

## Looking unto Jesus

Looking unto Jesus has immensely affected my life positively. I can boldly say you cannot survive knife, life, wife, strife, or even ministry without getting hold of this truth. This is one of the most life changing things I have learned. I have not this perfectly, I must confess. This has changed my life and being away from the US for some time, I have seen this principle work even more in my life than ever! I want to focus on 6 main areas that I believe the Lord needs to highlight in your life.

Everyone alive has looked at someone else for their needs to be met and so forth other than God.

### Goal:

I want to encourage and challenge as I show you the need of looking unto the Lord. Leaving this place today, you should be trusting, leaning, and looking unto God.

**Text:** 2 Chronicles 13:18 "... prevailed because **they relied upon the LORD.**"

Story talks about the war that was between Abijah (King of Judah) and Jeroboam (King of Israel). Abijah had 400,000 men ready for battle while Jeroboam had 800,000. Abijah was ambushed from the back and he chose to look upon the Lord.

Anyway, the Lord smote Jeroboam and all Israel they fled before Abijah and were pursued and slaughtered 500,000 men. But the key to their victory was one—**they relied upon the Lord.**

- i) They **relied, trusted, and leaned** upon Him for protection, support, victory, and they succeeded. If we lean upon the LORD, we shall surely prevail.
  - Whoever we **rely** on is who we are **looking unto**—God or man.
  - You will not succeed or excel while depending or looking to people. They were outnumbered twice (2X 400,000) = 800,000 but they still prevailed.
  - Whoever we lean upon or look unto determines our victory. We will either prevail or fail.

- ii) **You need to take people out of the center of your life and Universe.** God needs to take His rightful place in your life. No one should be the center of your universe. A universe has no center!
- iii) **The only thing that will ever let you down is the thing you lean on.** You need to fully lean on the LORD. If people were to criticize, disappoint you, it is not a big deal because you weren't leaning nor looking unto them. Highly valuing and looking unto people will bring you disappointment.
- iv) If you do not want people to let you down, do not lean on them. This is true for your spouse as well. You want to lean on the LORD because He will **never** let you down. He won't move. People will and you will get hurt.
- v) One of the ways people let us down is when **we value their input and opinion** more than God's.
  - If you value them, you will get hurt and offended.
  - You need to devalue their opinion of you.

One of the mistakes we make is we rely on people rather than the LORD. Relying on people does not guarantee success, but failure. Everyone has problems but the successful ones simply learn to focus on Jesus and looking unto Him,

We have to learn to look to the Lord. This is the best way we can do to experience victory in our lives. Setbacks will happen and disappointments will come but if we are looking unto the Lord, we are destined to prevail and thrive.

*Isaiah 45:22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.*

- a) When we look, look unto Jesus, we experience salvation. To the degree we look is to the degree we experience salvation.
- b) Why do we look upon the Lord? Because He is God.
- c) Notice it says all the end of the earth. Looking is for everyone.

### Points about looking

## A. Wait

Micah 7:7 *Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.*

- a) If you are not looking to the Lord, you are not waiting upon Him. You are waiting upon other people.
  - i) The way you wait, is by looking. Many times, we say we are waiting upon the Lord, but truth is we aren't looking upon Him.
- b) Psalm 123:2

## B. Help

Psalm 121:1 *I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.*

- a) Whoever we are looking at is to whom we are expecting our help—God or man.

## C. Seek

Isaiah 51:1 *Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

- a) Seeking the Lord is by looking. Who you are looking at is who you are seeking!

## D. Mind

Romans 8:6 *For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

- a) Your mind is your looker! It is what focuses and looks. The reason for looking is not to look. It is to focus and as a result engage the mind. Your mind is what looks and focuses.
- b) If you are heavy laden, anxious, troubled, depressed, anxious, heavy laden, stressed, worried, dejected, do not blame God. You have been looking at something else other than God, but you can change this right away.

- Stop looking to people. The LORD is our source for every good thing we want.

*Example: Effort to find a place for rent in Uganda.*

I put too much trust in the friend who was helping look who also found this house through the agents because of what he knows about the city, places, and so forth.

- i) My trust should have been in the Lord regardless of how much this guy knew and so forth. Never again.
- ii) I will trust the Lord, not people anymore regardless of their experience.

Let me say something here that could be a shocker to some of you. If you came to visit us in Uganda, even though I know the place and the language, you better trust, depend, and rely upon the Lord. He alone can help you navigate the traps and lies of the people. I can help but you cannot be looking at me, but the Lord. I can fail and I can be fooled no matter what experience I have in an area.

Some of us have put too much trust and are looking at the expertise of another person just because they have a PHD (Permanent Head Damage in an area). **Save yourself all the problems and heartache by looking unto the Lord.** Of course, you can work with them but not putting all your hope and trust in them.

**Areas we need to look to the Lord. I came up with this acronym to help me remember these four things:**

1. Compensation

- a) 1 Timothy 5:18 *For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.*
  - i) Yes, you are entitled to remuneration, but did you know that is no reason to look to your boss. Think of the company restructures that have happened during COVID, if you are looking to man, you would be swept away.

- ii) I know people who work, and they do not get paid for some reason. Looking unto your boss for pay is very dangerous. You need to be looking unto the Lord. We all need to graduate beyond this. We need to look to the Lord.
- b) Colossians 3:23-24 *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.*
  - i) No man can pay me. I believe I'm unpayable. Therefore, I look unto the Lord. Only God can pay me. My hope, trust is not in the Lord.

