

## Seven Looks

No. 108

### Introduction.

- I. Once Jehovah said unto Samuel. (1 Sam. 16:7).
  - A. These words were given as the reason for God having Samuel anoint young David as the future king of Israel. God was very pleased with the heart of David.
  - B. These words reveal that God looks upon man in a different manner than man. Man looks on the outward appearance, but Jehovah looks upon the inward man - the heart.
  - C. The Bible has much to say about how God looks on man and also on how man is to look.
- II. I would like to speak on the them, "Seven Looks."
  - A. There are seven looks that are commanded in the word of God.
  - B. Each of these looks are essential to be acceptable to God.
- I. **Backward Look** - The Bible commands the backward look.
  - A. We must look back in **memory of unforgiven sins**.
    1. As men are inclined to deny or forget sin, but we must not look on sin in that manner.
    2. Sins should never be denied or forgotten until forgiven. We must be filled with Godly sorrow. We must repent.
    3. Once we have obtained God's forgiveness we should forget our past sins.
  - B. The Bible teaches God will remember our forgiven sins no more. (Isa. 1:18).
    1. The Hebrew writer said. (Heb. 8:12).
    2. He will forget them and that is exactly what we should do.
    3. We must seek and accept God's forgiveness or live a life of frustration, fear, misery, and guilt.
- II. **Upward Look** - The Bible commands the upward look.
  - A. We should look up to God **for purpose in life**.
    1. The **story has been told of a famous German philosopher** who sat despondent and alone on a park bench. A policeman came by, and not recognizing the man said, "Move along, man. What are you doing here?" The philosopher replied, "I wish I knew."

2. **This man is indicative of the hopelessness that exists in the lives of most.** Those who deny the existence of God or His power in their lives through ignorance or sophistication or self-reliance must live with despair and emptiness and guilt in lives. Purpose is found when we look up to God and accept His grace and follow His instructions for the abundant life.

B. We should look up to God **in praise and thanksgiving.** (Eph. 5:20).

**PSA 100:1 Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth.**

**PSA 100:2 Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing.**

**PSA 100:3 Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.**

**PSA 100:4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving, And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name.**

**PSA 100:5 For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting, And His faithfulness to all generations.**

**PSA 103:1 Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name.**

**PSA 103:2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits;**

**PSA 103:3 Who pardons all your iniquities; Who heals all your diseases;**

**PSA 103:4 Who redeems your life from the pit; Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;**

**PSA 103:5 Who satisfies your years with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.**

C. We should look up to God **in supplication.** (Col. 4:2; Phil. 4:6, 7).

**III. Downward Look** - The Bible commands the downward look.

A. We must have the downward look **in humility.** (Prov. 6:17).

B. **God warns against pride.** (Psa. 51:17; Matt. 23:12; Jas. 4:6).

C. God wants us to have the attitude of the tax-collector. (Lk. 18:9-14).

**IV. Inward Look** - The Bible commands the inward look.

A. We are to look inward in rigid self-examination. (2 Cor. 13:5).

B. Each one of us should daily examine ourselves in light of God's word to see if we are in God's favor. Here are a few questions we should ask ourselves very often.

1. Do I love God with all my heart? Matt. 22:37

2. Do I have my eyes fixed on heaven and am I seeking the kingdom of God above all else? Matt. 6:33; Col. 3:1, 2.

3. Do I love others as self and do I seek to do good things for others? Matt. 22:39; 1 Cor. 10:24.

4. Do I live with the realization that Christ lives in me? Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:27.

5. Do I speak to God constantly through prayer and do I listen to God constantly by reading and meditating on His word? Rom. 12:12; Psa. 1:2.

6. Do I share my faith with others? Rom. 1:14

7. Am I trusting in God's grace - not mine own righteousness? Eph. 2:8, 9.

8. Am I seeking to glorify God? Matt. 5:16; 1 Cor. 10:31.

C. Heaven will be filled with those who examine themselves, not the other fellow, with these questions.

#### V. **Outward Look** - The Bible commands the outward look.

A. We are to look **outward in ceaseless vigilance**. (Matt. 26:41; 1 Pet. 5:8).

1. We must constantly be on watch for Satan. He uses every possible temptation to lead us to sin and if all else fails he will lull us to sleep.
2. An old legend tells of a **convention held by Satan**. All the demons came to report on their work. One said, "I let loose the wild beasts of the desert on a caravan of Christians and their bones are now bleaching on the sand." What of that?" demanded Satan. "Their souls were saved." Another one said, "I drove the east wind against a ship loaded with Christians and they all drowned." "What of that?" asked Satan. "They all went to heaven." Then another said, "For ten years I tried to put a Christian to sleep. Finally I succeeded and left him there." Then the devil shouted for joy.
3. Yes, Satan rejoices when he is able to put Christians to sleep. He knows if he cannot devour them that sleep will keep a Christian from serving Christ and will keep him out of heaven.

B. We are to look **outward in loving helpfulness**. (Gal. 6:9, 10).

1. Paul admonishes Christians to do good to all men and never to grow weary in well-doing.
2. Each day has its opportunities to do good and the child of God will use them to brighten the lives of others and bring glory to God.

#### VI. **Christ-ward Look** - The Bible commands the Christ-ward look.

A. We are to look to Christ in admiration.

B. He is our example, our model. (1 Cor. 11:1).

**1PE 2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, 22 who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; 23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.**

1. This passage teaches we are to follow the example of Christ who suffered unjustly for right doing.
2. One way we are to follow in His steps is to return good for evil.
  - a. One day a **little girl** in a white dress and with a large bunch of flowers in her hands was walking down the street. She passed by a boy who was playing in the dusty street. Somehow, the sight of dainty figure stirred the spirit of mischief in the boy's heart. He threw a handful of dirt on her white dress

and the little girl almost burst into tears. But, instead, a smile broke over her face, taking a flower from her bouquet, she tossed it to the boy, who stood waiting to see what she was going to do. The boy was very surprised and became genuinely ashamed of the ugly thing he had done. His unkind fun was spoiled, just because in return for a handful of dirt someone had thrown him a flower.

b. There would be few quarrels if all were as wise and as Christlike as this little mad. (Rom. 12:20, 21).

## VII. **Forward Look** - The Bible commands the forward look.

A. We are to “rejoice in hope.” (Rom. 12:12).

B. We are to live in confidence. In 1 Corinthians 15 Paul set forth that the resurrection is a fact and then said. (1 Cor. 15:49, 57, 58; 1 Jn. 5:4).

C. As Christians we can live with great hope and confidence.

1. We know one day Christ is coming again.

2. We know one day we will be raised with new spiritual bodies.

3. We know we have a glorious home in heaven.

4. We know we will spend eternity with Christ, Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

5. This should fill our hearts with joy as we look forward to the eternal things God has promised.

## **Conclusion.**

I. Yes, there are Seven Looks commanded in the word of God. Heaven will be ours if we will put into practice each of these Seven Looks.

II. As we close this lesson we invite those outside of Christ to come to the only One who can save you and give you purpose and peace. Come confessing your faith and then be baptized. Come as we stand and sing.

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