

Adjusting Focus

Focus: Actual view, Perception, Outlook ... (What they are based on)

***This is not just about "if you see it" it is also about "how you see it" (1 Cor 15:34)**

From the beginning, man allowed his vision to be blurred - Gen 3:1-7 - Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" 4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

There is only one true lens - 2 Cor 5:7 We live by faith, NOT BY SIGHT.

Sight includes:

- **My experience**
- **My point of view**
- **My desires**

Jesus is "IT" - John 14:6-7 -6 Jesus answered, "I am THE way and THE truth and THE life. No one comes to the Father except through me." 7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Godly focus is part of God's protection for us

Against the dangers of greed - Luke 12:15 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Holding each other accountable - Luke 17:3-4 - 3 "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him." 4 "And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him." NASB

Only receiving Sound Biblical teaching - Col 2:8 **SEE TO IT** that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

From Satan - 1 Peter 5:8-9 - 8 **BE self-controlled and alert.** Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

For our focus to be made clear there must be a change of attitude and purpose

Completely Trust in HIM despite how it seems - Prov 3:5-7 - 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.

Lock your focus, Hopes, & thoughts on Christ

Focus on Jesus our example and rewarder - Heb 12:2-3 - 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Proactively Be HOLY - 1 Peter 1:13-16 - 13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; **SET your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.** 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "**Be holy, because I am holy.**"

Make sure Jesus exists in your thoughts ALWAYS - Heb 3:1-2 - Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. 2 **He was FAITHFUL to the one who appointed him,** just as Moses was faithful in all God's house.

Status and Circumstances must never define your walk - 1 Cor 7:17-24 - 17 Nevertheless, each one should retain the place in life that the **Lord assigned** to him and to which God has called him. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches. 18 Was a man already circumcised when he was called? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man uncircumcised when he was called? He should not be circumcised. 19 Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. **KEEPING GOD'S COMMANDS IS WHAT COUNTS.** 20 Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God called him. 21 Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you — *although if you can gain your freedom, do so.* 22 For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman; similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave. 23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. 24 Brothers, each man, AS RESPONSIBLE TO GOD, should remain in the situation God called him to.

Through Christ we define circumstances, circumstances must not define us- 1 Cor 7:29-31 - 29 What I mean, brothers, is that **the time is short.** From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none; 30 those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; 31 those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For **this world in its present form is passing away.**

To have Godly effective focus we must...

Remove all excuses and road blocks and live your specific God given life – Heb 12:1 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Live for God not for self - 1 Peter 4:1-2 - Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, **ARM YOURSELVES** also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. 2 *As a result,* he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.

Stop using YOU as the standard - 2 Cor 10:12 We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, **they are not wise.**

Make your purpose and your incentive based on heavenly things not on earthly things - Col 3:1-4 - Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.** 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When **CHRIST, WHO IS YOUR LIFE,** appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Our whole life must represent Christ and not just for a season - Col 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, **DO IT ALL** in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Absolutely NOTHING can trump Jesus - Phil 3:7-11 - 7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake **I have lost all things.** I **consider them rubbish,** that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

We must take control of our thoughts - Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, **whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable** — **if anything is excellent or praiseworthy** — **THINK ABOUT SUCH THINGS.**

To maintain the focus, we must make sure we receive the WORD untainted –

1 Cor 4:6 Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "**DO NOT GO BEYOND WHAT IS WRITTEN.**" Then you will not take pride in one man over against another.

Titus 2:1 - You must teach what is in accord with **SOUND DOCTRINE.**