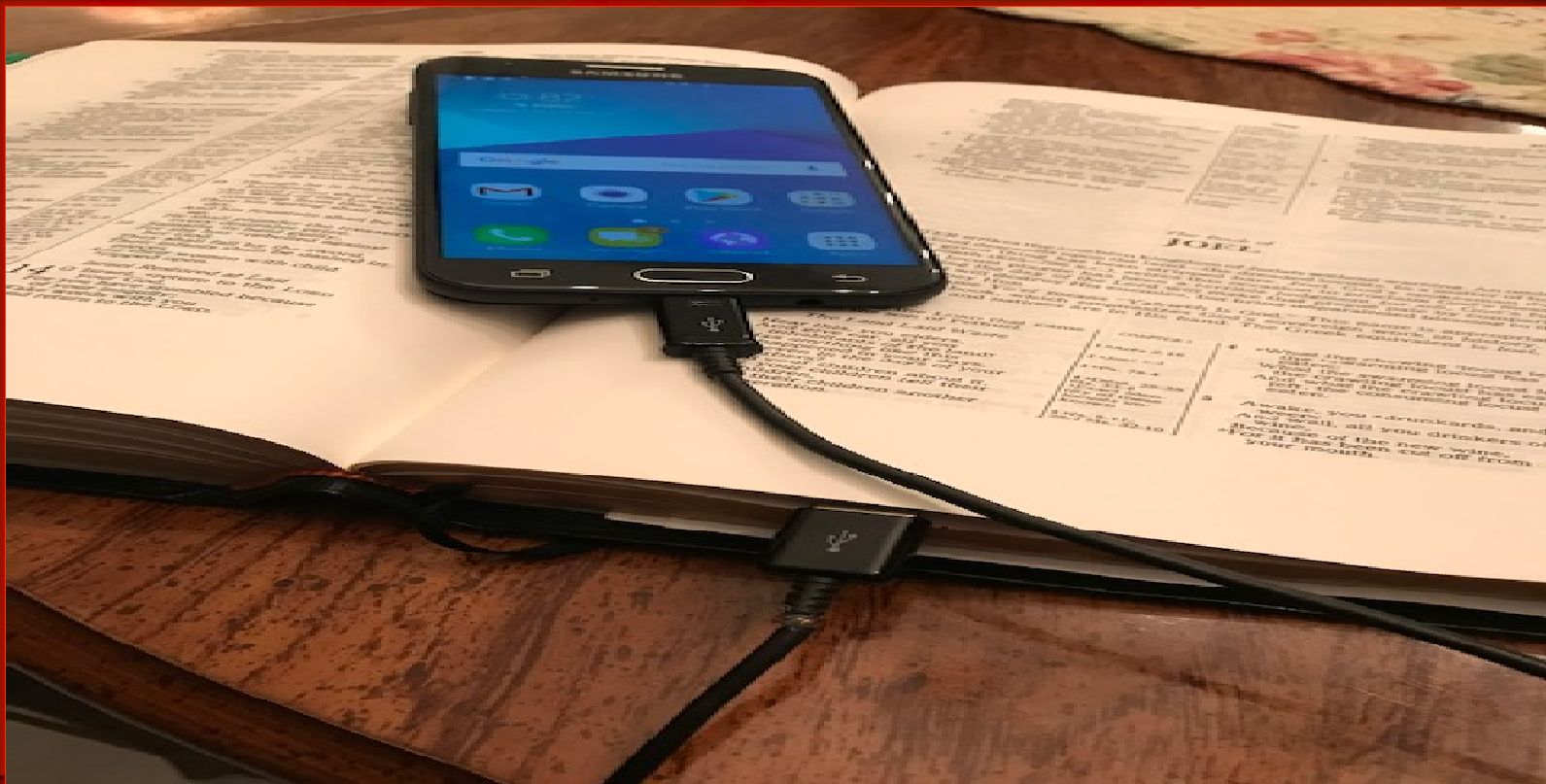


# *Cell Phone Evangelism*

## *(Being a Disciple in the Digital Age)*

*Part 1*



*First of all...Let's not forget our....*

*Mission/Our Purpose/The Reason We Exist*

*&*

*How Can We Use Our Cell Phones  
to help accomplish our mission.*

## *Mission of the COGSA*

- Mission: “To make disciples who make disciples...and in the process, help change lives through the Power of God’s Applied Word to heal a broken-hurting world”.
- Why do we want to do this: “to help heal a broken-hurting world”.
- How do we do this: “help change lives through the Power of God’s Applied Word”.
- What do we do: “Make disciples who make disciples”.

