

Spiritual Wisdom Knowledge & Understanding

Lisa Kane

6/10/17

Written by:

Published on:

Staying Focused on God

Comments

Colossians is a powerful book in the New Testament in teaching you how to keep your mind focused on God.

Last message, I spoke on showing love.

Colossians 3:14 reinforces that. Put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

God is on the goal of getting us to know Him and to know Him is to separate ourselves from the world. God is spirit and cannot mix with sin. Sin is rampant in this world. That means you must take on some part or show some effort to God with the right heart and mind to separate yourself by following His example. My last message on love showed you to set an example and let your actions speak louder than words. Don't just tell someone you love them...show them you love them by expressing it with action. In the case of showing God you love Him, the action is keeping His commandments. Here in Colossians, now Paul is telling us to focus our mind on things above. This will help us keep His commandments.

See how Paul starts off with 'If then you were raised with Christ', I believe that means when you came up out of the water from water baptism as that new creature I spoke about in my water baptism message. You can see things lining up to build you up in Christ as we go through each of these messages.

Now that you've declared Jesus as Lord (from my Salvation message) and you were water baptized, you are a spiritual creature but still in human form. To be spiritual, you need to get your mind focused on spiritual matters or as Paul calls it, things above.

Scriptures (Biblegateway.com NKJV)

Colossians 3:14-16

¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Colossians 3:1-4

¹ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

The act of separating yourself is dying. You need to die to your 'self', to this world, and basically to anything God doesn't like so you can stay focused on Him above.

The main prize, which should put a smile on your face every time you think it, is you will appear with Him in glory when He appears! Hallelujah!

God knows and understands that we can't finish the race on our own, but He does tell us to look unto Jesus...He leads by example and by remaining focused on Him, He will be the finisher of our faith. The focus is on Him, which we can't see, which is why it's called faith! Hallelujah!

Now, how do we do this?

I truly love Paul's lists...put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, bearing with one another, and forgiving – these are character traits God / Jesus has. We are to put them on.

It's like putting on a coat or a garment of some sort. That means it won't come naturally but we can use the basic principle of prayer we learned with Salvation by declaring Lord Jesus over our mindset to unlearn and remove the bad habits of our old self allowing us to wear and use these new character traits. Let's pray this together out loud:

Dear Heavenly Father, we lift up our minds and hearts to Your throne room and declare You Lord Jesus over the following character traits to be on us: mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, bearing one another, and forgiving. We ask You and Your Holy Spirit to place these traits on us so that we may look and act like You according to Colossians 3:12 and 13. We understand that this won't come naturally but we have Faith in You to change our nature to be above and more like You than we currently are. Thank you! In Jesus' name, Amen!

³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Hebrews 12:2

² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Colossians 3:12-13

¹² Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.

Now that we've placed these items on us, as if we were wearing them like clothing, we are to be like God and to think on God. This is where we keep focused! The doing...the being. That's action. Again, action speaks louder than words.

When we put on these garments – character traits, we can now say, that we are running the race and fighting the good fight even though we haven't finished it yet! We are on the right track heading toward the finish line!

Hallelujah!

So stay focused by placing God first in your life. Pause before acting and speaking to give yourself a moment to say, 'how would Jesus handle this situation'. Then place that trait over your feelings. Don't let your feelings interfere with displaying God's character traits. Remember, stay focused and finish the race keeping the faith! Keep declaring Jesus as Lord over whatever is holding you back because you will break through. You are more than a conqueror in Jesus.

And there comes a time when these things will become the new natural for you, and people will notice. You will hear things like, "You're the nicest person I've ever met"; "Wow, I can't believe somebody did something so nice like that"; "Wow, you have no idea how much I needed to hear and see that at this moment", etc.

Don't be surprised by these comments because unfortunately, nobody is showing these character traits around that person who is making that comment. That means you're the only person around them who will show that trait. So be that person because someone needs it. They need to hear, feel, and see God's love demonstrated and there are so many people out there that need it. That's how God demonstrates His love to us

2 Timothy 4:7

⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Romans 8:37

³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

and we can do the same by reciprocating to the people around us.

God bless you!

Thank you for listening...If you haven't done so, please like the House of Faith Ministries Facebook page and check out the revamped House of Faith Ministries web site. You will be blessed with Pastor Marcos' insightful messages.

<https://www.facebook.com/hofmpastormarcos/>

<https://twitter.com/jocuse1e>

<https://www.houseoffaithministries.org/>