

Focus!

One of the things I constantly have to tell my students is to focus. It seems as if they have a hard time doing so, and I urge them to concentrate on their efforts, whatever they may be. They can't be distracted by anything that would keep them from accomplishing their task.

We, as Christians, have been given a task to accomplish—that of living for God and doing His will. It is important that we stay focused on that task. In **Matthew 14**, Matthew records an event in the life of Christ that illustrates the need to pay careful attention to what we are doing. It is the story of Jesus walking on the water. You all know what happened. The minute Peter suspected it was Jesus, Peter called out to Him: ***“Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water.”*** Jesus told him to come, and Peter stepped out on the water. However, as he was walking on the water, the Scripture says that “when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, ***“Lord, save me!”*** Jesus took Peter's hand and saved him, telling him in verse 31, ***“You of little faith, why did you doubt?”***

What had Peter done wrong? He let his eyes wander from his goal. He did not keep focused on accomplishing his task. He began to doubt his abilities because he looked at the waves and the wind around him and not at Jesus. Those distractions caused him to sink—not fulfill Jesus' instructions to come.

Jesus said in **Luke 9:62**: ***“No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”*** Paul said in **2 Corinthians 4:18** that those of us who are Christians ***“fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”*** Our entire focus is on the Lord and what He wants for us in this life. Our eyes are to be fixed on Jesus, the unseen, and the promises He has made for us.

The Hebrew writer summed up the focus for our lives in **Hebrews 3:1** when he said that we should ***“fix our thoughts on Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest whom we confess”*** and in **Hebrews 12:2ff** when he urged the Hebrews (and us) to rid ourselves of any distractions that could keep us from running the race of life. He ends by saying we should ***“fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith...”***

Jesus is our perfect example to follow. We just need to stay “focused” and not let anything keep us from following Him.

---Johnny Stephens