



**KEEP YOUR
EYES
ON THE
PRIZE**

An enemy army of “ites”

Most of us have something that may seem to us to be like an enemy army of “ites” marching on us and against us.

The actual trauma that a negative event produces in your life has little to do with the severity of the event itself. It has everything to do with your reaction to it.

What is your “army of ites”?

- Your health or the health of someone you love?
- Your job situation
- Your children
- Your parents
- Your marriage

What is your “army of ites”?

- Your finances

- Your loneliness

- Your wonderful plans that are not working out

- Your family or friends that have turned on you

- Your destructive habits or an addiction

What is your “army of ites”?

➤ Your life pressures

What they prayed can make all the difference in your life

2 Chronicles 20:12 “Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

This was prayed a long time ago, but it is in fact one of the most up-to date, relevant prayers you will ever hear or ever pray

“Lord, GET EM for me”

“Our God, will you not judge them?”

“Father remove this cup from me”

God always has a plan and the plan is always a good one.

God did not deliver Jesus from the army of “ites” and from death because He had a much better thing in mind.

Romans 8:28 “And we know that in all things
God works for the good of those who love
him, who have been called according to his
purpose.”

“For we have no power to face this vast
army that is attacking us”

“CONTROL”

Romans 7:18-20 “For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. (19) For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. (20) Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.”

“For we have no power to face this vast army
that is attacking us”

God cannot in a practical way be in control of
your life if you are constantly trying to be in
control.

“We do not know what to do”

OK, Maybe I'm not in control, but let me go through my day or lay in my bed all night and worry and fret and try to figure this thing out for myself.

STOP

Now it is humbling, to admit that you don't know what to do, but humbling yourself is actually one of the best things that you can do

James 4:6: "God opposes (resists) the proud, but He gives grace to the humble."

“We do not know what to do, but our eyes
are on you”

Hebrews 12:1-3 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, (2) fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Who for the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (3) Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

2 Chronicles 20:12 “...We do not know what
to do, but our eyes are on you”

Keeping our eyes on something assumes that our sight does not get distracted by other things.

So, what are the distractions that keep your focus off the Lord?

Four things that can easily divert your attention from looking at Jesus and finding in Him your strength, your peace, your hope and even your joy as an army of “mites” attacks you.

Distraction #1 People

An ungodly or unspiritual person will have more of a bad effect on you, than you will have a good effect on them

There are far too many people sitting on the sidelines of Christianity, doing little or nothing for God, because someone or someone's disappointed them, let them down, or offended them

Please, please see that it is not Jesus who has disappointed you. Not only did He not disappoint you, but He also won't disappoint you.

Romans 10:11 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disappointed."

It is nearly impossible to really keep your eyes on Jesus, when your focus is on what people are thinking about you at any given time. Shift the focus back to Jesus- care about what He thinks, care about what pleases Him- care about whether He likes you or not (and He does!).

Distraction #2 Circumstances

That is why we must fix our eyes on Jesus- otherwise we think of nothing else besides the army of “ites” and that can totally consume us.

Don't tell God how big your problems are,
tell your problems how big your God is

Try This: “Hey army of “ites”, my God is almighty, there is nothing He can’t do, there is nothing too hard for my Lord, He is able to do (as Ephesians 3:20 says) immeasurably more than all we could ask or even imagine, according to His power that is at work within us. He can take any situation and work it together, not simply OK, but work it together for good and good is, well good! So take that army of “ites”.

Distraction #3 Things

“Things” can become huge distractions when they become idols and compete with God for your vision.

Distraction #4 You

Selfishness is putting almost your entire focus on you

Its like you have this huge mirror in front of you and of course, all you see in the mirror is you

“Get over yourself”

Never get over Jesus, but get over yourself!

How do you in fact fix your eyes on Jesus? How can your eyes be on Him? What are you looking for? what should you expect to see?

Acts 2:25 David said about him: " 'I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.'"

When you receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, He comes to live in you, permanently. It is not just a name that comes and lives inside of you, it is really Jesus. It is Jesus and all that He is and all that He can do. That's inside of you! You have everything that you need!

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus, (Who is right in front of you), look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth (and “the army of ites”) will look strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.