

THE FOCUS NEEDED TO NOT LOSE HEART

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“Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” (Galatians 6:9)

Paul urges the Galatians not to become weary, lose courage, or faint when doing good. There is an ongoing danger in the lives of Christians: they may serve faithfully for a time but then become negligent in doing good deeds or focusing on spiritual matters. For this reason, Paul encourages believers to “not lose heart.” Let us reflect on what the scriptures teach to help us maintain our resolve and not lose heart.

FOCUS ON THE EXAMPLE OF PAUL.

Paul’s attitude is crucial for anyone who wants to avoid growing weary. He expressed this in his statement: “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). As Christians, we need to understand that our lives should be dedicated to Christ. We should not base our lives on earthly, temporary things, but rather on spiritual and heavenly matters. Like Paul, we must prioritize Christ over ourselves, as he elaborated in Philippians 3:7-14. Christians should also remember to “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth” (Colossians 3:2).

FOCUS ON THE THINGS ABOVE.

To live Christ-centered lives and focus on “things above,” we should follow the guidance of Peter, who encourages Christians to diligently add certain virtues to their faith. He writes that we should add “virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.” Peter explains that if we possess these qualities and allow them to flourish in our lives, we will be neither barren nor unfruitful in our knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:5-8). Moreover, he assures us that by being diligent and incorporating these graces into our lives, we will “make your call and election sure” (2 Peter 1:10). When we focus on cultivating these qualities, we shift our attention away from earthly matters and truly concentrate on what is above.

FOCUS ON JESUS.

We need to remember the instruction from the Hebrew writer: “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who, for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2). Why were the Hebrew Christians encouraged to do this? Verse 3 continues, “For consider Him... lest you become weary and discouraged” (Hebrews 12:3). By reflecting on the immense sacrifice that Christ made for us, we can find encouragement as we navigate and endure the trials and tribulations of life.

FOCUS ON THE GOAL TO FINISH.

In the latter part of Galatians 6:9, Paul reminds the Galatians, “We shall reap if we do not lose heart.” This highlights the importance of completing what we have begun. Many people believe and teach that once someone is saved, they can never fall away. However,

this verse indicates that our ability to reap the rewards will depend on whether we remain steadfast and do not grow weary or give up.

May we all have a strong, growing, enduring, and trusting faith in God to help us avoid the weariness that can arise. Let us keep our focus on the things above, continually looking to and obeying Jesus as we navigate through his life.