**Second Dimension – Christianity Experienced**

**Segment IV – *“Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of Our Faith”* Progressive Bible Concepts - #34 “Eyes Upon the Lord”**

**Segment IV – The Author and Perfecter of Our Faith (Concepts 33-43)**

* Concept 33 – “Fixing Our Eyes Upon Jesus”
* **Concept 34 – “Eyes Upon the Lord”**

**How It Works:**

* Experts today theorize that at the bottom of every subject there is one “c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” that clarifies the core concept that leads to excellent results.
* If true, there are three rules that apply:
  + It must apply across a wide s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of situations.
  + It must serve as the m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of R.O.I
  + It must lead to more precise a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Marriages’ ‘One Thing’ – *Find the most g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of your partner’s actions and believe it.*

**So what is THE one thing that most impacts our spiritual formation?**

**Primary Imperative**

* *“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ our e\_\_\_\_\_\_ on J\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* Heb 12:1,2

***‘…fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith…***

* *Fixing our eyes* – *aforao –* pres act part - to look a\_\_\_\_\_\_ from one thing and c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on another; giving attention to one thing to the e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of others – total focus
* Author *– arxegos –* pioneer, one who goes f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, o\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, founder
* Perfecter – *teleiotes* - one who c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to bring to its full p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and final g\_\_\_\_\_\_, cross the f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ line
* Faith – our belief in God

**QUALIFIERS:**

We cannot p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ see God in our fallen condition

* “*But He said, “You cannot see My face, for no man can see me and live.”* Exodus 33:20
* *“No man has seen God at any t\_\_\_\_\_\_…”* John 1:18
* *“No one has b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God at any time…”* I John 4:12
* *“Not that any man has seen the Father, e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the One who is from God, He has seen the Father.”* John 6:46
* *“He who is the blessed and only sovereign. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords; who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man h\_\_\_\_ seen or c\_\_\_\_ see.”* I Tim 5:15, 16
* *“Now to the King eternal, immortal, i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the only God…”* I Tim 1:17

However, we can see Him with the eyes of the heart:

* *“I pray that the e\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ may be opened…”* Eph 1:18
* *“For God Who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the “One Who has shone in our h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to give the light of knowledge of the glory of God in the f\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.”* II Cor 4:6
* *“Faith is the conviction of things u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…”* Heb 11:1
* *“By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Him who is u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”* Heb 11:27

**Fixing Our Eyes Upon the Lord – Key Verses**

* *“L\_\_\_\_\_\_ unto Me and be s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, all the ends of the earth.”* Isa 45:22
* *“My eyes are c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ toward the Lord.”* Psalm 25:15
* *“For Thy loving kindness is before my e\_\_\_\_\_\_…”* Psalm 26:3
* *“This is the Lord’s doing, it is m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in our eyes.”* Psalm 118:23
* *“I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; from whence shall my help come? My help c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.” 121:1,2*
* *“To Thee, I l\_\_\_\_\_\_ u\_\_ my eyes, O Thou who art enthroned in the heavens! Behold as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress; so our eyes l\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord our God, until He shall be gracious to us.”* Psalm 123:1
* *“For my eyes are t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Thee, O God, the Lord; In Thee I take refuge; do not leave me defenseless.”* Psalm 141:8
* *“In the year of king Uzziah’s death, I s\_\_\_\_ the Lord sitting upon a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of his robe filling the temple. Then I said, ‘Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my e\_\_\_\_\_\_ have seen the king, the Lord of Hosts.”* Isa 6:1,5
* *“In that day man will have r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for his Maker, and his eyes will look to the Holy One of Israel.”* Isa 17:7
* *“Lift up your eyes on h\_\_\_\_\_\_ and see who has created these stars, the One who leads forth their host by number He calls them all by name; because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power not one of them is missing.”* Isa 40:26
* *“For from of old they have not heard nor perceived by ear, n\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has the eye seen a God b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Thee, who acts in behalf of the one who waits upon Thee.”* Isa 64:4
* *“I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye s\_\_\_\_\_\_ Thee.”* Job 42:1-6
* *“But at the end of that period I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to me and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; “* Daniel 4:34
* *“I l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ up my eyes and saw ….”* Daniel 10:5ff
* *“These things Jesus spoke; and l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ up His e\_\_\_\_\_\_ to h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, He said,* ‘*Father the hour has come; glorify Thy Son, that the Son may glorify thee…”* John 17:1

