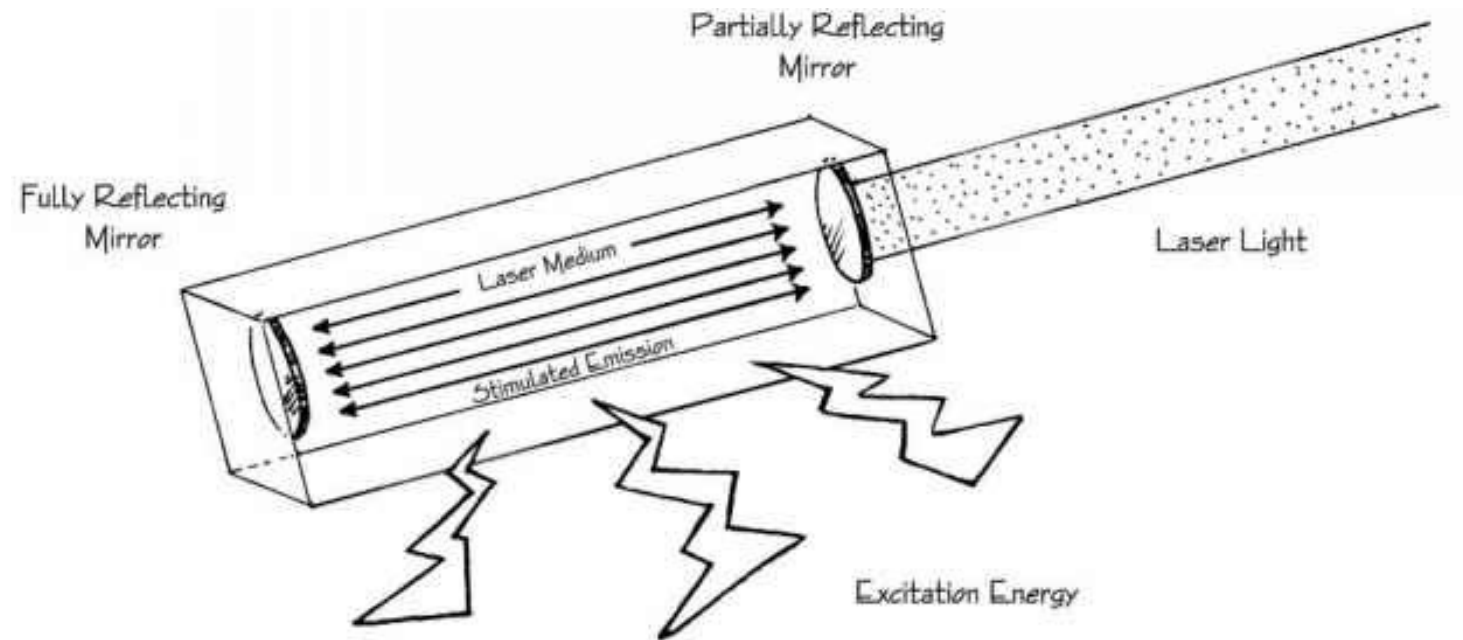


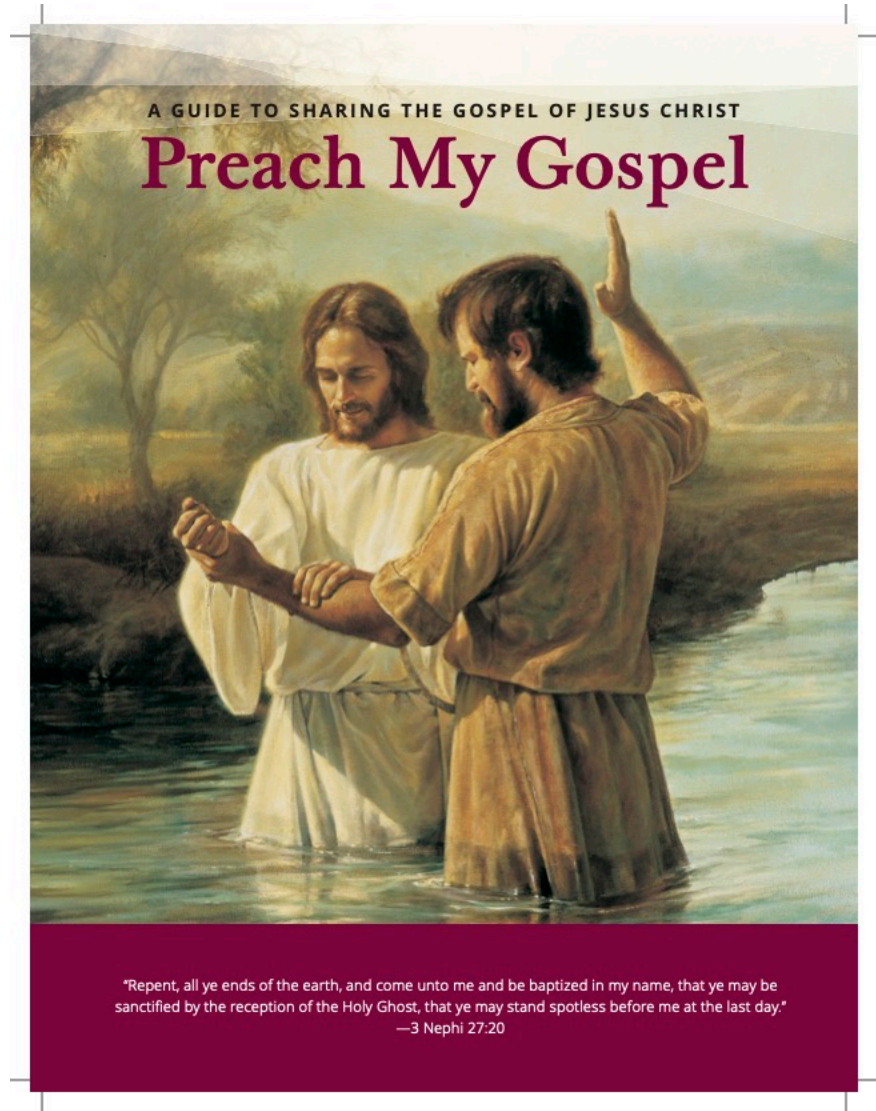


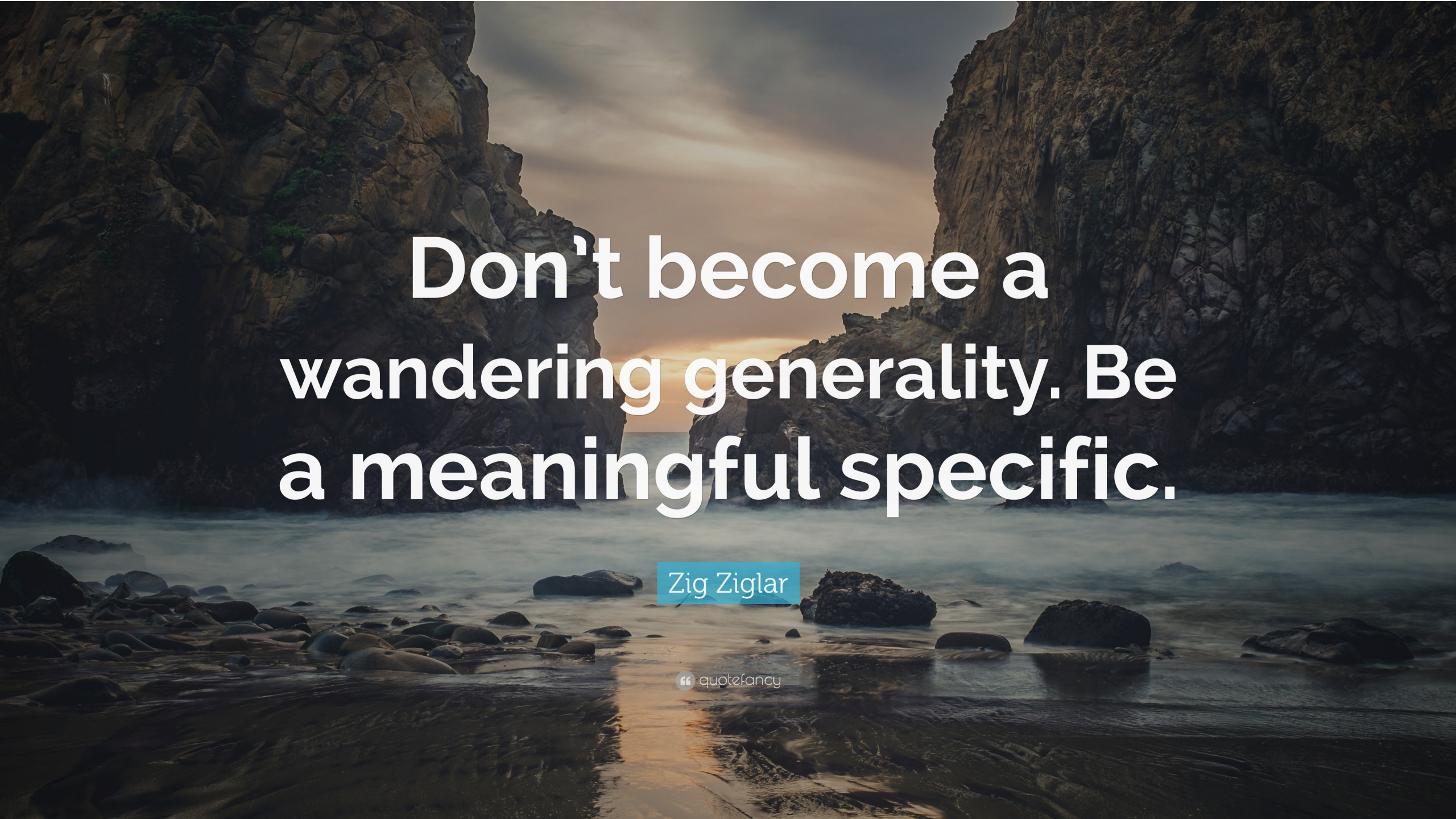
Focus

How a Laser Works



We have a Laser!





Don't become a
wandering generality. Be
a meaningful specific.

Zig Ziglar

“ quote fancy

Faith and Focus

“There is a quality of faith which develops as we focus all of our heart, might, mind, and strength. It is seen and felt in the eyes of a great missionary, a valiant and virtuous young woman, and righteous mothers, fathers, and grandparents. It can be seen in the lives of individuals young and old, in every land and culture, speaking every language, in every circumstance and station in life. It is the “eye of faith” spoken of by the prophet Alma (see Alma 5:15–26)—**the ability to focus and be steadfast, continually holding fast to true principles, nothing wavering, even when the mist of darkness confronting us is exceedingly great. This quality of faith is exceedingly powerful.**”



Elder Kevin W. Pearson
April 2009 Gen Conf



Focus

One of the defining differences between the good and the great is what sports psychologists call “focus.” Competitors who have the ability to set aside the unimportant and be completely attentive to that which is critical are able to improve their performance. Focus is a critical success factor.

