

Spiritual Focus

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Introduction

The Concise Oxford English Dictionary defines focus as “the centre of [one’s] interest or activity.” Sinful men focus on their wants and wishes. Saints focus upon serving God and their fellowman. Pride is often reflected in the eyes (Proverbs 21:4; Isaiah 37:21-23), so also is humility (Ezra 9:5-6; Luke 18:9-14). When tempted to glory in our possessions or preeminence, we must lower our sights. We must also raise our vision, recognizing the value of sacrifice and service.

Lower Your Sights

Regarding Possessions

Material abundance is not an accurate measure of success (Luke 12:13-21). The love of money supplants contentment, suborns faith, and is the root of all sorts of evil (1 Timothy 6:6-10). Let us trust, not in uncertain riches, but in God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17-19).

Regarding Preeminence

Public acclaim is not a true measure of greatness (Matthew 23:1-12). Preening for preeminence only creates conflict (3 John 9-15). Recognizing the destructiveness of pride, let us cultivate a humble and childlike disposition (Matthew 18:1-6).

Raise Your Vision

Regarding Sacrifice

We must present our bodies as a living and holy sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2). Christian faith is evidenced by sacrifice and service (Philippians 2:14-18). Therefore, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God (Hebrews 13:15-16).

Regarding Service

Greatness is manifested in service (Luke 22:24-27). Each must humbly labor for the betterment of the whole (Romans 12:3-13). Let us seek, not our own personal interests, but also the interests of others (Philippians 2:1-4).

Conclusion

God stands in judgment of human pride (Proverbs 29:23). Let us trust, not in our own ability or accomplishment, but in the power of God (Isaiah 40:27-31).