

GAZING AT GOD'S FACE AND GLANCING AT HIS HAND
Re-Learn: Lessons from the Early Church
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S-1781

This morning I want to discuss the prayer principle of gazing and glancing. The correct action is to gaze at God's face and Glance at our needs. When we gaze at God's face and glance at His hand we will have the right relationship and understanding of God. If we reverse our gaze and glance our spiritual lives "go to Hell in a hand basket" rather quickly.

Peter strolled successfully on the Sea of Galilee by gazing intently at Jesus and glancing occasionally at the waves. However, when he reversed his gaze and glance, he screamed, "Lord Save Me!" as he sank beneath the waves (Matthew 14:25-33). All was well until he reversed his gaze and glance. By the way, have you ever wondered how Peter returned to the boat?

We are to gaze at God's face; we are to glance at our needs. To see the power of Paul's prayers pray the following passages for those you love—and those you don't!

Ephesians 1:17
Ephesians 3:14-21
Philippians 1:9-11
Colossians 3:1-2

Man's basic idea of prayer is to get his needs met. The Biblical definition of prayer is that we may know God.

Bad Things Happen When We Reverse Our Gazing On God And Glancing At Our Needs.

1. Reversing Gaze And Glance Allows Circumstances To Dictate Our Views Of God.

Oswald Chambers: "If we only look at our needs we will get in a huff with God when He doesn't give us what we want.

2. Reversing Gaze And Glance Assumes That We Know Our Needs Better Than God Does

Most of us have little idea what our needs are! In prayer we must see Proverb 3:5-6.

3. Reversing Gaze And Glance Open's Our Lives To Satanic Deception.

Satan can falsify counterfeit answers to prayer to ruin our view of God.

4. Reversing Gaze And Glance Means That My Sins Are Seldom Seen.

God will not answer the prayers of Christians who are harboring sin in their lives.

Ps 66:16-18
Isaiah 59:2

We can never get so bad that God won't hear our prayers of repentance.

2 Chronicles 7:14

5. Reversing Gaze And Glance Is Idolatrous Worship.

An idol is what ever man conceives in his mind to get his needs met without turning to God.

Learning To Transition From The Here And Now To The Eternal Is The Holy Art Of Prayer

Seeking The Face Of God Sustains Us As We Pray.

Philippians 3:10 "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,"

Matthew 6:33: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

2 Corinthians 3:18: "We, with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

PEOPLE ON DIFFERENT SPIRITUAL LEVELS HAVE DIFFERENT PRAYERS (1 Corinthians 2:14-3:1).

The "Natural Man" (without Christ) has a self-centered prayer life if God hears Him at all.

The "Fleshly Christian" ("carnal") has a situationally-centered prayer life.

The "Spiritual Christian" has a Christ-centered prayer life

Producing the Fruit of the spirit or works of the flesh indicate whether or not our gaze and glance are in the proper perspective.

What the prayer of a person without Christ might look like: God does not "hear" him at all.

What the prayer of a Carnal Christian might look like: Upset; Disappointed; Angry; Questioning God's actions; Bargaining with God; Little or no use of Scriptures and Promises; Pleading; Unbelief; Frustration; Aimlessness; Worry; Discouragement; Critical spirit; Fear of future; Questioning God's love and care; Failing to go "out on a limb" so that if God doesn't answer we can still work it out by ourselves; and the Power of positive thinking.

What the prayer of a Spiritual Christian might look like: Praise; Confession; Gratitude; Intercession; Praying for others to receive Christ; Deep appreciation for God's Word; Trust; Obedience; Love; Joy; Peace; Patience; Kindness; Gentleness; and self control.

Gazing Into The Face Of Jesus Transforms Us Into His Likeness (Galatians 4:19).

We are consistently being conformed to something. If our gaze is on our needs we will be conformed to the world. On the other hand, when our gaze is on the face of Jesus, we will soon begin to look like Him.

PRAYING GROUND

The burning bush (Exodus 3:1-6)

Personal Relationship with Jesus Christ—Sins Forgiven! Born *and* Adopted by grace through faith into the family of God (John 1:12-13 and Ephesians 15)

Humility (Matthew 11:19)

Love for God, Others and Self (Matthew 22:37-40 and 1 Corinthians 13:3)

Confession (1 John 1:9)

Quiet Listening (Ecclesiastes 5:1-6)

Surrender to God's will (Matthew 26:39 and 42)

The Gift of Prayer Brings Tears to God's Eyes.