



## CELL GUIDE

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**TOPIC** Can See or Not?

**SPEAKER** Brother Jeffrey Goh

**THEME** Focus on the Spiritual

**DATE** 18 & 19 March 2017

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## Can See or Not?

2 Cor 4:16-18 is a reminder to us as Christians to focus on the spiritual things that are eternal instead of the things that can be seen and yet are temporal. When we see things with an eternal perspective, we will be able to persevere through our troubles and difficulties, be renewed daily, and find ourselves an “eternal glory that far outweighs them all” (v17).

So what should we focus on to achieve this? There are three things we should centre ourselves on: Eternal things, our eternal purpose, and the daily renewal of our inward man.

## Focus on Spiritual Things

### 1. Focus on Eternal Things

There are three eternal things that we should focus on: The Lord Jesus Himself, our rich inheritance, and our future glorification with Christ.

The incident of Peter walking on water shows the need for us to **focus on Jesus Himself** (Matt 14:22-32). When Peter focused on Jesus, he walked confidently on the water. However, when he lost this focus and allowed fear to engulf him, he started to sink. This teaches us that as long as we put Jesus first and focus only on him, everything will be OK, no matter what we face. This way, we will not grow weary (Heb 12:2-3) but instead be filled with an “inexpressible and glorious joy” (1 Pet 1:8). Secondly, when we **remember that God has in store for us a rich inheritance in heaven** – an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison – we will find our afflictions to be so much lighter. Lastly, when we **focus on our future glorification with Jesus**, we will be able to find our difficulties bearable, knowing that they are temporary and our faithful God is there to sustain us.

### 2. Focus on our Eternal Purpose

When we focus on the eternal purpose we are called for, this lets us know that there is a reason for the sufferings we face. Through our sufferings and at the end of them all, the God of all grace who called us to His eternal glory in Christ will restore us and make us strong, firm, and steadfast (1 Peter 5:10). Therefore, take heart as you **remember that our troubles are momentary**; they will not leave us weary as we have a God who will restore us. He will lead us to an eternal glory that is far exceeds and outweighs any trial we might face.

### 3. Focus on the daily renewal of our inward man

We were made eternal when we accepted Christ into our hearts. Therefore, we live by faith and not by sight. Knowing that we are already made eternal, let us look forward to things ahead. We should **forget what is behind and press on toward the goal** to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus (Phil 3:13-18). We should **let the life of Christ be manifested in our mortal bodies** as we know that there are enemies of the cross of Christ. By this manifestation, we will not lose heart and others will see that all surpassing power belongs to God (2 Cor 4:7-11).

## CONCLUSION

We will face difficulties and troubles in our daily lives. However, these sufferings are temporal and are light compared to the glory that they help us to achieve. What then are the things that we should focus on so that we will not lose heart?

Firstly, we should focus on eternal things – Jesus Christ Himself, our rich inheritance, and our future glorification with Christ. When we do so, we will not grow weary and instead be filled with indescribable joy despite our situation. Secondly, we should focus on our eternal purpose. There is always a reason behind our sufferings. After we have suffered, God in His grace will restore us and make us strong, firm, and steadfast. Lastly, we should focus on the daily renewal of our inward man. This means that we live our lives forward and let Christ manifest in our bodies so that others will see that all surpassing power belongs to God.

# QUESTIONS

Recall a difficult time/situation you've faced. What was your response and how did you feel during that period of time? How did you feel when it was over?

Each of the three points reminds us that focusing on the spiritual prevents us from growing weary and losing heart. How is this so?

Are you currently facing any difficulties/challenges? How do you think focusing on God in this situation can help you?