

KINGOM VISION

THE SINGLE-EYED BELIEVER Cont'd

P A R T 1 2

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"And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." (Habakkuk 2:2-3 KJV)

THE SINGLE-EYED BELIEVER (continued)

"The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye is single, thy whole body shall be full of light." (Matthew 6:22 KJV)

There's a supplement on the market in the United States called *Focus Factor.* I find it interesting that even the field of medicine recognises that when our focusing begins to wane, terrible things can happen. Our memory gets highly compromised when our focus is off the vision that drives us. The ability to use focus to achieve great things is a natural phenomenon. Irrespective of one's religion or faith, it is true that those with the right focus can attain unimaginable heights. It is no wonder, therefore, that most of the billionaires in the world today are non-Christian. Focus works just like the principle of giving; whoever engages it will do extremely well! As Solomon puts it,

"There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; And there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty." (Proverbs 11:24)

He didn't say "There is a Christian that scatters and yet increases . . . "; the principle applies to all humanity. Focus operates in the same way. Another scripture that can help us further understand the focus principle is Hebrews 4:12 which reads thus:

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

The writer of this epistle to the Hebrews noted that the word of God is quick and powerful! (To be clear as I have already explained, I am not trying to say that whoever is being focused is using the word of God; I have expressly stated earlier that there are many unbelievers who are good students of focus.) I want to draw a parallel from this verse and highlight the fact that we might simply be activating something powerful and divine when we engage 'focus'—and that's why it works.

Focus is always quick and powerful in delivering your vision in life. When you see intense focus, you see quick results. Metaphorically, it is sharper than any two-edged sword! When you use focus in the wrong way, it will yet give you an outstanding result but in the opposite direction. This is the reason why focus can be a dangerous weapon; both its negative and positive effects can cut deep into one's destiny when applied intentionally. If you want to know the intent of any man's action, just pay attention to what he or she is focusing on and you can easily predict the direction of their actions per time. Therefore, when a Christian comes under the influence of focus and uses it right, he/she can make a wonder out of what was an unfortunate circumstance or status quo.

The people building the tower of Babel had one focus: to build a structure that literally reaches from the earth to the heavens where they can reach God and touch Him,

"And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." (Genesis 11:4)

God operates on the principle of Hebrews 11:6 — "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

God has more room to operate in our life when we shift our focus away from sight to faith (using our inner eyes). Can you now see how focus can be a 'faith booster'?



THE CASE STUDY OF PAUL

Today we are going to study a man who used focus in both the positive and negative directions and got God's attention in both ways. As we said earlier, focus does not discriminate. Apostle Paul is our case study for this week. He said this in Romans 2:11, "for there is no respect of persons with God."

Let's consider the life of Paul, our last mentor and role model in the school of focus.

PAUL'S USE OF FOCUS IN THE WRONG DIRECTION

"For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: and profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace," (Galatians 1:13-15)

This was Paul giving a retrospective account of what his life used to be. He was an overachiever, extremely zealous and passionate about his vision by the power of his focus — although he was focusing on the wrong thing at that time. The challenge with focus is that it will work in either direction. Paul wasted the church and persecuted her. He was a terror to the people of God back then. It is extremely dangerous to encounter an individual who has a strong sense of focus in the wrong direction. We can see a vivid example in our society with extremists and terrorists wrecking havoc because of their focus on the wrong side of their religion. Cultism thrives on the power of focus and can use it as a mind bending tactic. Most, if not all cult leaders are highly focused individuals. I am sure you can easily go through the inventory of people you know and name a few friends or acquaintances who are on the wrong side of focus.

YOU CAN BE BRILLIANTLY SUCCESSFUL BUT FOCUSING ON THE WRONG THING

"I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day." (Acts 22:3KJV)

Success is not a yardstick for measuring the power of focus. You can be extremely successful but focused on the wrong thing and waste your life away. I have seen many individuals—and I know you can mention a few as well—who are successful but not fulfilled. Paul was extremely successful when he was wasting and persecuting the church; he was doing it with utmost delight. I have seen extremely successful people who have committed suicide and gone too soon. Don't always equate success with a good focus; rather, judge your focus by what your purpose is per time. Focus is a two-edged sword; it will work either way! A lack of it is also dangerous, so be careful how you engage your power of focus.

YOU MAY HAVE ALL THE CREDENTIALS AND BE FOCUSING ON THE WRONG VISION

"circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless." (Philippians 3:5-6 KJV)

Having the right credentials with a wrong focus is a recipe for disaster. You may have the best of qualifications, but if you are focusing on the wrong thing, you will become sincerely wrong and disappointed. Paul had all the right qualifications at the time but his focus was counterproductive. Having the right qualifications and a wrong focus is like wearing a shoe size below your actual size; though the shoe might be beautiful, it will be killing your feet and comfort. Right focus with the right credential will speak boldly about your purpose and passion; always be the judge of that.

A LIGHT FROM THE RIGHT SOURCE CAN CHANGE YOUR FOCUS

"And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:"
(Acts 9:3 KJV)

Paul was zealous and extremely brilliant in life, so God Himself was also paying attention to his cause. An extremely focused man in the wrong direction can be extremely useful when that focus is channeled in the right direction. Here's how God puts it,

"and he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." (Acts 9:4-5)

God told Paul He was being persecuted by him. Can a man actually persecute the living God? Yes, a man with the right credentials but with a wrong focus. This is what breaks many marriages—two people with the right credentials for love but who decide to focus on different things. I wanted to be careful in the area of marriage to use the word wrong focus, but what breaks marriages is a shift in focus. A light from the right direction is what is needed to bring about a change of focus. That's what God did for Paul. God didn't change Paul's credentials; he only changed his focus. With those same credentials and the right focus, he went on to write two-thirds of the New Testament. When our focus matches our credentials, great things can happen.

WHEN YOU FIND THE RIGHT FOCUS, YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO WASTE TIME

"But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:"

(Galatians 1:15-16 KJV)

It is extremely important in life to always take an inventory of your moments. If you find yourself in the same situation as Paul prior to his encounter with the Lord, understand that what you need is to change based on His vision for your life, not the other way. We were made by Him and for Him; as long as we are aligned with His vision and purpose for our lives, our focus will always be right. This is the main reason why we spent a lot of time in episodes 1-3 of this series about the first vision; once we get it right from there, it will always stay right.

It is never too late to shift our focus on the right thing. Paul was very grateful for the transformation his life witnessed. Please respond like Paul, too. The rest of his life was more productive than the first half which he wasted on the wrong focus. God is the only one that can redeem time back to us because He's the same yesterday, today and forever.

CALL TO ACTION

Is your eye single? Are you focus factor conscious? Do you know your vision in life? Are you walking in your purpose? Are you willing to change?

PONDER THIS: "FACE LIKE A FLINT"

"For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed." (Isaiah 50:7 KJV)

When you set your face like a flint, nothing can stop you from fulfilling purpose in life. Isaiah knew one thing for sure: he would not be ashamed because his focus was on point. Shalom.

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Father, give me the grace to realign my life according to Your vision and purpose for my existence in Jesus' name.
- 2. I declare that I refuse to waste my life being focused on the wrong thing in the name of Jesus.

PS: Reach out or pray for ten souls to be added to the Kingdom in your area. God bless you as you do so.