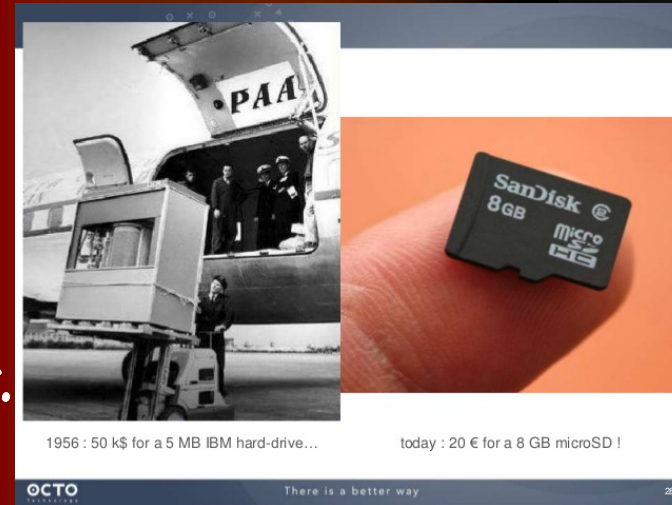
*How can we each use our cell phones to help carry out  
this mission!*

## *Cell Phone Statistics*

- *How many people worldwide have mobile devices in 2019:*
  - *Over 5.15 Billion people worldwide (cell phone, tablet, laptops, etc)*
  - *66.60% of people worldwide*
- *How many people worldwide have smartphones in 2019:*
  - *Over 3.3 Billion people worldwide*
  - *42.63% of people worldwide*
- *How many people have smartphones in the United States:*
  - *Over 265 Million people*
  - *71.40% of people in the U.S.*

## *More Facts about Smartphones*

- *If you have a smartphone, you hold in your hand more power than NASA had when they put a man on the moon....more power in one cell phone than we had in existence when America put a man on the moon (1969).*
- *What did the first hard drive look like?*
  - *1956 - This is a 5MB of storage hard drive.*
  - *Size of two people...several thousand pounds.*
  - *In your smartphone, you have a minimum of 1,000 times that....and you can buy thousands more.*



## *More Facts about Smartphones*

- *Smartphone is a computer and phone in one device.*
- *Hundred of millions of people in the world own a computer, but billions own a smartphone. . . .the smartphone has become one's computer. . . .and it can do thousands of things:*
  - *Make phone calls, text, GPS, listen to music, take photos, watch TV and movies, play video games, banking online, pay your bills, buy movie tickets, buy a car, wrist watch, alarm clock, monitor your heart rate, control your houselights and security systems, address book, day scheduler, calculator, flash light, stop watch, calendar, etc. etc. etc.*
  - *We use to only listen to a phone; now we also look at a phone.*

## *Are you addictive to your smartphone?*

- *Most people would say that you are an alcoholic if the first thing you want when you wake up in the morning is a drink of alcohol.*
- *Let's see if you are addictive to your smartphone:*
  - *Is your smartphone the first thing you touch when you wake up in the morning....or check your e-mails or your social media first thing?*
  - *As you walk through your house after you get up, do you have your smartphone in your hand most of the time....do you take your phone to the bathroom with you....check phone before or after prayer time?*
  - *You can't resist to look at your phone wherever you are when you get a ping/ding on your phone?*

## *Inappropriate Uses of Smartphones*

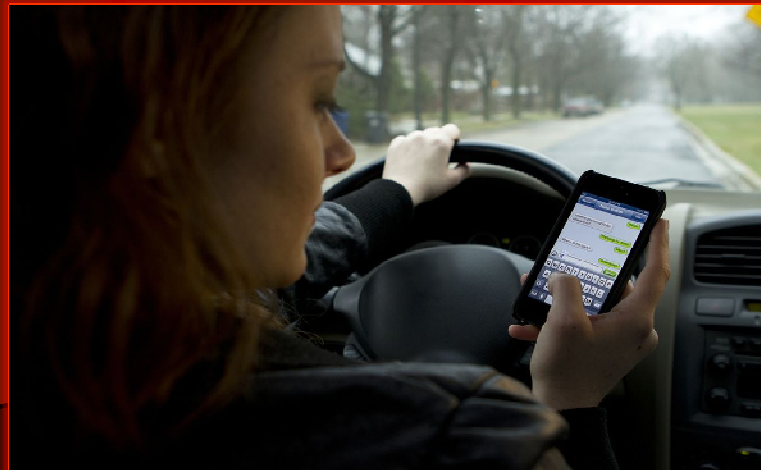
- *We look constantly at our smartphones instead of each other:*





## *Inappropriate Uses of Smartphones*

- *We look constantly at our smartphones instead of each other:*



Talking on your phone while driving makes you four times more likely to get into an accident, but texting while driving makes your chance of a crash 23 times more likely....the only thing separating you and oncoming vehicles is a painted line on the road.

