

PERSPECTIVE SHIFT

A Focused Life

Pastor Nick Dekold - August 10, 2025

Focus is the ability to direct your attention, energy, or effort toward a specific task, goal, or idea without getting distracted.

Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles....

[2 Corinthians 11:24-26](#)

4 REQUIREMENTS OF FOCUSED LIFE

1. A FOCUSED LIFE REQUIRES YOU TO KEEP FIRST THINGS FIRST

I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ

[Philippians 3:7-8](#)

2. A FOCUSED LIFE REQUIRES YOU TO LOOK FORWARD

I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,

[Philippians 3:12-13](#)

LAND OF REGRET

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

[1 John 1:19](#)

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective

[James 5:16](#)

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

[Romans 8:1](#)

THE LAND OF REMINISCENCE

PERSPECTIVE SHIFT

A Focused Life

Pastor Nick Dekold - August 10, 2025

3. A FOCUSED LIFE REQUIRES PERSEVERANCE

I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

[Philippians 3:14](#)

Perseverance is the steady and determined effort to keep going, even when facing difficulties, obstacles, or repeated failures.

The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.

- Unknown

You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

[Hebrews 10:36](#)

4. A FOCUSED LIFE REQUIRES AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.

[Philippians 3:18-20](#)