

Look to Jesus, Not to Circumstances

Key Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:13-18 13

We boldly say what we believe, trusting God to care for us,[a] just as the psalm writer did when he said, “I believe and therefore I speak.” 14 We know that the same God who brought the Lord Jesus back from death will also bring us back to life again with Jesus and present us to him along with you. 15 These sufferings of ours are for your benefit. And the more of you who are won to Christ, the more there are to thank him for his great kindness, and the more the Lord is glorified. 16 That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our inner strength in the Lord is growing every day. 17 These troubles and sufferings of ours are, after all, quite small and won’t last very long. Yet this short time of distress will result in God’s richest blessing upon us forever and ever! 18 So we do not look at what we can see right now, the troubles all around us, but we look forward to the joys in heaven which we have not yet seen. The troubles will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.

We will all have situations that come into our lives to cause problems, but we are not to look at the circumstances. We are to look to Jesus. We are to have God’s peace as we go through these situations. We are not to worry, because worry is meditation upon thoughts of the devil. We are to have peace, peace for meditation upon the thoughts of God.

- I. Difference between temporal and eternal
 - a. Temporal – subject to change
 1. Opinions of men
 2. World situations
 3. Personal problems
 - b. Eternal – unchanging
 1. Word of God
 2. Name of Jesus
 3. Holy Spirit

4. Heaven

II. Abraham – an example of faith. Romans 4:19-21

19 And because his faith was strong, he didn't worry about the fact that he was too old to be a father at the age of one hundred, and that Sarah his wife, at ninety,[a] was also much too old to have a baby. 20 But Abraham never doubted. He believed God, for his faith and trust grew ever stronger, and he praised God for this blessing even before it happened. 21 He was completely sure that God was well able to do anything he promised.

- A. He was not weak in faith
- B. He considered not his own body
- C. He didn't stagger at the promise of God
- D. He gave glory to God
- E. He was fully persuaded that God was able to perform His word

III. How to handle stormy circumstances in our lives

A. Hebrews 12:1-2 12

Since we have such a huge crowd of men of faith watching us from the grandstands, let us strip off anything that slows us down or holds us back, and especially those sins that wrap themselves so tightly around our feet and trip us up; and let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us. 2 Keep your eyes on Jesus, our leader and instructor. He was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy he knew would be his afterwards; and now he sits in the place of honor by the throne of God.

1. Lay aside every weight
2. Run the race with patience
3. Look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith

B. Isaiah 40:31

³¹ But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

1. Wait upon the Lord and gain new strength
2. Mount up with wings as eagles
3. Run and not become weary
4. Walk and not faint (or get tired)