

# Spiritual Focus

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## **Introduction**

*The Concise Oxford English Dictionary* defines focus as “the centre of [one’s] interest or activity.” Sinful men focus on their wants and wishes. Saints focus upon serving God and their fellowman. Pride is often reflected in the eyes (Proverbs 21:4; Isaiah 37:21-23), so also is humility (Ezra 9:5-6; Luke 18:9-14). When tempted to glory in our possessions or preeminence, we must lower our sights. We must also raise our vision, recognizing the value of sacrifice and service.

## **Lower Your Sights**

### **Regarding Possessions**

Material abundance is not an accurate measure of success (Luke 12:13-21). The love of money supplants contentment, suborns faith, and is the root of all sorts of evil (1 Timothy 6:6-10). Let us trust, not in uncertain riches, but in God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17-19).

### **Regarding Preeminence**

Public acclaim is not a true measure of greatness (Matthew 23:1-12). Preening for preeminence only creates conflict (3 John 9-15). Recognizing the destructiveness of pride, let us cultivate a humble and childlike disposition (Matthew 18:1-6).

## **Raise Your Vision**

### **Regarding Sacrifice**

We must present our bodies as a living and holy sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2). Christian faith is evidenced by sacrifice and service (Philippians 2:14-18). Therefore, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God (Hebrews 13:15-16).

### **Regarding Service**

Greatness is manifested in service (Luke 22:24-27). Each must humbly labor for the betterment of the whole (Romans 12:3-13). Let us seek, not our own personal interests, but also the interests of others (Philippians 2:1-4).

## **Conclusion**

God stands in judgment of human pride (Proverbs 29:23). Let us trust, not in our own ability or accomplishment, but in the power of God (Isaiah 40:27-31).