

NOT BY SIGHT

Two Looks

I. 2 Corinthians 4:18-There are two looks: There's a looking at, a focusing on, a considering, a giving attention to what is seen and there's a looking at, a focusing on, a considering, a giving attention to what is not seen

A. We don't look at, think about, focus on, contemplate, consider or pay attention to what we see

1. Look-To look at, observe, contemplate, consider, mark (take notice, to notice), Fix one's eyes upon, direct one's attention to;
Seen-To see with the bodily eye, To perceive by the senses, to feel
2. *NLT*-We don't look at the troubles we can see now; *TLB*-We do not look at what we can see right now, the troubles all around us; *CSB*-We don't focus on; *CJB*-We concentrate not; *TPT*-We don't focus our attention;
3. When trouble surrounds, when problems loom, when the evil report is staring you in the face should you look at it, focus on it, think about it, fixate on what you see? No, but many do: They got the problem on their mind, they're thinking about that problem day and night, focusing on it, looking at it
 - a. Many think, "I can't get the problem off my mind," but the truth is you don't have to look at it

B. What are we going to replace it with, look at instead-You're always looking at something so what will you look at instead

1. When trouble surrounds, when problems loom, when the evil report is staring you in the face we are going to look at, focus on, think about what we cannot see, what we do not see
 - a. *NLT*-We fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen; *CEB*-We keep our minds on the things that cannot be seen; *ERV*-We think about what we cannot see
2. Looking at what you can't see is focusing on something that is not yet revealed to our senses

C. Standing before them is what they can see and what they can't see – They have to choose what they're going to look at

1. They won't look at what they see; I'm not acting like it's not there in a phony manner, but rather I know it's there and I'm choosing not to focus on it b/c doing so is to my detriment and has ramifications that I want no part of
2. 8-9,11,16-What they see-*We're troubled (pressed, distressed) on every side, perplexed (Don't know what to do, where to go, without resources), persecuted (Pursued, harassed), cast down (Thrown to the ground); We bear in the body the dying of the Jesus, we're delivered unto death, death works in us, our outward man perishes*
 - a. He won't camp on what he sees, there was always a but
3. What they can't see that they are going to look at instead; 14-Jesus will raise us up; 15-People that are going to be blessed and it's going to lead to God's glory; 16-Inward man is renewed; 17-The affliction is light, producing an eternal weight of glory; 5:1-The "worst" thing that could happen is we lose this body, but to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord and our body will be glorified

D. Here's why we don't look at it: Everything you can see has an expiration date (Temporal-For a season, temporary)

1. *CSB*-The things that can be seen don't last; *ERV*-We think about what we cannot see, not what we see. What we see lasts only a short time; *TLB*-The troubles will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever
2. Whatever exists that is contrary to what God said has an expiration date and won't last (If you'll walk by faith)
 - a. After Abraham has God's word that he's going to be the Father of many nations, when he sees himself with no kids what does he know about what he sees? It won't last, it has an expiration date, it's going to change
 - b. 17-This promise put an expiration date on that problem

II. Why does what you look at matter when it comes to walking by faith and not by sight?

A. Faith deals in the unseen-*Heb 11:1-Faith is substance of things hoped for (not seen) evidence of things not seen*

1. 2Cor5:7-The opposite of walking by sight is walking by faith; We're talking about the seen versus the unseen
 - a. If you're walking by faith you're not governing your life by what you see, but by what you don't see and believe
2. You can't walk by faith focusing on what is seen; This is why what you look at matters in walking by faith

B. You'll govern your life according to the things you focus on

1. *Romans 8:5-CSB-Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on the things of the flesh-They're governed by the flesh b/c they're focused on the flesh; Those who are governed by what they see are focused on what they see*
2. If you look at and focus on the seen, you're going to govern your life by what you see and walk by sight
3. The direction you look determines the way you walk

C. 2Cor5:7,4:18-Their focus determined their walk, what they looked at affected how they lived

1. The reason they weren't walking by sight is because they wouldn't look at/focus on what they could see; They wouldn't have walked by faith had they focused on/looked at what they could see
2. 2 Corinthians 5:7 says is true b/c 2 Corinthians 4:18 is true: 5:7 is standing on the shoulders of 4:18; You take 4:18 away and 5:7 becomes impossible because you can't walk by faith while you focus on what you can see
3. People try to walk by faith looking at what they see all day, but to walk by faith you have to look at something else

D. This choice of what you look at is so important b/c it's going to determine whether you walk by faith or walk by sight

1. 2 Corinthians 4:18 is how you walk by faith: Walking by faith I don't look at what I can see

III. Rom4:18-To walk by faith you have to look beyond where you are, beyond what you see to the unseen

A. 16-This is why you want to learn how to walk by faith and not by sight

B. 17-This is not seeing something and calling it like it's seen

1. *AMPC-Speaks of nonexistent things that He has foretold and promised as if they already existed; ERV-Speaks of things that don't yet exist as if they are real; YLT-Calling the things that be not as being*

