

Hope Focused Faith

4/2010 Mark Beaird

Text: Psalm 123

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to you,
to you who sit enthroned in heaven.
- ² As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a female slave look to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,
till he shows us his mercy.
- ³ Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us,
for we have endured no end of contempt.
- ⁴ We have endured no end
of ridicule from the arrogant,
of contempt from the proud.

Introduction

Our focus determines our goal, our path, and what we rely upon for our strength. When God is our focus, the hope the Holy Spirit inspires within us will lead us to greater faith.

I. What has become the focus of our life?

- A. Is our focus solely on earthly matters?
- B. Are we focused on eternal matters?

II. How intense is our focus on God?

- A. Do we view God as being near?
- B. Are we focused on receiving what we really need from God?

III. Can we hold on until God comes through?

- A. Do we feel we have endured a long time?
- B. Can we endure until God shows us mercy?

Conclusion

In many cases, what some view as tunnel vision can be problematic but at times limiting our focus to what is really important and on the One who can truly help us can be beneficial.

John Maxwell wrote,

“Hope shines brightest when the hour is darkest.

Hope motivates when discouragement comes.

Hope energizes when the body is tired.

Hope sweetens while bitterness bites.

Hope sings when all melodies are gone.

Hope believes when evidence is eliminated.

Hope listens for answers when no one is talking.

Hope climbs over obstacles when no one is helping.

Hope endures hardship when no one is caring.

Hope smiles confidently when no one is laughing.

Hope reaches for answers when no one is asking.

Hope presses toward victory when no one is encouraging.

Hope dares to give when no one is sharing.

Hope brings the victory when no one is winning.”

John Maxwell from Think on These Things. Quoted from net153.com Email list