

Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”
Isaiah 40:31*



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Looking Ahead

The secret to a life well lived is to fix our sights on what lies ahead, and not allow ourselves to be distracted by the trifles and troubles of today.

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 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” (2 Cor. 4:17-18).

“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:13-14).



Paul’s success in his role as an ambassador for Christ was not due to his wealth, his connections, or his oratorical skills. Rather, it was due to his ability to maintain a targeted perspective on life. He knew how to focus intently on the long-range goal before him, while not allowing all the other things in his life to distract him from reaching that goal.

There was much in Paul’s past that, had he allowed it, could have buried him

with regret and shame. Likewise, his day-to-day workload must have kept him busy—all those epistles to write, the constant preaching, teaching, and traveling, not to mention the secular jobs he worked to pay the bills. Yet in the midst of all these distractions, Paul never wavered in his commitment to the cause that animated his life.

This single-minded dedication cost him dearly. He had no family, no wealth, and no permanent home. He was often abused by those who did not understand his mission, even by some of his own brethren. But Paul shrugged off these hardships as “light affliction.” His final destination was assured, and these troubles were mere speed bumps on his way to a much better place.

Paul had his sights set on heaven, but that hope did not blind him to the needs of those around him. On the contrary, it allowed him to see with sharp clarity what was truly important in his relationships with others, and to pursue that labor with a passion. It energized him to “press on” in a work that had eternal implications.

The greatest challenge confronting every child of God today—especially in America—is maintaining this kind of forward-looking vision in the midst of our comfortable lifestyle. The more goodies we accumulate, the more attached to this world our hearts grow, and that future reward gets lost in the weeds. Over time, our faith becomes a cold, barren ritual, something we put on once or twice a week for show, then put aside to get on with those things that our hearts are *really* interested in—things that pale in comparison to the grandeur that beckons from afar.

We do not have to give away all our possessions and take a vow of poverty in order to achieve this heavenly mindset. Our busy lives can, in fact, be the very vehicle by which our faith is communicated to the world around us. What we have to do is carve out enough time in our daily schedule to read and meditate on the Word, pray earnestly to God, and just *think* about where all this activity is ultimately leading us. If we do that, our lives will be rich with a purpose far beyond anything this world can offer.

– David King