

Beholding Christ

Fixing Your Eyes Upon Christ: “When Christ took human nature upon Him, He bound humanity to Himself by a tie of love that can never be broken by any power save the choice of man himself. Satan will constantly present allurements to induce us to break this tie—to choose to separate ourselves from Christ. Here is where we need to watch, to strive, to pray, that nothing may entice us to choose another master; for we are always free to do this. But let us keep our eyes fixed upon Christ, and He will preserve us. Looking unto Jesus, we are safe. Nothing can pluck us out of His hand. In constantly beholding Him, we ‘are changed into the same image from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord.’ (2 Corinthians 3:18).” *Steps to Christ, p. 72*

How do we constantly look to Jesus? Whenever we sense darkness, loneliness, rejection, feeling left out, anxiety, worry, fear of the future or being lost, or needing comfort or protection, we must immediately talk to Jesus about it and tell Him our feelings. Whatever it is that is destroying our peace at any given moment, we give to Him in prayer, for He is our Husband, Protector and Comforter. Let us always remember that Jesus already has the solution and in His timing He will reveal it to us. In summary, we are look to Him immediately, telling Him what we are experiencing and asking Him to handle it for us. He will show us the way through our struggles and keep our hearts in peace, in spite of the difficulty of our present circumstances.

Beholding Jesus means calling to mind the principles in His Word (He is the Word) that speak to our need or problem that we are presently facing. Focus your mind on and connect with His promises that address your present need. Look at specifics in His life or other Bible characters that demonstrate how they handled a similar situation. Jesus already has put to death all our negative thoughts and feelings on the cross, and now He wants to apply His victory to our lives and keep our thoughts and feelings in harmony with His Holy Spirit. (See Galatians 5:22-24)

“In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. . . . For sin shall not be your master. . . .” (Romans 6:11, 14, NIV)

How can we be enticed by another master other than Jesus? Our emotional pain and distress are caused by Satan in the first place. He then suggests various ways in an effort to assuage our discomfort and pretend to heal our brokenness. Satan’s agenda is to divert our minds and our feelings to provide a temporary, fleeting solution. He uses such things as music, movies, social media, contacting a friend, eating comfort foods, creating our own reality by daydreaming and planning our future, living our life vicariously through someone else’s life, shopping, etc. Satan provides diversions that prevent us from dealing with our present problem appropriately. Our true help comes by talking to Jesus about our concern and giving it to Him to resolve, relying upon His wisdom and knowledge. Only Jesus knows how to get us through our present situation and how to deal with our thoughts and feelings. Note: “Thoughts and feelings make up our moral character” (5T 573), and all we can take to Heaven is our character.

Why do we so easily look to other things or people to cope with our life? As in the physical, so it is in the emotional, psychological and spiritual realms. We are driven to immediately resolve our discomfort and to restore our sense of equilibrium. Instead of going to Jesus, talking to Him and giving Him our problem, we seek for immediate relief. Patience and waiting upon the Lord is what He wants to teach us. Somehow Satan has deceived us into thinking that without Jesus, we can take care of this matter. We are tempted to solve difficulties ourselves instead of focusing on Him.

In the theological arena, this is true as well. Many are pushed to adjust their theology to believe a lie, rather than wait upon the Lord and continue studying and relying upon Him to resolve their theological dilemma. This is because their experience does not line up with what the Word or the Spirit of Prophecy clearly state. They would rather choose to adjust their belief system and believe a lie than to study and wait upon God to make the matters clear. As they verbalize their errors, they are solidified in their deception. Our experience must always be tested by the Word, rather than interpreting the Word based on our experience.

We are told that Jesus looked to the Father and only spoke the words that the Father gave Him. We too may ask Him to speak through us and have the angels chose our words, rather than rely upon our own communication skills. Not only His words but also His timing in every matter is essential for us to follow.

Our tendency as humans is to live our life as if we had no God, to act as if no one cared about us or loved us. Satan has convinced us on some level that we have to rely upon ourselves, while God is waiting in the shadows ready to reach His hand out to rescue us from the clutches of Satan. Satan and his demons all experience negative emotions and they deceive us into believing that these are our emotions. Instead, the reality is that we have come under their feelings.

The good news is that Jesus has purchased our hearts and minds. Only He knows how to get us through the miasma of our hurts and pains. Jesus has trod the wine press alone and He maintained His peace by remaining connected with His Father and sharing every burden with Him. The Father was His confidante. This is the only way for us to live a life of constant victory, holiness and peace. Let us strive to enter in and remain with God the Father and His Son in the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary—the place of peace and safety. Then we will never chose another Master.

Christa Negley, PhD

January 21, 2018