## *Inappropriate Uses of Smartphones*

- *We look constantly at our smartphones instead of each other:*



## *Inappropriate Uses of Smartphones*

- *We look constantly at our smartphones instead of each other:*



## *Excerpts from Two Books*

- *“12 Ways Your Phone Is Changing You” by Tony Reinke*
  - *“Do you control your phone – or does your phone control you?”*
  - *“Within a few years of its unveiling, the smartphone had become part of us, fully integrated into the daily patterns of our lives. Never offline, always within reach, we now wield in our hands a magic wand of technological power we have only begun to grasp. But it raised new enigmas, too. Never more connected, we seem to be growing more distant. Never more efficient, we have never been more distracted. .... Tony Reinke identifies twelve potent ways our smartphones have changed us – for good and bad. ....”*

## *Excerpts from Two Books*

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- *“The Tech-Wise Family...Everyday Steps for Putting Technology in Its Proper Place” by Andy Crouch*

- *“Making good choices about technology in our families is more than using internet filters and determining screen-time limits for our children. It’s about building character, wisdom, and courage rather than accepting technology’s promises of ease and instant gratification. It’s about developing our heart, mind, soul, and strength when we’re tempted to settle for entertainment and consumer satisfaction...Andy’s message and model have strengthened our commitment to use technology to unite – and not divide – our family.”*

## *Other Facts About Smartphone Use*

- *On average, people check their phone every 12 minutes; that means you look at your phone 80 times a day.*
- *What was it like growing up in the 80's?: put away your smartphone and turn off your internet and you'll get an idea what it was like to live in the 80's....you had to go to the telephone or go and find a pay phone....you had home phone with short cord, then longer cord, then remote phones....now, you can carry your phone and computer in your pocket with you all the time.*

*The smartphone/other digital tools can be used for good or for bad.*

*It can be used to accomplish the Purposes of God, used for His Glory or it can be used to do bad and even evil things.*

*Beginning today, Crystal, will begin training us on how to use our smartphones for the glory of God.*

*But first I want us to be aware of some of the hazards this technology can bring to our spiritual lives.*

Message today will cover  
“Six Hazards”

Next message I will cover...  
“Five Ways to Use Your Smart Phone for God’s Glory”



*Six Spiritual Hazards of Digital Tools*

## *1) It can waste my precious time.*

- *Smartphones/other digital tools can waste your life...you can't manage time...you can't speed up or slow down time...all you can do is manage how you will use your time...all of us have 24 hours a day...we can't add to it...we can't save it...once you spend it, it's gone...you can lose/waste money and later regain it, but if you waste your time, you won't be able to regain it.*
- *Average person lives about 75 years...that's 27,375 days...we have a limited time on this earth...your time is your life and your life is your time.*

## *1) It can waste my precious time.*

- *Eph 5:15-17 NIV Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity (in other words, make every minute count), because the days are evil.*
- *The opposite of “careful” is “careless”: don’t be careless with the way you spend your time and the way you live your life....don’t waste your life.*
- *Average person looks at smartphone 80 times a day, 3.4 hours a day, 24 hours a week, ...that’s about 11 years of your life....that does not include watching TV.*

## *1) It can waste my precious time.*

- *Watching movies and TV shows, playing games, listening to music, scrolling through YouTubes, spending time on Facebook and other social media, etc may be OK, but is it accomplishing anything worthwhile. . . .are they necessary or unnecessary in helping you achieve your purpose and goals in life.*
- *Don't spend time looking at stuff that really does not matter.*
- *Prov 12:11 TLB Hard work means prosperity; only a fool idles away his time.*
- *Social media and other internet technology can waste your time.*

