

PERSPECTIVE

Life Through God's Eyes

July 9, 2023

Perspective has a Latin root meaning, "look through" or "perceive."

If you get something in perspective or into perspective, you judge its real importance by considering it in relation to everything else.

Failure can sound like success. It just depends on the perspective.

Someone said, "The measuring device we use to evaluate our success or failure is often more important than the success or failure, because to a large extent, it determines that success or failure."

I want to speak to you today on the subject of Perspective-Life through God's Eyes.

Have you ever looked at something and thought it was something else? Some of us have trouble seeing, don't we?

But even if your eyes work correctly, that doesn't mean you always see straight. There are different kinds of seeing. There's seeing with your eyes, but, that's the least important kind.

The most important kind of seeing is to see things from God's perspective about yourself, your neighbor and the world as He sees them. It all begins with, who's eyes you're viewing life through.

Ephesians 2:1-6 (NASB) And you were dead in your offenses and sins, ² in which you previously walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them we too all previously lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the rest. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

How many, believe bad choices can make you miserable?

How many, believe good choices can greatly improve your life?

How many, believe that by taking certain steps, your future can be transformed?

YOUR PERSPECTIVE WILL EITHER PROPEL YOU FORWARD OR PULL YOU DOWN.

The apostle Paul was unjustly imprisoned for preaching the gospel, but he was not thinking about himself. He was thinking of the Christians in the church of Ephesus. The news had reached him that they

were sad. He wanted them to know that it didn't matter that he was imprisoned, he wanted to make sure they heard the gospel. What an ability to see his problem from a perspective so different from what we would normally or naturally see it!

We can't change our past. Sometimes, we can't even change our present situations. However, we can change our perspective about the job lost, a bad relationship, divorce, sickness, death of a loved one, or addiction.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NKJV) Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ 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.

(The Grace and Truth Study Bible says) The glory to come is greater than the pain of the present, which is actually producing eternal glory. Losing heart only happens when our eyes are fixed on the visible and the temporal. Hope comes from seeing the unseen things that are unending.

Romans 8: 18 (NIV) I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Your View Point is Your Advantage

*Ephesians 2:1-3 (NASB) And you **were** dead in your offenses and sins, 2 in which you **previously** walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them we too all **previously** lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and **were** by nature children of wrath, just as the rest.*

Notice the language, were & previously...all past tense. The Bible tells me, when I accepted Christ as my Savior, all things became new.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NASB) Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

So now, we realize that we can look at life through a different lens. My question is, are we?

This is my pivot point, "our old self would have... vs "walked according to the course of this world." My new perspective allows me to see beyond the problems and obstacles.

When the storm clouds come, try to rise above them by faith, and by faith reach for the sunshine of God's grace.

Meteorologists tell us, that there is a bow in every rain cloud, but one has to be properly positioned to be able to see it.

When we properly position ourselves in relation to God's will for our lives, it will not be long before we see the rainbow that God has put in the storm clouds of our life, and more importantly; we can see the rainbow from the same side that God sees it from.

Pair Your Perspective with Power

Ephesians 2:4-6 (NASB) *But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*

Do you realize that being in Christ, positions us in heavenly places?

To understand this verse better let's go to Ephesians 1.

Ephesians 1:3 (NASB) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,*

We are positionally seated next to Christ who blesses us with every spiritual blessing. Paul uses the phrase "IN CHRIST" or a similar phrase 36 times in the letter to the Ephesians. He uses the term 160 times in all of his writings.

"IN CHRIST" we have redemption, freedom, wisdom, grace, adoption, royal priesthood, the seal and gifts of His Holy Spirit, and every spiritual blessing.

When we realize who we are seated next to, we don't need to fight battles with sticks and stones.

1 Peter 5:7 (NIV) Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Most of us feel distraught at some point in our lives. When stress in daily living becomes unbearable, we want to escape. We may want out of our job, relationship, a church, a neighborhood, or some other difficult situation. We think we can't handle things the way they are because they cause too much stress, so we decide to walk away, move on, and head for anywhere but where we are.

Listen to Paul's prayer for the people of Ephesus.

Ephesians 3:16-19 (NASB) *that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner self, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled to all the fullness of God.*

Our human instinct is to escape—but God calls us to draw near and absorb the truth and power of His Word.

Perspective is Your Platform for Change.

Ephesians 4:17 (NASB) So I say this, and affirm in the Lord, that you are to no longer walk just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their minds,

Ephesians 4:22-24 (NASB) that, in reference to your former way of life, you are to rid yourselves of the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,²³ and that you are to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,²⁴ and to put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

If you are depressed or dissatisfied, determine now to transform the way you think and get a new perspective. Forgive-forget-let go of past failures, pivot now, come against the addiction, work on your marriage, and release those toxic friends.

Begin to speak God's word over your life. I will overcome this storm. I will grow in my relationship with Christ. I will live a victorious life. I will have a great marriage. I will...

I don't play video games, but I do know this, you don't get to the next level, if you don't try. You may need to find coins, passages, weapons, equipment, or armor etc. When you aren't advancing, you must change your strategy. Once your strategy/perspective is changed, those obstacles, now become a motivation to keep moving. Mountains become mol-hills. Your misery becomes your ministry.

Your perspective will change the way you think. The way you think will change the way you speak. The way you speak will change the way you act. The way you act will change your life.

Jeremiah 17:9 (NASB) *"The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?"*

(New King James Study Bible)

The heart, man's innermost being. The bent of man's natural disposition, apart from God's redeeming grace, is described as deceitful (lit., crooked) and desperately wicked (incurably sick). Therefore, man cannot trust his own heart but must leave all to God who alone knows the heart and judges all men fairly. Only a person with a redeemed heart can live in proper fellowship with God.

There are many Christians' living their lives heartbroken, because they cannot see life from the perspective salvation gives us.

You may be going through a difficult situation in life at this very moment. What do you see? Do you only see the life situation? Or can you see what God is doing in you through that life situation? That's spiritual perspective. That is what salvation gave to us.

Application

Invest time in God's word. Use this time to rehearse, practice, and grow into a people of faith. As you do, your own perspective will be shaped into God's perspective. You will see things in a new light from the same side that God sees it, above the storm!

Conclusion

A young couple rented a vacation cottage for a week. One afternoon the husband looked out a window at the swimming pool and exclaimed, "Let's change our clothes and go get some exercise!" His wife, who was washing the dishes in the kitchen and looking out the window watching some people play tennis, quickly agreed. While she dressed for a tennis match, he put on his swimming trunks. The window a person chooses to look out at the world often determines that individual's perception of reality. (Lyle Schaller, *Activating the Passive Church*, p. 19.)

Which window are you looking through today?