## 2. Recognition

- a) You do not need people's reinforcement and affirmation. It should not bother you. You do not need their approval or acceptance. You already have it from the LORD. Some people will quit for a lack of recognition. They attach value to recognition. Not true in God's eyes.

Jesus recognizes you! This is more important than man's recognition.

Being with the Lord brings recognition—before God and man (Acts 4:13).

## 3. Appreciation

- a) Do not look to your husband or employer. You have to look to the LORD or else you will be disappointed.

This is not to say employers and husband should not appreciate their wives, but if we are dejected and fall apart because of a lack thereof, chances are we are looking at the wrong person for appreciation. We need to grow and get secure in the Lord.

If your boss never said thank you, how would you respond?

Jesus says thank you. He appreciates you.

## 4. Promotion

This need to be settled before sun set. It is not man that promotes. Promotion doesn't simply refer to a position at your job. It could be finances, relationships, life, wealth, and health.

a) Psalm 75:6 *For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.*

i) It is interesting that of the four directions of the compass, the north was left out of this list.

b) Psalm 48:2 *Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.*

i) Side of the north the city of the Great King

c) Isaiah 14:13 *For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:*

i) Therefore, we don't have to:

- o fear mankind
- o play the games that some do to seek promotion
- o Speak of our ministries.
- o Try to persuade others

d) Self-promoting:

i) Do not promote yourself. Let God do it. Don't use your mouth to open doors for yourself.

- o Ministry(ies)
- o Platform—You do not ask for platform. This is not what right.
- o You do not ask for an opportunity to teach or preach.
- o Do not show your face. Do not scream your name.
- o Wrong motives are self-promotion.

ii) Don't kick down doors. It's an ethical to go about promoting yourself especially using the platform of another man—or another man's ministry without their approval. You should not be drawing people after yourself. Let God draw people to you.

- e) If you look unto people, If Jesus is not the one that you look to, who then? what then? It's only, Jesus. If Jesus can't satisfy or make you complete, who will? what will. It's over.

## 5. Provision

We need to have and look to the Lord as our source.

*1 Chronicles 29:11 Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. 12 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. 13 Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. 14 But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. 15 For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding. 16 O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own.*

- a) If both riches and honor come from the Lord, why in the world are we then looking unto man, Business, paycheck, Government?
- b) One of the reasons we lack is because we are looking at someone else as our SOURCE!
- c) Who we look to will either release or hinder our financial increase.

*James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

### My Story on believing God for Financial provision.

- All my expectations set of a few family members and folks that I considered friends
- I was greatly disappointed by their lack of support.
- I was expecting God to use them to bless me financially as they had done before, but God worked it out very differently.
- He created a new way for my provision. He used a person I least expected.

- A friend that I never thought would be the channel God would use—\$200.

If you are angry and mad at someone for not coming through for you or not do as they had promised, you do not have God as your source because if you did, you would not be angry, upset or disappointed.

You have been looking at the wrong person.

## 6. Protection

Who are you looking to for protection?

- i) Psalm 20:7 Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.
- ii) Some people think when they go to Africa, they would die. You can die in the US just as you can in Africa. Protection is not just in a single place. You can be protected in Africa if you are looking unto Jesus.

In conclusion:

Hebrews 11:27 *By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.*

- a) We endure by seeing or looking unto Jesus, the author, and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:1-2). A lack of endurance directly related to our focus.
- b) We need to look unto Jesus; keep on looking to Jesus; and keep on looking unto Jesus.

Romans 4:18 *Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. 19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: 20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;*

- a) Not weak in faith—Not considering or looking at a situation as dead. If we consider our situation dead, lifeless and impossible, we become weak in faith. We cannot believe.
  - Consider = look at continuously, think upon, meditate, deliberate etc.



- What you consider or look at will = Control, Influence, and Dominate (CID) you.

b) Don't consider yourself or the other person's situation dead or impossible.

### Dangers of considering or looking to the natural or the circumstances:

- i) Weak
- ii) You cannot glorify or magnify God
- iii) Stagger (waver or oppose)
- iv) Will not be fully persuaded. If you are focused on the natural, you will not be fully persuaded.

### Things we can do to look unto the Lord

- i) Spending time with the Lord in prayer and the Word
- ii) Ministering unto the Lord.
- iii) Worship
- iv) Godly company and associations

### Word of Knowledge:

Someone here has been struggling financially—The Lord is saying get your eyes back to me. I'm the only One that can pull you through.

Another person is the area of healing—You have been looking at the Doctor (This doctor is a believer) and you have put too much trust in man. The Lord is saying as you look unto me and behold me, you will receive the manifestation of your healing.

*Salvation—John 3:3*

If you tuning in watching on Facebook or YouTube or even listening to this via podcast and you have never given your life to Jesus. Here is an opportunity for you. I want to help you. You cannot look unto Jesus while you are outside Jesus. The **airbus** looks small when you are far from it but once you get closer like at the airport, Boy, you will see how big and magnificent it is. Draw closer to God through faith and trust in Jesus.

*Baptism in the Holy Spirit—Acts 1:8*

You shall receive power

My Daughter was filled with the Holy Ghost and speaking in tongues with me. She spoke in tongues when she went to pray for someone sick and this person got healed. No jokes!

Certain disciplines that will help you to keep looking unto the Lord:

1. Spending time in the Word
2. Prayer
3. Ministering unto the Lord
4. Worship
5. Godly company