

“My heart is filled with disappointment and fear,” I wrote to the Lord one morning in my journal. “I hate to confess it, but it’s true.” The answer is, of course, in looking away from me, my perpetual disappointment, my failure, my pain to You in quiet trust and confidence. When I look to myself, there is only failure and grief. When I look to You, there is life, and light, and hope! Lord, forgive me for ever looking long at myself.

“What is it for me to look to Jesus? It is to look to my Savior and my God in quiet, unperturbed trust. Yet if I should look to trust and not to You, I find only myself again.”

“You are faithful. Here is where we stand or fall, on your faithfulness. If we see in our disappointments Your unfaithfulness, we sink in the mire. If we see in our disappointments our unfaithfulness and, without a pause, look beyond where we feel or see to the truth of Scripture that You are faithful, we find relief, release, and rest. Best of all, if we simply look to You from our first awareness that we are unhappy, look to You, the faithful God, we need scarcely miss a beat.”

Only the Jesus of the Book

You need to be sure that you’re looking to the Jesus that is, the real Jesus, not a figment of your imagination. The only way to ensure this is to know Him in His Word. Get to know God in all His three persons as He describes Himself. At the same time, be reminded again, dear one, that your relationship with your lovely Lord is not of the head nearly so much as of the heart and spirit.

Don’t seek any easy formula for looking to the Lord. Just go to Him in need, trust, and dependency, in worship and love, in quietness of spirit and peace as often and as fully as possible. As opportunity provides, turn to Him and look to Him throughout the day. Run often into His waiting arms of love. Rest content there with a spirit submissively ready to give up and give over all that is not of Him and with a heart hungry to receive from Him. Abide with Him in peace and receive all the blessings of that abiding.

Yes, looking to Jesus really is the same story over again. But then, it’s not magic you need after all, my friend, but a living, practical relationship with your Lord, a Christianity that works!

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By: Pastor Ron Marr

“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.”

Hebrews 12:2

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the LORD, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the LORD.”

2 Corinthians 3:18

“We know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him. For we shall see Him as He is.”

1 John 3:2

“Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.”

Isaiah 45:22

One of the myriad questions asked of me by a dear lady living hundreds of miles away was, “How do you look to Jesus?” At the time, I knew her and her

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husband only by phone and mail. While hooked on drugs, they asked the Lord to send someone to help them. She insisted, “You were His answer to my prayers, so you’re my pastor.” I rejoice that God allowed me to serve this precious couple and many others in that capacity.

Looking to Him Is Our Hope

The Old Testament expression translated so often in the King James as “wait on the LORD” can equally well be “look to the LORD.” We’re told often to look to the Lord throughout the Word. As we study the verses at the beginning of the chapter, we see that it’s as we look to the Lord we’re changed into His likeness. The passages in 2 Corinthians present this reality most clearly. As you meditate on these Scriptures, let them be a primary motivator in your life, as a reminder to look to Jesus and watch Him change you to be more like Him!

Looking Away from Ourselves

Surely, nothing can be more important than that we look away from ourselves, from our concerns and our idols, from things of time and space to Him. To put it simply, we receive little good, and often great harm, from looking to our-

selves. So, any way in which the Lord can turn our attention from ourselves and earthly things to Him is going to be advantageous.

Start receiving the magnificently transforming benefit of seeing Him even a little as He really is. Start in your devotional times. Seek Him by making it your objective to give Him just as much attention as possible, as fully and purely as possible. Let go of your concern for anything that is not Him. Speak with Him. Worship, seek, praise, and thank Him. Reach out to Him with whatever love He gives you. Meditate on Him. Wait quietly, restfully, peacefully on Him. Be willing to receive whatever He gives. Don’t try to dictate to Him what happens next. Just let Him guide your sensitive heart in communion with Him.

Certainly, you’ll look to Him for your supply of temporal needs of whatever sort they may be. But let them be a distant priority in comparison to the Lord Himself and that which is eternal and spiritual.

Nothing But Him in Your Affections

A real danger exists that we may look to the Lord only with an emotional response that doesn't count the cost of forsaking all to follow Him. Looking to Jesus is not essentially an activity of the emotions, nor

even of the mind or the will. Rather it is primarily a matter of the spirit, which goes beyond mind, emotions, or will so that to think, feel, or decide is not enough. To turn in our spirits from all else, to turn trustingly to Him to receive Him and whatever He wishes to give, that alone is the objective.

The key blockage that must be unstopped is self-pleasing. You must be willing to forsake everything for Him. Let go of all your idols of whatever sort they may be. This means letting go of things external, physical, and temporal and of your worries and concerns. These also may be idols you hold onto that take His place in your view and in your affections.

To the extent you look to your idols of whatever strange sort they may be, to the extent you hold onto them instead of Him, you won’t experience the Christianity that really works. All is from Father God through Christ Jesus and the working of the Holy Spirit. However, if you are looking to your pagan idol alternatives, and in effect worshipping them instead of Him, don’t expect godly results.

Looking to Him from Our Melancholy