C. 18-He can't see what he wants and he can't see anything that would make him think he's going to get what he wants

1. What he's in hope for in he can't see-Romans 8:24

D. 19-He can see it with his eyes, but he's refusing to look at it and he's doing that on purpose

1. He didn't look at what he could see (Consider-Fix one's eye or mind upon, consider attentively, ponder, think upon)
2. Considering those things would have been to look at what he could see and to do so would have weakened his faith and caused him to walk by sight; He's not thinking about his dead body, her dead womb, how old they are; He can't think about that all day and walk by faith

E. If he's not considering/looking at that then what was he considering? He looks at something else

1. Rom4:18-He's looking at this, *So shall thy seed be-Genesis 15:1-5*
 - a. *Gen12:2-I will make of you a great nation* – He gets this promise for posterity
 - b. 2-3-He is looking at himself going childless (seeing), he's looking at his steward, he's looking at having no seed
 - 1) 3-Behold-He's trying to get God to look at what he's looking at God won't do it
 - c. 4-5-God gave him something else to look at (b/c Romans 4:16 is true)
 - 1) God comes along says, "Nah, nah, nah, you're looking at the wrong thing and it's going to affect your faith. Don't look at that look at this." (*That is what he can see, This is what he can't see*)
 - 2) Look-Consider, pay attention to, regard, respect; Don't pay any attention to that, look at this
2. We are talking about the principle of looking beyond what's going on around you to something you can't see yet
 - a. Instead looking at their bodies, he looked at the stars and when he did he wasn't thinking about the kids he didn't have, the promise that hadn't been fulfilled, the deadness of the bodies; When he's looking at those stars he's looking beyond where he was, beyond the seen to the unseen seeing himself as the father of many nations
 - b. God's got him working a faith principle: get your eyes off of what you see
 - c. *Rm8:5-PH-The carnal attitude sees no further than natural things; the spiritual attitude reaches out after the things of the spirit*

F. Abraham looked beyond what he saw and it supercharged his faith

1. 18-20-What kind of faith is this? Human reason for hope is gone, old bodies, dead barren womb and yet he's expectation is high, his faith is strong and he's not wavering

2. Where does this kind of faith come from? He kept looking at those stars and focusing on what he couldn't see and as he did that he got strong in faith, then he got fully persuaded in faith; He got there because instead of looking at what he could see he looked at what he couldn't see, instead of looking at their bodies he looked at the stars and sees the end of this thing and when he did joy came, strength came and it supercharged his faith

IV. Looking at the unseen stirs your joy and supernaturally strengthens your faith

- A. Hebrews 12-He's being scourged, beaten, wounded, pierced and he's not looking at it, but he's looking beyond it and seeing you; What did that do? It stirred his joy and that joy was supernatural strength to him and it supercharged his faith and he didn't just survive the scourging and crucifixion but rather he took as if it were nothing-Nehemiah 8:10
 1. **MSG**-Because he never lost sight of where he was headed – that exhilarating finish with God – he could put up with anything along the way; **NOG**-He saw the joy ahead of Him, so endured; **VO**-He endured the cross and ignored the same of that death because He focused on the joy that was set before Him; **TPT**-We look away from the natural realm and we fasten our gaze onto Jesus who birthed faith within us and who leads us forward into faith's perfection. His example is this: Because his heart was so focused on the joy of knowing that you would be his, he endured the agony of the cross and conquered its humiliation; **NCV**-He accepted the shame as if it were nothing; **GNT**-He thought nothing of
- B. Hebrews 10:32-The joy was there because they looked beyond what was happening
 1. 32-You endured a great fight of afflictions
 - a. **Endure**-Hold fast to your faith under trials and misfortunes, Bear bravely and calmly ill treatments
 - b. If the Bible calls it a **GREAT** fight of afflictions, then that means it was some mega affliction; But they endured
 2. 34-They took joyfully the spoiling of their goods not looking at that, but looking at something else
- C. 2 Corinthians 4:8-9,17-What kind of faith is this? How do you walk by faith like this? It's connected to V18
 1. **TLB**-So we do not look at what we can see right now, the troubles all around us, but we look forward to the joys in heaven which we have not seen yet. The troubles will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever
 2. 17,5:1-They are looking beyond the persecution to the eternal weight of glory; They're looking beyond to their glorified bodies and when they did joy was stirred strength rose from within and verse 16 happened
- D. If the enemy can get you locked in on what's going on around, looking at what you see he can rob of your joy, weaken your faith and get you to walk by sight where he can defeat you-Col3:2
 1. People say God give me strength and then look at what they can see all day and get down – That DON'T work

V. 2 Kings 6-Two eyes-To look at what you can't see you have look with a different set of eyes – The eyes of faith

- A. 16-There's more with us than there are with them – Not according to what you could see with your physical eyes
- B. 17-His physical eyes are already opened, but there's another set of eyes that apparently are closed
 1. When those other set of eyes were opened he could see something he could not see with his physical eyes