

# FOCUS ON JESUS

*“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2)*

The above saying is well known to most of us who follow Jesus, the giver of life. But have we really focused our eyes to Jesus our Lord? We quickly can say it to anyone but in reality many times we fail to practice it. But the Lord Jesus is faithful. He comes on proper time to correct our short sights and to bring us back to the cross of his suffering and death -the fountain of grace that gives a full life.

**Scene 1:** Rick was working as a labourer in a foreign land away from his family. He met a car accident that caused him fracture in his spine and paralysis of his four limbs. He was confined in the hospital and had undergone surgery to fix the fracture. To his situation nothing around him could help, neither medicine nor doctor for they said to him, *“You can no longer stand or walk.”* Neither brothers nor friends were able to do something for him to soothe his pain or add to his physical strength. But Rick’s hope is the Lord who hears his cry and prayer for miracle to change his situation. At that moment Rick, the people around him, his friends, his family and brethren in the church –they all focused their eyes to Jesus for help. It was clear that nothing would work, but the word of God is true: *“The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on him in truth.” (Psalm 145:18) As the scripture says, “Anyone who trust in him will never be put to shame.” (Romans 10:11)* Rick stood up after 3 months, walked away from his bed after 4 months, and after one year he was completely restored. His faith in the Lord increased more, and he joyfully and continuously proclaimed the promises of the Lord Jesus to everyone who trust in God who said, *“I will not leave you nor forsake you.” (Joshua 1:5)*

**Scene 2:** Majid is a young robust man from a Christian family. He used to go to church and he believed in Jesus as Lord and God. He believed that the Lord had risen up from death, but he never gave his life to Jesus. He never opened his heart to receive Jesus as a Lord over his life because he was busy in the world. His eyes were fixed on all the riches of this world; money, jewels, capitals, cars, position, prestige, friends, women, etc. All these were his focus. Even the days that he was going to the church were not for the Lord but just for feasting and celebration. One day a car hit him, caused him loss of consciousness and multiple fractures in his legs and arms. He was restored to full consciousness in the hospital. But seeing himself crippled on the bed, could

not walk, and even could not move or turn his body he realized that nothing would no longer be effective for him. All his precious projects had come to an end at his sickness bed. He remained without help and no hope left except looking back to his old friend, the Lord Jesus who said to him, *“I will not leave you as orphans. I will come to you.” (John 14:18)* In that hopeless condition, Majid gave his life to Jesus. He confessed all his sin, and he repented and turned away from all his wickedness and wrongdoing. He turned and focused his eyes only to Jesus and for Jesus alone. That period of his suffering lasted many days and months. Those were difficult times but had changed him to become a new man, to live and to serve God all his life.

Trials and sufferings in this earthly life were allowed by God to work on us, to sanctify us and to bring us back to Jesus, the Lord and the center of our lives. In the mid of this busy life we often rely and trust figures that adversely draw our eyes away from the Lord and to focus on material things. We rely on our friends, spouse, our knowledge and wisdom. We rely on our jobs and profession. We boast about our honour and possessions. Yet, in as much as people are helpful and supportive to us, still the one who will never fail us, the one who will never leave us is the Lord Jesus.

Leaning and depending on things or people other than Jesus may worsen our situation and indeed may injure us. It would be like *“that splintered reed of a staff, which pierces a mans hand and wound him if he leans on it.” (Isaiah 36:6)* So if we fall on rugged condition and want to rise again to continue the journey of life we must not lean on things that we are not assured of. Old people use a rod or a stick to support themselves to stand but the same stick may injure their hand. Likewise, to depend on our own strength, to rely on our friends and relations with people around may not be a benefit for us but rather can harm us. Subsequently how many times have we been hurt because we rely on things or people other than Jesus? Let us ponder upon God’s word that reminds us to *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5)*

**My dear and beloved:** Today the word reminds us that in this life Jesus should be the center of our lives, plans, interests and priorities. Our eyes, our hope and trust need to be focused on HIM. The word of God is the lens that corrects our visual defect. Therefore, let us hold on as we pray: *“Father God in heaven, I come to You in the name of Jesus who died for me on the cross. Today I realize my shortcomings. I confess to You my sins. Correct me Lord and sustain my trust and my faith only in You. Holy Spirit, take full control of my life and lead me in the way of righteousness.” Amen.*