

KEEPING FOCUSED ON THE LORD'S PURPOSE IN THE STORM

(Wellsford Fellowship – 7/5/2000 - EKB)

Reading: *Nahum 1:3b* The Lord has His way in the whirlwind and the storm and the clouds are the dust of His feet.

Example: *Ac 20:24* (Paul was travelling to Jerusalem – *Ac 20:22,23* – knowing that chains and suffering were waiting for him there.)
So he makes his focus and purpose clear to all.
“None of these things move me.” (I will not be turned aside.)
“I do not count my life dear to myself.” (I will not run away and hide.)
Mat 25:21 “My aim is to finish my race with joy.” (I will continue to praise God.)
2Cor 5:18,19 “And to finish the ministry Jesus has given me of telling others the Good News
2Cor 3:6 about God’s almighty kindness and love.” (I will keep sharing the Gospel to the end.)

We are always going through storms. This is life. They may be political, social, family, physical, inner personal, financial, business or church storms. (Use examples.)

Our focus must be maintained in the storm. What is our focus in the Lord? It is the same as Paul’s focus! *Ac 20:24*. This is to keep sharing the Good News of Jesus with others.

God sets the focus of life before us in His Word.

- “God our Saviour desires all persons to be saved” *1Tim 2:4*.
- “The Lord is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance,” *2Pet 3:9*.
- “Most of the brethren.....are much more bold to speak the word without fear,” *Phil 1:14*.
- “From you the Word of the Lord has sounded forth.....in every place,” *1Thes 1:8*.
- “Those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the Word,” *Ac 8:4*.
- “We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard,” *Ac 4:20*.
- “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature,” *Mk 16:15*.
- “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to Me..... unto the end of the earth,” *Ac 1:8*.
- “He who wins souls is wise.” *Pro 11:30*.
- “God gave the Word and great was the company of those who proclaimed it,” *Ps 68:11*.

Steps to keeping God’s focus in the storm.

1. **Admit:** God loves sinners more than I do, *Jn 3:16*. He left heaven, was born of Mary, lived to show us God’s mercy and truth, and died to save the lost.
2. **Ask God** to give you His love for the lost, now, *2Cor 5:14*, *Rom 5:5*. “Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men,” *Mat 4:19*.
3. **One soul** is worth more than the whole world. “What profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and is himself lost?” *Lk 9:25*.
4. **Pray to God daily** for the lost who live around you. Pray *Ac 26:18* for them. Pray God’s blessing on them.
5. **Pray to God daily** for the believers, *Eph 6:19,20*, and for opportunities to share God’s mercy and love.

6. **Be friendly** and build relationships with the lost. Find common ground and seek to identify with them, *1Cor 9:19-23*. “Be all things to all men that by all means you might save some,” v22.
7. **Build a climate** of evangelism into your life by faith confession of God’s promises, that He has already given you His boldness and ability to share Christ. God’s promises impart His divine nature to us, *2Pet 1:4*.
8. **Do something – make a move** – get going – reach out.
 - a. **Visit:** sick, lonely, elderly, discouraged, bereaved, imprisoned, strangers, neighbours. Offer to pray.
 - b. **Give:** food, drink, clothes, money.
 - c. **Write:** letters, cards, illustrated texts to encourage.
 - d. **Phone call,** fax, email to bless and uplift.
 - e. **Pray with others:** regularly for your neighbourhood. Fast and pray together.
9. **Be ready:** Carry tracts and booklets. Use the Jesus video and grasp the opportunity boldly.
10. **Do not be side-tracked:** Keep the first thing the first thing, *Ac 20:24, Phil 3:13,14*. Making money is not the first thing.

Finally keep focused through the storms of life on what the Lord has called us to do. Be ready to share Christ with other people.

If we lose this focus of seeking to help others come to God, and focus in on the storms of life, we will run aground like a ship on a sand-bank.

Follow Jesus, who through all the storms of His life kept drawing others to God His Father, *Lk 23:33-43*.