

# Learning to take "The Long Look"

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

Heb 1:13 *"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth"*

1 Cor. 4:18 *"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."*

What would cause a father and husband (or wife and mother) to throw away decades of love and life for a fling? What motivates a young person to risk their life and future on the promises of a relative stranger? What motivates a person to throw away their common sense in the pursuit of the false promises of drugs or alcohol? The answer is that we tend to be short sighted people who often fall prey to the *"pleasures of sin for a season."* (Heb. 11:25)

**Sin (Hamartano) literally means: "To miss the mark" (trespass)**

**How is it that we're so easily drawn off course? James 1:14**

*"every man is tempted, (Peirazo: tested, enticed) when he is drawn away of his own lust, (Epithymi'a: longing, desire) and enticed."* (deleazo: deluded and trapped! See 2 Tim. 2:26)

God gives everyone a conscience (Moral Compass Pr 20:27) to help guide us away from evil.

Just as "Magnetic North" isn't the same as true north; (Currently 13 degrees different)

and it shifts based on Earth's shifting magnetic forces;

So our "moral compass" can become corrupted by the shifting "values" of this world.

Satan is called "The Tempter" (peirazo) in Mt. 4:3 and 1 Thes. 3:5, and he uses the "lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life" (1 Jn 2:16) to attract/distract us and draw us "off course".

That's why Col. 3:2 tells us to: *"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth"*

**(Affection: proneo: regard, predisposition, focus)** Why not "on things on the earth"?

Micah 2:10; *"It is polluted, it will destroy you"* (habal: corrupt, bind) (see also 1 Jn 2:15-17)

Mt 6:20-23 *"where your treasure (investments/values) there shall heart (affections, thoughts) be also."*

**This means that our "Focus" affects Our Fulfillment and our Future! 2 Cor. 4:18**

This is why Satan tempts us to keep our focus on the "temporary" things of life. Jn 10:10

**This is why Faith is essential to Focus!** Heb 11:1 *"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report."* Martyre'ō: witness/testimony

**Heb 11 is a summary of people who, by faith, chose to take the "long look" at life.**

**1. Abel (vs 4)** *"by Faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, (See Lev. 17:11; Heb 9:22) God testifying of his gifts:"*

**A. Abel (vs 4) looked thousands of years ahead to the sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Rev. 13:8**  
(See Gen. 4 and also Jn 1:29)

**B. Cain looked to the work of his own hands to please God.**

- 1) He ignored God's warning (Gen. 4:6,7) And went on to kill Abel in a jealous rage (Gen. 4:8)
- 2) As a result, he spent his life as a fugitive and vagabond. (Genesis 4:11-16)

**2. Enoch: vs 5** *By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated (Transported) Him! for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God."*

**A. Enoch (vs 5) looked to (valued) an eternity walking with God (Gen. 5 and Jude 14)**

- 1) Enoch warned his generation of the consequences of rejecting God and
- 2) The he walked right into Heaven!

**B. Those around him refused his warnings and focused on the temporary pleasures and sinful pursuits of this life until God's judgment finally came. (See Jude 14,15)**

**3. Noah vs. 7** *“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, (Gen. 6:3) and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”*

**A. Noah looked to (prepared / proclaimed) the coming flood judgment.** *Gen. 6-8; 2 Pt 2:5*

1) *Gen 6:22 “Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.”*

**B. While others mocked him while looking to (focused on) their pleasures and passions.**

**NOAH and his family were spared while the others learned “too late” that he was right.**

**4. Abraham (Gen. 12-25) Heb 11:8-10** *“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; (hypokou’o: hear {understand} and obey) and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise.”*

**A. He: “looked for a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God”** *Heb. 11:10*

**B. Lot “looked to the well watered plains of Sodom”** *Gen 13:10*

1) *Gen 13:13 “But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.”*

2) **God blessed Abraham, but while Lot lost everything he valued! (See Gen. 19)**

**5. Moses: (Gen 2-Deut) Heb. 11:24-27** *“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.”*

**A. Moses looked to the “recompense of reward”**

**B. Others looked to “sin’s seasonal pleasures” (See Ex. 32)**

1) **God blessed and used Moses.**

2) **While the Egyptian army was destroyed (as were the worshipers of the calf)!**

**Conclusion: Heb. 11:13-16** *“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them (peitho: trusted) and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. 15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.” (See Lk 9:62; 2 Tim. 2:4; 4:10) “But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.” (Jn 14:6 and 1 Jn 2:28)*

**Application: Our focus affects our Faith, Future and Fulfilment! Phil. 3:14-19**

*“I press for the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect (Mature) be thus minded... 16 Let us walk by the same rule, (kanon: standard) let us mind (Proneo: focus, value, regard) the same thing... 18 For many walk, ... that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, (Cain, flood, Lot, Pharaoh) whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind (focus on, value, regard) earthly things.*

*20 For our conversation (Polit’euma: citizenship. Remember Heb. 11:13-16!?) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:”*

**1) Where is your “citizenship?” (allegiance)**

**2) Where’s your faith and focus? (Mt 6:19-24; 31-34)**