

What must the central focus of our life be, if we are to truly believe in God and Christ?

2 Chronicles 7:14, "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Why?

Psalm 14:2: "The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God." What's more?

Proverbs 8:17, "I love those who love Me, and those who seek Me diligently will find Me."

As such:

Jeremiah 29:13: "You will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart."

Psalm 119:2, "Blessed *are* those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart!"

And in Jesus' own words:

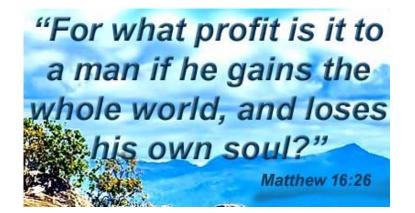
Luke 19:10, "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Matthew 5:6, "Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."

Therefore:

James 1:22, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

Colossians 1:10, "Walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him,* being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God." Am I committed to seek God's will so I focus my life to follow Christ?



If we profess to believe in God and follow Christ, why must we focus our lives to seek His will and live by His Word?

Philippians 3:20, "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."

As such:

1 John 3:3, "Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."

Why?

Romans 8:5, "Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit."

What's more?

Proverbs 2:1-5, "My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, *and* apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, *and* lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as *for* hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God."

The reason Jesus said:

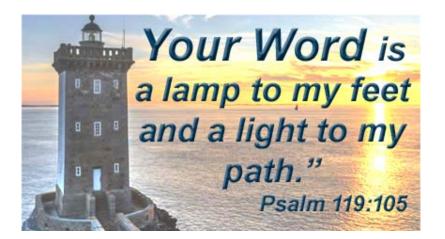
Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Therefore:

Philippians 3:14, "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Food for thought:

Is my heart truly focused on God, or am I walking one foot in the world and claiming to follow Christ?



How can I be steadfast and committed to focus my life on Christ and live by His Word?

Luke 9:23, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

Why?

Titus 2:11-12, "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age."

What's more?

Colossians 3:23-24, "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ."

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."

As such:

2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Therefore, and as Jesus said:

John 8:12, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Do I live to follow the path of righteousness in Christ Jesus?



How does the Word of God declare the steps involved in focusing our life on following Christ?

Hebrews 12:1-2, "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 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 3:1, "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God."

Colossians 2:6-7, "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving." As such:

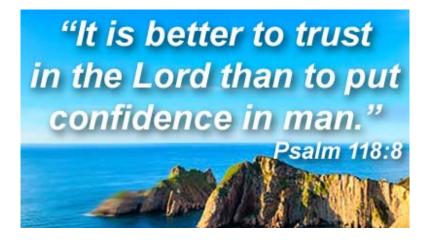
Philippians 3:13-14, "One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Therefore:

1 Peter 1:13, "Gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Proverbs 16:3, "Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established."

How would God describe the focus of my heart right now?



How must we commit to trust God and be focused on following Christ as Lord?

Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Why?

Hebrews 11:6, "Without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him,* for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

As such:

Deuteronomy 4:29, "You will seek the LORD your God, and you will find *Him* if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul."

Psalm 9:10, "Those who know Your name will put their trust in You; for You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You."

Isaiah 26:3, "You will keep *him* in perfect peace, w*hose* mind *is* stayed *on You, b*ecause he trusts in You."

Therefore:

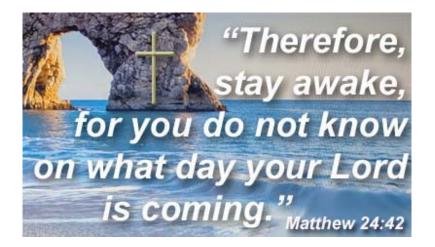
Isaiah 41:10, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Psalm 62:8, "Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God *is* a refuge for us."

As such Jesus said:

John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

How genuine is my faith in Christ right now?



As believers in Christ, how must we live so as to be on constantly on guard and avoid the traps of the enemy?

Colossians 2:8, "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

1 Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

1 John 2:15, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

Hebrews 13:5, "*Let your* conduct *be* without covetousness." Why?

2 Timothy 2:4, "No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier."

What's more?

Romans 8:6, "To be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace."

In Jesus' own words:

Matthew 6:24, "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other."

Therefore:

Matthew 26:41, "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."

Am I steadfastly on guard so I don't fall into the traps of the enemy?