

Focusing on Reality And Not the Illusion

Isaiah 55:6–11 (NKJV) — 6 Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. 8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. 10 “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Genesis 3:1–6 (NKJV) — 1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

REALITY IS THE WORD OF GOD WE RECEIVE AND NOT THE WORLD WE PERCEIVE

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV) — 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:3 (NKJV) — 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, **so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.**

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) — 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (NKJV) — 16 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.

2 Corinthians 5:1 (NKJV) — 1 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

I. **2 Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart.**

- A. We are to always maintain our confidence. The world we see is not the world that should affect us. It is just an illusion!

THE WORLD WE SEE IS A DECEPTION AND ILLUSION

FROM WHAT WE SEE WE SHOULD DRAW NO CONCLUSIONS

1. It is not our reality.

John 17:14–19 (NKJV) — 14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

GOD'S WORD IS OUR FINALITY

AND THE BASIS OF OUR REALITY!

- B. Our reality is God's word. It does not make sense to the world but it is more real than the world is.

1. His word does not return to him void. **But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.**

2. Isaiah 54:17 (NKJV) — 17 **No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me,**” Says the LORD.

3. Romans 8:28 (NKJV) — 28 And we know that **all things work together for good to those who love God,** to those who are the called according to His purpose.

4. Romans 8:37–39 (NKJV) — 37 Yet in all these things **we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.** 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C. *If these words are true, and God is God then we can say*

1. Romans 8:31–32 (NKJV) — 31 What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

2. This world cannot harm us! It is not our home!
a. We must not lose our confidence!

- D. Even death can not harm us!

John 11:25–26 (NKJV) — 25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

II. **2 Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.**

A. What we see with our eyes is an illusion we must therefore learn to see things from a different perspective.

**WE MUST LEARN TO SEE THINGS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE
FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF OUR ETERNAL FATHER**

B. What we see with our eyes is not our reality. What we should see is what does God say?

C. As we mature in Christ, again I say, as we mature in Christ we are storing up treasures for us in heaven. Each and every day our strength is being renewed!

1. Christ is maturing us!

D. He is building us up!

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV) — 6 being confident of this very thing, that **He who has begun a good work in you will complete** it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Philippians 2:13–16 (NKJV) — 13 for it is **God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.**

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing, (*why would you complain if God is working in you?*) 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 **holding fast the word of life,**

1. Christ is working in us and he has overcome the world. Therefore, we have overcome the world.

a. The world holds no threat to us!

2. Even though we think we fail, as long as we are submitted to Christ our failures are an illusion.

**IF WE ARE SUBMITTED TO CHRIST
OUR FAILURES ARE BUT A DECEPTION AND ILLUSION**

E. Remember, he works all things out together for our good!

F. Don't worry about the illusions of the day

Matthew 6:33–34 (NKJV) — 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Matthew 19:30 (NKJV) — 30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

G.

III. **2 Cor 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment,**

- A. How is it called light affliction?
1. It is measured by God to not be too heavy for us. The world may give us an illusion that makes us think we cannot endure it... but no trial that we face is a trial that can break us unless we believe the illusion is real!

**NO TRIAL CAN BREAK US UNLESS WE LOSE FAITH
AND BEGIN TO BELIEVE THE ILLUSION IS REAL**

2. 1 Corinthians 10:13–14 (NKJV) — 13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

- a. Stop making a god out of your trials!

**STOP MAKING A GOD OUT OF YOUR TRIALS
THEY DID NOT COME TO BREAK YOU BUT TO MAKE YOU**

B.

IV. 2 Cor 4:17 For our light affliction, (the weight placed upon us as a burden) which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

A. We should not worry about the trials we encounter

B. James 1:2–4 (NKJV) — 2 My brethren, **count it all joy when you fall into various trials**, 3 knowing that the **testing of your faith produces patience.**

4 But let patience have its perfect work, that **you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.**

1. A trial may look like it's trouble for us but we must remember that God is in charge he is using this test to build us up.
 2. No matter how difficult things might seem, nothing is too difficult for God!
- C. A trial may drive us to our knees but it is on our knees that we develop a closer relationship with our God!
- D. Psalm 119:67 (NKJV) — 67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.
Psalm 119:71 (NKJV) — 71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.
1. As we learn his word it sets us apart from this world and gives us from God increasing authority in this world
John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.
- E. The more word we get in us, the more God we get in us.
1. The more words we get in us, the more we are separated from the world!
 2. That relationship with God through his word, always gives us victory in the world!

**THE END RESULT OF ALL TRIALS,
IF WE DO NOT LOSE FAITH,
IS OUR TRIUMPH!**

F. Hebrews 10:35–37 (NKJV) — 35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

37 “For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

G. **More than conquerors!**

V. **2 Cor 4: 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.** 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) — 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

A.

B.

VI. **2 Cor 4.... For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.**

A. Why do we not look at the things which are seen when...

1. They are temporal?
2. They are fleeting?
3. They are passing away?
4. They are here for the moment and gone in the next one?
5. The things we see with our eyes do not last?
6. The things we see with our eyes have come to pass?

**HOW ARE WE TO WALK?
BY FAITH!**

B. We are to see things from the perspective of God!

1 John 2:17 (NKJV) — 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Psalm 39:6 (NKJV) — 6 Surely every man walks about like a shadow; Surely they busy themselves in vain; He heaps up riches, And does not know who will gather them.

C. We are to see God in all things, for all things are made up of the word of God and subject to the word of God

**THE WORD OF GOD IS THE ONLY REALITY
ALL OTHER THINGS ARE PASSING FANTASIES
THEY ARE A TEMPORARY ILLUSIONS
SENT TO CAUSE DISILLUSIONS**

D. **The Thief came but to Steal!**

John 10:10 (NKJV) — 10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

E.

F. **Matthew 24:35 (NKJV) — 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.**

1. We must to see the eternal and not the illusionary things that Satan places before us.
2. When we do, we learn the confidence that we will always triumph because the illusionary has no authority over us.
3. Then we learn to speak in faith and walk in the supernatural that we were created to walk in

G.

H. Moses was able to see beyond the illusion of the splendors of Egypt
Hebrews 11:24–27 (NKJV) — 24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. 27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

I. He was able to call the plagues down on Egypt

J. part the Red Sea

K. bring water from the rock

L. turn bitter water to sweet

M. call food down from heaven

N. cause the earth to divide into and swallow the sons of Korah Pierce

VII. Others who saw beyond the illusion

Hebrews 11:7 (NKJV) — 7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Hebrews 11:8–10 (NKJV) — 8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

A.

B. Elisha saw the chariots

C. Elisha's servant saw the armies of God

D. Stephen saw into heaven

E. Paul saw the 3rd heaven

F. John saw the kingdom of heaven comes down and the new Jerusalem

G.

VIII. We must begin to focus on the reality of God and not the illusions of the world

**LET US BEGIN TO FOCUS ON THE REALITY OF GOD
AND NOT THE ILLUSIONS OF THE WORLD**

IX. 2 Corinthians 5:1 (NKJV) — 1 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.