



Lord, Give Us an Eternal Focus

Focus To experience fulfillment and purpose in life, we must live focused on eternal things and not the things of earth.

Open Which are you most easily distracted by: TV, movies, video games, the Internet, social networking (Facebook/Twitter) or talking on the phone?

Read Like King Solomon, many people discover that in spite of “having it all,” life is void of meaning. In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon wrote that neither wealth, wisdom, nor the pursuit of pleasure, filled this void. Likewise, when we live our lives focused on the things that are “under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 2), we’ll ultimately find ourselves hating life and feeling like it is useless, weary and unfulfilling.

In contrast, the apostle Paul experienced tremendous hardships during his lifetime, yet he wrote in 2 Corinthians 4:18 that he didn’t look at the things that were seen, but the unseen, *“for the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal (NKJV).”* He was fulfilled and was not weighed down by life because he focused on the eternal and not the temporary things “under the sun.” Hope is found in the eternal.

Talk

1. Can you relate to Solomon’s feelings about life he describes in Ecclesiastes 2: useless/disappointing, wearying and unfulfilling? To what feeling(s) do you relate the most?

2. Describe what it means to live with an eternal focus. What does living with an earthly focus look like?
3. Why will living to solve our problems ultimately lead us to despair?
4. Why do our earthly problems become small when we engage in prayer (worship), service, giving and sharing Christ?
5. Describe a time when worshipful prayer “flipped” your perspective on a situation. What changed in your heart? What, specifically, did you come to understand or see in your situation?

Live

Imagine yourself living a more eternally-focused life than you currently are. What attitudes, struggles or pursuits do you expect would change? What are you working towards now that you might set aside or reprioritize? What would you begin to work toward that you are currently not working toward?

Pray

Ask God to keep your eyes focused on the eternal and not the temporal (the things of earth). Ask Him to give you His perspective as you worship Him. Ask Him to empower you to live an overcoming life as Paul did—living above the earthly realities and experiencing the grace of heaven while on earth.

Spend a few minutes together in worship, thanking Him for Who He is (faithful, sovereign, loving, gracious, etc.).