

When Paul faced circumstances that threatened to overwhelm him, he gave us his secret for being renewed from the inside out: "We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18).

The writer of Hebrews challenged us to "fix our eyes on Jesus" so that we "will not grow weary and lose heart" (Hebrews 12:3).

But how can we focus our eyes on what we can't see? The key seems to involve learning to look through the eyes of our heart.. the eyes of faith. "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe" (Ephesians 1:18-19).

To look with the eyes of our heart is to see beyond the people and situations that seem to thwart God and His will. Instead of giving in to discouragement because of what we see in our families, or in our own lives, we find fresh energy and vision to live for Christ because we see Him.

About ready to hang it up? Take a fresh look at life, and at God, through the eyes of your enlightened heart. --DM

REFLECTION

- What recent situation caused me to feel like quitting as a Christian?
- If I were able to see setbacks and disappointments through the eyes of my heart, what might I see?
- What is one way that I can fix my eyes on Jesus today?

Jesus finished His course to help me finish mine.

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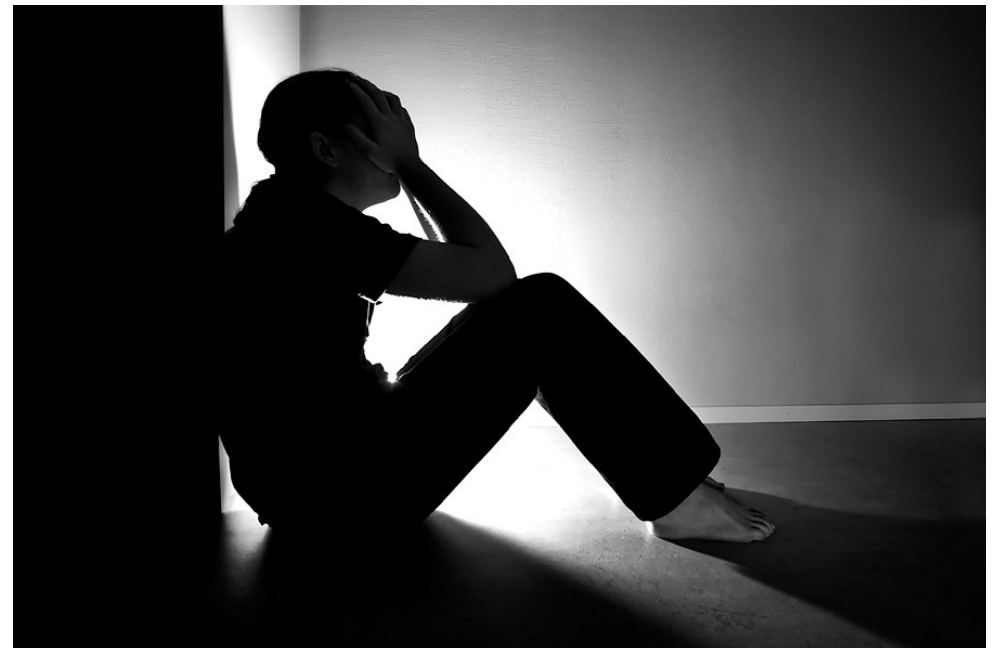
Central Mountains Baptist Church

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The Eyes of the Heart

There are a lot of ways to say "I quit!" "Throw in the towel," "chuck it," or "hang it up" just touches the surface of our feelings when we're ready to shout, "I've had it and I'm not going to do this any more!"

And how many times have we felt that way about living as a Christian? When the hassles and disappointments and discouragements pile up, we're tempted to forget the whole thing. Maybe that's why a lot of Scripture deals with how to avoid "losing heart."





Discipleship-Living Delight Seeing the Invisible

(Galatians 5:17) "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish."

(Ephesians 2:2-3) "... you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, {3} among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others."

(2 Corinthians 4:17-18) "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, {18} while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."



There are three problems with spiritual blindness:

1. The blind cannot see the _____, 2 Peter 1:9

(John 9:25) "... One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.""

(2 Corinthians 4:3-4) "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, {4} whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."

(Proverbs 22:3) "A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished."

(Proverbs 22:5) "Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse; He who guards his soul will be far from them."

(Proverbs 14:12) "There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death."



2. The blind are easily _____,

(Romans 12:2) "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

(Hebrews 5:14) "But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

(Ephesians 5:18) "And do not be drunk with wine, ...; but be filled with the Spirit,"

(Genesis 1:29) "... See, I have given you every herb ..."

(Psalms 101:3) "I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; ..."

(Philippians 4:8) "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, ... noble, ... just, ... pure, ... lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy; meditate on these things."

(1 Corinthians 2:12) "Now we have received, ... the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God."



3. The blind are more easily _____,

2 Peter 1:5-11

(Ephesians 4:17-18) "This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, {18} having their

understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;"

(Psalms 42:1) "As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God."

(Philippians 3:8) "Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ"

