

“Focus on Jesus”

I can only imagine that most of you have something that you spend some time on. Maybe a hobby or something of special interest. I know how easy it is for ones time to pass quite quickly when you are working on something of high interest. I know how involved parents can be as their children are growing up. I know how much time one spends chauffeuring the kids around from one place to another. I know how tiring that can be as well. Those days are over for me but I can spend hours with radio control model airplanes and my wife can spend hours with her scrapbooking. You get involved with a book and that is hard to put down. I am sure you have something and when you really focus on that interest time just passes by quickly. How easy it is to focus on those things that we enjoy and spend time involved in.

Have you ever had a time when things were going so well you did not know what to do? You could never imagine how smooth sailing life could be and then...the bottom drops out. Something causes a bump in the road or it seems like the whole rhythm of life has been disrupted. I understand that as well and have had those bumps in the road with a few holes thrown in so badly I thought the road was going to come to an end and I would just keep going. Not a good feeling. Not a good smooth sailing life.

Most interesting is what I shared with a group of people this past March in Caesarea, Israel. We were all gathered in the region of Caesarea and I spoke for a few minutes. This was in the same region that Christ would find himself but he would never enter Caesarea. He was in the region and would not enter because of the people's pagan worship. What I shared was that I had given up on coincidences in my life a long time ago. You know what I mean. Your driving a car and you feel like you should slow down and in the next instant a child runs out in front of your car and if you had not slowed you get the picture I'm sure. Instead of saying "what a coincidence" that I slowed down at the right time I shared with the group that I just started saying "Thank you Lord". And when I gave up on the coincidence angle and replaced it with the thought that I was no longer in charge I found that my focus changed, my life changed, and the bumps in the road would still be there but I now had a focus of strength and not self will. Strength in the reality of circumstances for me, the absolute truth for me that God cares and takes care even during the difficult times. Focus on Jesus does not mean you walk around with a Bible in your hand all the time, does not mean your on your knees 18 hours a day, does not mean that you are at church every time the door opens. A focus on Jesus might mean you get better acquainted with your Bible, does mean it is ok to get on your knees, does mean that you do have fellowship with other people of like faith. By the way those people of like faith also have bumps in their road and some much worse than mine. "Thank you Lord". There I go again. I have reminded myself it could be worse. It is because I truly accept the fact I am not in charge and someone that cares also takes care. "There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord." Proverbs 21:30 That just happens to be on a post it note placed on the kitchen window. I also have two post it notes in the bathroom. Psalm 34: 17-18 and II Chronicles: 20:15 Recently I have had a few bumps in my smooth sailing road. No, that is not true. There were not a few bumps. It was like someone was using one of those machines that takes

up the asphalt from the highway before they repave and they took all of that asphalt and kept dumping it on me. One large truck load after another and right when you think, right when it gets better, one more big load all over you. It is better because I have, with the passage of time and great advice and prayer began to say "Thank you Lord" a lot more lately. Change the focus and it is amazing how easy the road is to travel down. Yes, you have been there too.

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