**Biblical Examples – *Serpent in the Wilderness***

* *“And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. So the people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned, because we have spoken against the Lord and you; intercede with the Lord, that He may remove the serpents from us.’ And Moses interceded for the people. Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a fiery serpent and set it up on a standard; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at it, he shall l\_\_\_\_\_\_.” Numbers 21:6-8*
* *“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (looks with eyes of faith) may in Him have eternal life.” John 3:14, 15*

**Example - *Jehoshaphat***

* *“Now it came about after this that the sons of Moab and the sons of Ammon, together with some of the Meunites, came to make war against Jehoshaphat. Then some came and reported to Jehoshaphat, saying, “A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, out of Aram and behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar (that is Engedi).” Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. So Judah gathered together to seek help from the Lord; they even came from all the cities of Judah to seek the Lord. Then Jehoshaphat stood in the*

*assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord before the new court, and he said, “O Lord, the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You. Did You not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and give it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?”*

* *“They have lived in it, and have built You a sanctuary there for Your name, saying, ‘Should evil come upon us, the sword, or judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before You (for Your name is in this house) and cry to You in our distress, and You will hear and deliver us.’ Now behold, the sons of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom You did not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt (they turned aside from them and did not destroy them), see how they are rewarding us by coming to drive us out from Your possession which You have given us as an inheritance. O our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our e\_\_\_\_\_\_ are on You.” II Chron 20:1-12*

**Examples - *Peter***

* *“After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone. But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.”*
* ”*Peter said to Him, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” And He said, “Come!” And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to s\_\_\_\_\_\_, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and \*said to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “You are certainly God’s Son!”* Matt 14:23-33

**Examples – *Mary and Martha***

* *“Now as they were traveling along, He entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha welcomed her into her home. And she had a sister named Mary, who moreover was l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord’s word, s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at his feet. But Martha was distracted with all of her preparations; and she came up to Him, and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.” But the Lord answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about t\_\_\_\_ m\_\_\_\_\_\_ things; but only a few things are necessary, really only o\_\_\_\_; for Mary has chosen the g\_\_\_\_\_\_ part, which shall not be taken away from her.”* Luke 10:38 – 42

**Examples - *Stephen***

* And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great signs and wonders among the people.
* But some men…rose up and argued with Stephen…and yet were unable to cope with (his) wisdom and Spirit…
* And they stirred up the people…and dragged him away, and brought him before the council, and put forward false witnesses…
* And fixing their gaze upon him, all who were sitting in the Council saw his face like the face of an angel…
* And the High priest said, “Are these things so?”
* And he said, “Hear me fathers and brethren!”
* *“Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing their teeth at him. Being full of the Holy Spirit, he g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ intently into the heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at the right hand of God; and he said, ‘Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” But they cried out with a loud voice…rushed upon Him…and when they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him…he called upon the Lord and said, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!” And falling on His knees, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!“* Acts 7:54-60 (selected portions)

**Observations:**

* We cannot p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ see God
* But we can focus the eyes of the h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on Him
* We look to God for:
  + S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (serpent in the wilderness – John 3:14,15)
  + N\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Mary – Luke 10:38-43)
  + W\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 6)
  + G\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 123:1)
  + E\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Peter - Matt 14)
  + H\_\_\_\_\_\_ in c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Jehoshaphat – II Chron 20:12ff;Psalm 121:1,2)
  + P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Isa 17:5-7)
  + P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 141:8)
  + life d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_– (Isaiah 6)
  + h\_\_\_\_\_\_ – (Psalm 118:23)
  + e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – (Heb 12:2)
* Therefore, our eyes should be on the Lord c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – Psalm 25:15

**How It Works:**

* Experts today theorize that at the bottom of every subject there is one “controlling insight” that clarifies the core concept that leads to excellent results.
* If true, there are three rules that apply:
  + It must apply across a wide spectrum of situations.
  + It must serve as the multiplier of R.O.I
  + It must lead to more precise action
* Marriages’ ‘One Thing’ – *Find the most g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of your partner’s actions and believe it.*

**So what is THE one thing that most impacts our spiritual formation?**

* *K\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ OUR E\_\_\_\_\_\_ ON THE L\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!!!*

**Summary – Concept 33**

* *“Finishing the race requires freedom from distraction, focus on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, and Christ-like endurance to finish our course.”*

**Summary – Concept 34**

* *“Maintaining a high spiritual vibrancy level is directly correlated to the clarity level of our heart focus on the Lord.”*

**Next Week** – **Concept 35 – The Gravity of Jesus – His Preexistence and Prefiguration**