

A QUICK GLANCE, BUT A STEADY GAZE

By: Jay Davis

6/22/26

"It's okay to glance at your problems, but always keep your eyes focused on the Lord."

Life has a way of placing problems directly in front of us. Health concerns, family struggles, financial pressures, broken relationships, uncertainty about the future, and the daily burdens of living in a fallen world can easily consume our thoughts. Ignoring those realities isn't faith; they are real, and they deserve our attention. It is okay to glance at them.

The problem comes when we stare at our circumstances longer than we look at our Savior. We are mesmerized by our faithless stares, as the world overtakes us, the lies enhance and entice us, and we aren't surely attached to the anchor of God's Word. Our faith, and eyes aren't focused and fully embedded in the foundation of the Rock, Jesus our Cornerstone.

Peter learned this lesson firsthand. When Jesus called him to step out of the boat and walk on the water, Peter actually did the impossible. As long as his focus remained on Christ, he walked above the waves. But when he shifted his attention to the wind and the storm around him, fear took hold and he began to sink.

"But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!'"
(Matthew 14:30).

How often are we guilty of the same thing? We spend hours studying our problems, replaying our worries, calculating our fears, and imagining worst-case scenarios. Meanwhile, we give only a passing glance to the One who holds all things together.

The psalmist understood where true help comes from:

"I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:1-2)

Notice that he looked at the mountains, but he focused on the Lord. The mountains represented challenges, obstacles, and uncertainties. Yet his confidence was not in what stood before him but in Who stood above it.

The writer of Hebrews gives us the same instruction:

"Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

The key is not pretending the storm isn't there. The key is refusing to let the storm become the center of our vision.

Problems may deserve a glance, but only Jesus deserves our faithful steadfast gaze.

As we grow older, we learn that every season brings its own challenges. Some battles are physical. Others are emotional or spiritual. Yet through every season, God's faithfulness remains unchanged.

"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you." (Isaiah 26:3)

Peace is not found in the absence of problems; it is found in the presence of God.

Today, whatever burden is weighing on your heart, take a quick glance at it if you must. Acknowledge it. Pray about it. Be wise concerning it. But then lift your eyes higher. Look beyond the problem to the Lord who is greater than every storm, stronger than every trial, and faithful through every season.

For the child of God, the story has never been about the size of the problem. It has always been about the greatness of our Savior.

"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:18)

Prayer for myself, and for the church:

Father, the problems of this world often demand our attention and try to steal our focus. Help us to see them through the lens of Your sovereignty and grace. Teach us to glance at our troubles but gaze upon Christ. When fear rises, remind us that You are greater than every storm we face. Keep our hearts fixed on Jesus, our hope, our peace, and our eternal victory. In His name we pray, Amen.