

# How To Build a Better Foundation

## FOCUS

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**Text: (Philippians 3: 14-20)**

**Series Question:** How to build a better foundation in a hostile environment

1) Listen 2) Learn 3) Train 4) **Focus**

Have you ever missed a turn because you were not focused?

Have you ever missed an opportunity because you were not focused?

Have you ever missed a test hint given by the teacher because you were not focused?

**FOCUS** – to pay attention / the center of interest or activity / having or producing clear visual

### Philippians 3

*14 I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back. 15 So let's **keep focused on that goal**, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision - you'll see it yet! 16 Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it. 17 Stick with me, friends. Keep track of those you see running this same course, headed for this same goal. 18 There are many out there taking other paths, choosing other goals, and trying to get you to go along with them. I've warned you of them many times; sadly, I'm having to do it again. All they want is easy street. They hate Christ's Cross. 19 But easy street is a dead-end street. Those who live there make their bellies their gods; belches are their praise; all they can think of is their appetites. 20 But there's far more to life for us. We're citizens of high heaven! We're waiting the arrival of the Savior, the Master, Jesus Christ. (MSG)*

#### I. Focus Begins With a Decision vs 14-15

- A. Do you want everything God has for you?
- B. Do you really want to “Build a Better You”?

#### II. Focus Improves Your Ability to See

- A. Products or equipment can help you focus
  - 1) Lens (eye glasses /contacts, camera, telescope, etc.)
- B. People can help you focus vs 17
  - 1) Parents, Family...
  - 2) Teachers, Counselors...
- C. Divine intervention can help you focus vs 15b
  - 1) The Word of God
  - 2) The Comforter (Holy Spirit)

John 14<sup>25-27</sup> “I’m telling you these things while I’m still living with you. The Friend, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send at my request, will make everything plain to you. He will remind you of all the things I have told you.

#### III. Focus Can Easily Be Hindered vs 18-19

- A. Environmental Distractions can hinder your ability to focus
- B. Relationship Distractions can hinder your ability to focus
- C. Career Distractions can hinder your ability to focus
- D. Religious Distractions can hinder your ability to focus

## Conclusion

Trying to remain focused on the goal or the task before you can be overwhelming, but **target your focus on what is most important NOW!**

## Two Examples of Focus

**Luke 10** <sup>38</sup> As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named **Martha** opened her home to him. <sup>39</sup> She had a sister called **Mary**, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" <sup>41</sup> "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, <sup>42</sup> but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (NIV)

- Have you left your focus on Christ for a career or more money?
- Have you left your focus on Christ for a love interest?
- Have you left your focus on Christ for your definition of an important need?

## **Matthew 6**

<sup>25</sup> "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"

<sup>28</sup> "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. <sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.** <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. NIV