2) *I can be seduced by the world's values.*

- *Because we live in a fallen world, the world's values are all around us...temptations are all around us...now we carry these temptations in our pocket...temptations to draw us towards the world's values and to lure us away from God...advertisers pay billions of dollars to use your smartphone to be constantly and repeatedly telling you how to think, what to buy, what to wear, how to dress, what car you ought to drive, what type of home you ought to live in, etc.*
- *If you listen to it long enough, you'll tend to want to copy it.*

## *2) I can be seduced by the world's values.*

- *Rom 12:2 NLT Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.*
- *The more you immerse yourself in the values of the world, the more you will be drawn by it....you carry that temptation (smartphone) with you all the time....so be careful....don't be careless.*
- *What does the world constantly teach?: 1) Lust for constant pleasure, 2) Greed for more things, 3) Pride to appear more important than you really are.*

2) *I can be seduced by the world's values.*

- *James 4:4 NIV You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.*
- *We are to love the people of the world, but not the value systems of the world. We want God's view NOT the World's view...we want to be God pleasers NOT people pleasers...let's quit trying to please the world and it's value systems.*
- *Analogy: We want the boat in the water, but we don't want water in the boat.*

### *3) I can be drawn into unproductive arguments.*

- *Titus 3:9-11 NIV But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. 10 Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. 11 You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.*
- *Never argue the Bible or doctrinal issues...our job is to plant seeds (God's Word), to discuss and explain God's Word, to model application of God's Word, but never to argue and fight over God's Word... we believe in "Truth with Love".*



## *What Do We Believe?*

*“Truth with Love”*

*“Right Doctrine – Right Behavior”*

*“So That Others May Live”*

*Don't argue over these...if people don't want these beliefs, it's not their time to understand!*

### *3) I can be drawn into unproductive arguments.*

- *Some people enjoy arguing, and social media is notorious for drawing people into arguments and verbal fights.*
- *Prov 26:21 Today's English Version Charcoal keeps the embers glowing, wood keeps the fire burning, and troublemakers keep arguments alive.*
- *Let's not be concerned about what others think or say about us....so no need to respond and add gasoline to the fire.*
- *Think this: God loves me, my wife loves me, my children love me, the people in my church love me....if you don't love me, that's your problem, not mine.*

#### *4) I can be tempted to compete and show off.*

- *It is part of human nature to want to be seen by others in a way that we are not. The Pharisees had this human nature problem:*
  - *Matt 6:1-7 "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.*

#### *4) I can be tempted to compete and show off.*

- *It is part of human nature to want to be seen by others in a way that we are not. The Pharisees had this human nature problem:*

- *3 But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly. 5 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.*

#### 4) I can be tempted to compete and show off.

● 6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

● Social media can be used to feed us with this temptation....to want to be seen by others as: “see how smart I am; how successful I am; see my pretty new clothes...although we may go into credit card debt to maintain our image; look at my phone in my back pocket of my torn jeans; see how stylish I am; how happy I am; how perfect my children are; how important I am; how spiritual I am;....show off only the good parts of our life..

#### *4) I can be tempted to compete and show off.*

- *1 Peter 5:6 TLB If you will humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, in his good time he will lift you up.*
- *Don't show off on the internet....don't put on airs....don't pretend you're somebody you're not...be content with who you are and with the gifts God has given you.*
- *God gives us a choice: "I can promote you or you can promote yourself...take your pick...who do you think can do a better job...you or Me."*

5) I can get addicted to the approval of others.

- All of us humans, we want to be liked; we all want the approval of others.
- When you post something on social media, we wait to see if people will "like" our post. . . .so we eagerly wait for the responses. . . .then we hear that "ding" on our phones and you get a "like" . . . .you get excited and you respond, "I got a like, I got a like. . . .somebody likes me, somebody likes me."
- Dopamine – is a chemical released in the brain to help enhance pleasure. . . .every ding you hear, releases dopamine, and we feel pleasure. . . .it can become addictive. . . .we crave more pleasure.

5) *I can get addicted to the approval of others.*

- *Every “ding” we get can reinforce our desire to be “liked” by others....the “ding” becomes more important than the people that we are with....we pay more attention to the “ding” than the people we are with...bad for enhancing relationships.*
- *Gal 1:10 NIV Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.*
- *God says through Paul: “Choose between being a “God pleaser” or a “people pleaser” ....if you choose being a “people pleaser” more than a “God pleaser” you are actually rejecting God.*



5) *I can get addicted to the approval of others.*

- *God says that if you are living according to God's way, don't pay attention to what others think about you...be concerned what God thinks of you.*
- *Don't get addicted to what others think about you...get addicted to what God thinks of you.*

6) I can be distracted from what's most important.

