

# All God's Creatures



Exiting the Ark



<sup>6</sup> After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark <sup>7</sup> and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth.  
<sup>8</sup> Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground.



<sup>9</sup> But the dove could find nowhere to perch because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. <sup>10</sup> He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark.



<sup>11</sup> When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. <sup>12</sup> He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him... Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry... <sup>15</sup> Then God said to Noah, <sup>16</sup> "Come out of the ark..."

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Noah seems to be filled with a fresh sense of hope. And, he's looking for information.



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There's a big difference between waiting in boredom and waiting in attentiveness.



The raven "kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth."





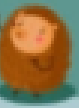
The raven was considered an “unclean” scavenger bird.  
(Leviticus 11, Deuteronomy 14)





The dove was considered a “clean” animal and associated with purity and peace.





By releasing these birds, Noah is practicing attentiveness in order to arrive at a place of noticing so that he can see and hear where and how God is on the move.



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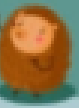


In 2004, the average time a person could focus on a single screen-based task was 2.5 minutes.

By 2012: 75 seconds

In 2018: 47 seconds





A 2015 study revealed that the average attention span had dropped from 12 seconds in 2000 to just 8 seconds.



The average attention span of a goldfish is believed to be about 9 seconds.



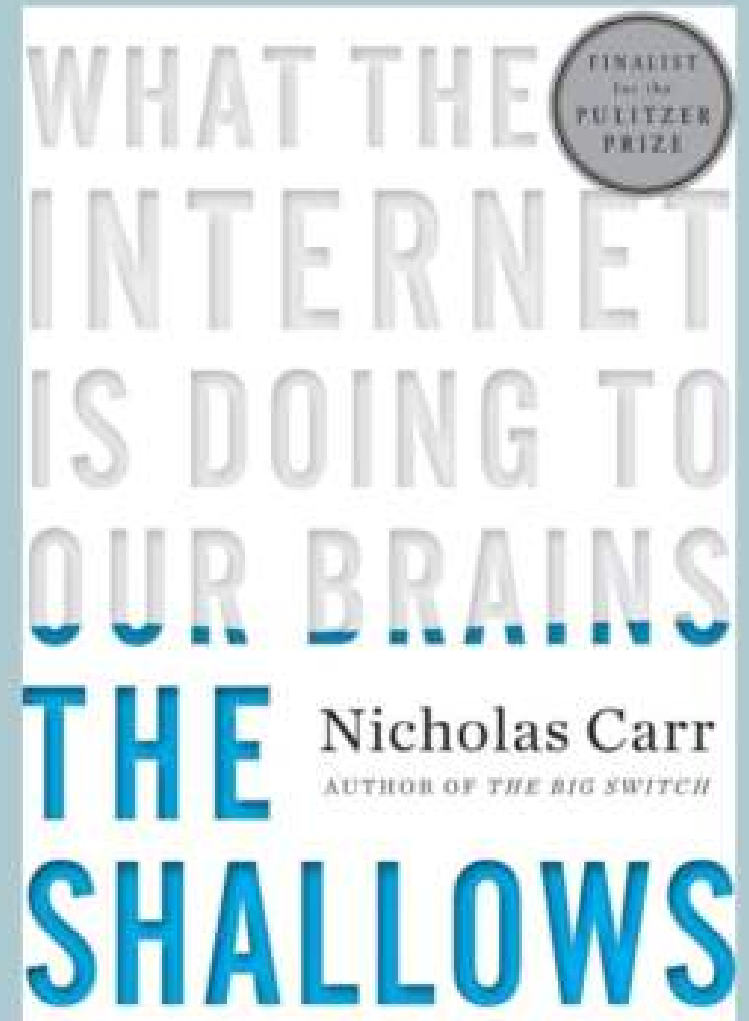


Only 25% of Americans say they don't struggle with their attention span.



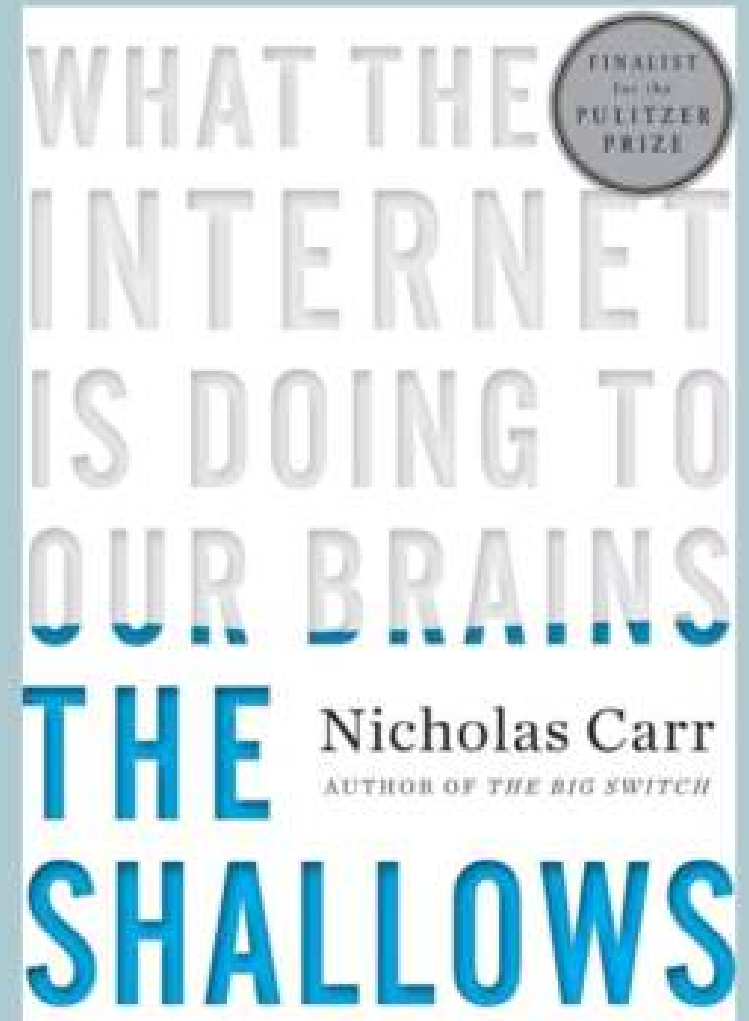


Our brains rewire themselves around our habits: the more we skim, scroll, and hop between stimuli, the more our neural pathways are literally reshaped toward distraction.





“As our print-culture ancestors imbued their minds with the discipline to follow a line of argument, or narrative, through a succession of printed pages, they became more contemplative, reflective, and imaginative.”





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“Noah... saw that the surface of the ground was dry... Then God said to Noah, ‘Come out of the ark...’”





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The practice of attentiveness geared toward noticing in connection with the dove was also rhythmic.





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Building rhythms of spiritual attentiveness into our lives is extremely helpful.





A single (tiny) olive leaf was delivered by the dove, and we can safely assume that it brought Noah a flood of hope!





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Are we watching for the small things?





# Finding Ourselves in Noah's Story... Floating and Waiting? Sending and Watching?





Do you know someone who has been “floating around” and waiting in his/her current season of life? Pray for that person.



What is the biggest obstacle, or distraction, to your growth in attentiveness to how the Spirit is moving in, around, or through your life?



Are you struggling with patience in some area of life?  
Are you spending time listening for the voice of God to  
speak to you about when and how to move next?



Ask God to give you more wisdom and ability to see the “olive leaf” experiences that might be happening around you, but that you’re currently missing out on.

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