

Looking Beyond

Rachael Martin 2,19,2016

I asked myself this.... Am I looking beyond to what lies ahead and not marinating in the mess?

There are times when I want to shout from the rooftops the unfair, unjust, cruel, despicable, things that I have had to endure or see my friends endure but in doing so, I know the words, once they are out, have a place and I have learned to just shut up and allow God to do what I can't. I don't always get this right, but I have grown tremendously with the help of the Lord, my friends, and my husband!

So I wanted to share with you all today the same question and the same thoughts that came to me as I was with the Lord today in my prayer closet (on the way home in my van).

For a horse, there are times that blinders are needed and there are times when freedom to look around is okay. I believe for us - followers of Jesus Christ – we need to have a healthy balance as well. Not getting caught up (hooked on) in things that have no heavenly value. When the Lord has us on a mission, we need to be able to focus on His leading. As well being able to allow ourselves to experience the freedoms and entertainments of this world without being sucked in by the evil is challenging.

Philippians 3:7-9 - But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,

Moving in an atmosphere of hope is part of not giving into a state of depression or a place of stagnant waters. Surrounding yourself with worship, people, scripture, & teachings that speak about the hope we have in Christ is allowing faith to build – it's allowing things we DON'T SEE to start to operate on our behalf.

Faith involves hope – you have to hope in something to believe in anything. Believing in something you cannot see like the wind – is to not doubt that it exists because you know, that you know, that you know, that it's there.

What do you have faith for? Are you believing for the impossible? Or have you given into hopelessness and the "it is what it is" Syndrome?

I would dare to say that faithlessness started at the very beginning when Eve decided to eat the fruit that she knew she wasn't supposed to eat because it was there in front of her. She took what she saw instead of believing and being obedient to what she didn't see.

What are some things that you can see with your natural eye that are around you, that may seem good for the moment? Is it possible that you have chosen this thing in front of you because you don't see any other opportunity and you haven't heard the Lord yet?

For those of us going through a rough season - the one sure thing that I can always fall on over the many years of struggle, sometimes defeat, sometimes hopelessness, and sometimes periods of dryness is that God has never let me down. It turns out that I have done a fine job of that all on my own.

So today I want to pray for the strength of the Lord to boil up on the inside of us in our minds, and bodies and that Holy Spirit would fan the flames of faith once again in our spirit man and if we are already walking in a measure of faith I'm going to pray for Holy Spirit to fan the flame of double portion in our lives. That we would all be able to look beyond to the things God is directing to and our goal would be to rise above the oppressions of this world. IN Jesus name.

Interestingly – the Bible entitles this passage of Philippians:

The Goal of Life

Philippians 3:12-16 - Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³ Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; ¹⁶ however, let us keep^living by that same standard to which we have attained.

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