- Don't let your smartphone become more important than God...if it does, then it becomes your idol...your god... don't allow it to distract you from the One for whom you exist to please.
- If you spend 11 years of your life looking at your smartphone and responding to every ding wherever you are, the temptation is always there to distract you from who is the most important Being in your life....God.
- It can distract you from Worship Services, from your prayer life, from your meditation, from all of your spiritual disciplines.

6) *I can be distracted from what's most important.*

- *Story of Mary & Martha:*

- *Luke 10:38-42* *Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."*

6) *I can be distracted from what's most important.*

- *Story of Mary & Martha:*

- *41 And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."*

- *What's more important to you: listening to God's Word during Worship Service or the irresistible urge to respond to the "ding", prayer time or the "ding", reflective time or the "ding", quiet time, or the "ding", fellowship time, or the "ding", actively listening to your brethren's conversations, or the "ding", etc.*

6) *I can be distracted from what's most important.*

- *In a meeting or gathering, if I put my smartphone away, I am likely to be perceived as engaged. . . . I care what the people around me are saying. If my phone is not in use, but is faceup on the table, I present myself as engaged for the moment, but possibly disengaged if someone more important needs me. And if my phone is in my hand, and I am responding to texts and scrolling social media, I project open dismissiveness to the people around me. . . . the message is that others are more important than the people I am with.*

*What's more important to you....?*

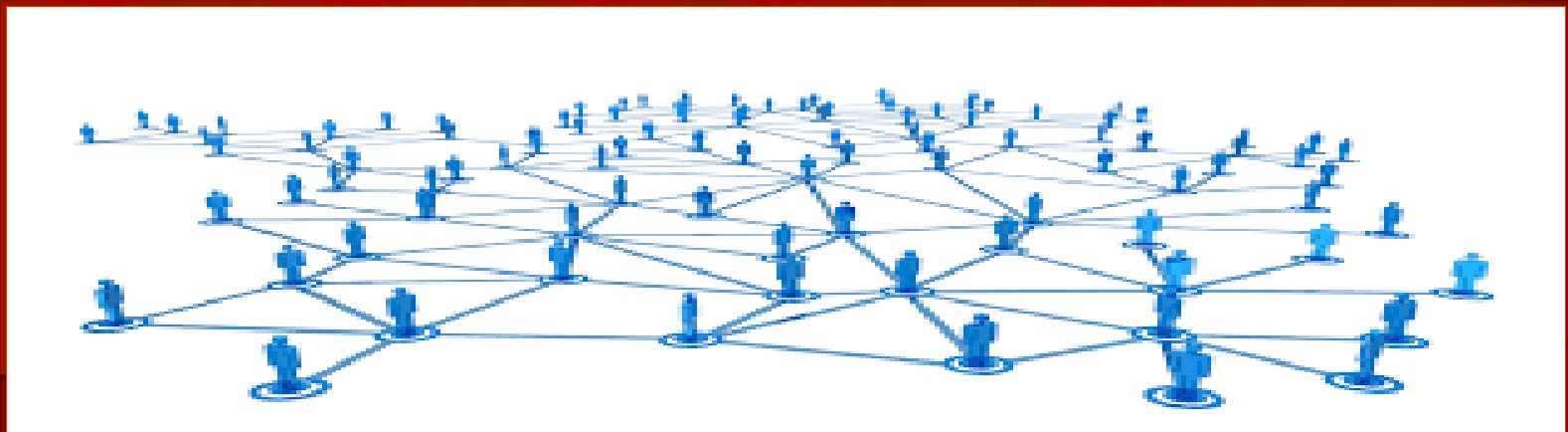
*Being like a Mary or like a Martha....*

*Sitting at the feet of Jesus Christ learning His Word and drawing into a closer relationship with Him, or being with friends or brethren and actively listening to them, or the "ding" of your smartphone.*

## *Summary – Six Spiritual Hazards of Digital Tools*

- 1. I can waste my precious time.*
- 2. I can be seduced by the world's values.*
- 3. I can be drawn into unproductive arguments.*
- 4. I can be tempted to compete and show off.*
- 5. I can get addicted to the approval of others.*
- 6. I can be distracted from what's most important.*

# *Cell Phone Personal Evangelism Networking for the Glory of God*





*Next Week*

*“How To Use Smartphone for God’s Glory”*

*Crystal will begin showing us the technical aspects of our phones so we can use them for God’s purposes.*