

## THE PROPER FOCUS TO RECEIVE

**Heb 9:15** And for this reason He [Jesus] is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

One thing I have seen over and over again in watching the game of football. I see receivers about to catch a pass from the quarterback look away from the ball up the field or to a defensive player and drop the ball. They failed to receive because of an improper focus. The same thing happens everyday to Christians. We think we are open and want to receive from the Lord, but because of an improper focus we fail to receive. When a football receiver fails to catch a perfectly thrown ball because of their lack of proper focus they usually do not blame the quarterback, but many times when Christians fail to receive due to improper focus they will get mad at God or think that their failure to receive was God's will.

How does a Christian get their focus off track and thus fail to receive from the Lord. It is by getting their eyes off of Jesus and His grace and looking at their self. Self focus is the main way a Christian fails to receive from the Lord. How do I know this? Because I have lived much of my Christian life focused on self. It is easy to do! When you face a personal need we focus on what WE need. We obsess about OUR need. We pray about OUR need. We want the Lord to get involved in OUR stuff. To compound this we usually also will look at what we have done or not done to merit or demerit what we are asking the Lord for. When we are focused on these things we are focused on SELF. When we are focused on self then our focus is wrong and will fail to receive the gifts that God is trying to get to us.

We can only receive from the Lord by grace through faith. God freely gives everything He has to give. None of us deserve the least of God's goodness and blessing by our performance because it is less than perfect. Only the perfect performance of Christ on our behalf qualifies us to be in a position to receive from Him. What Jesus has done for us at the cross qualifies us and makes us open to receive from God. However, Satan is always trying to get our focus off of the Lord and onto ourselves and cause us to miss what God has for us. When our eyes are on our self and our performance we cannot tap into God's grace.

Looking to our performance and looking to Christ's performance on our

behalf are opposite principles. If we are focused on OUR need we are still focused on ourself. We must turn our focus upon God- His person, nature, purpose, and what He has done for us. God does not give to us just because we have a need. If He did then everyone on Earth would have what they need because the whole world has needs. God only releases what He has by His grace through faith. That is how we got saved and how we are to continue to walk in our Christian walk. [Col. 2:6] Most of the world are trying to qualify to receive from God. If they are doing that then they are not in faith.

How do we have faith in God's grace when we have a need. We need to look at the nature of God first. He is a loving, good God who loves to give. What if we have blown it in life? [who hasn't!] God is a merciful God and He delights in showing mercy. He doesn't like it, He delights in it! [Micah 7:18] Mercy is for when we blow it! He is a loving Heavenly Father that loves to bless and take care of His children even if they misbehave from time to time! He is that Great Shepherd of the sheep even when the sheep stray. [Heb13:20] When we behold God and His nature then we get our eyes off ourselves and our need to see the Need Meeter!

Next we need to look at God's purposes. We were created for God's pleasure and purpose. [2 Tim. 1:9] We were called according to His purpose, so when we have a need guess whose need it becomes? Yes, God's! Instead of asking God to meet your need for your purposes, thank Him for meeting your needs for His purposes and for His glory!

Lastly, instead of looking to our own performance- what we have done or not done- we need to look to what Christ has already done for us. It was His perfect life under God's law in our behalf and His death for us on the cross that has provided perfect righteousness and removed every sin for us forever!

Today, instead of looking at your imperfect work try a new focus- look at Christ's perfect and finished work for you! When you get your eyes off yourself and onto the Lord then you will have a proper focus to receive. Look to Christ and receive and you will surely score it big!