Bishop H. David Burton
April 2003 - General Conference

Focus on Christ

“Focus on Christ as you seek to cultivate His attributes (see D&C 6:36). These attributes are not items on a checklist. They are not techniques you develop in a self-improvement program. They are not earned only through personal determination. Rather, you can receive them as you strive to become a more devoted disciple of Jesus Christ.”

PMG II Chapter 6 “Gifts from God”

Look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not. D&C 6:36

Focus on Christ (D&C 6:36)

“President Russell M. Nelson has called us to look unto Jesus Christ in just this way: **‘There is nothing easy or automatic about becoming such powerful disciples. Our focus must be riveted on the Savior and His gospel. It is mentally rigorous to strive to look unto Him in every thought. But when we do, our doubts and fears flee.’** Rivet is a great word. It means to fasten firmly, to attract and hold completely. We rivet our focus on Jesus Christ and His gospel by living our covenants.”



Elder Kim B. Clark





Elder Alvin F. Meredith III

“While there are many things worthy of our focus, we learn from Peter’s example the importance of always keeping Christ at the center of our focus. It is only through Christ that we can return to live with God. We rely on the grace of Christ as we strive to become like Him and seek His forgiveness and strengthening power when we fall short.”

Focus

“Jesus taught about priorities when He said, ‘Seek not the things of this world but seek ye first to build up the kingdom of God, and to establish his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you’ (JST, Matt. 6:38, in Matt. 6:33, footnote a). ‘Seek ... first to build up the kingdom of God’ means to assign first priority to God and to His work. The work of God is to bring to pass the eternal life of His children (see Moses 1:39), and all that this entails in the birth, nurturing, teaching, and sealing of our Heavenly Father’s children. Everything else is lower in priority. As someone has said, if we do not choose the kingdom of God first, it will make little difference in the long run what we have chosen instead.”

– Elder Dallin H. Oaks

Focus on Jesus Christ

“Nothing invites the Spirit more than fixing your focus on Jesus Christ. Talk of Christ, rejoice in Christ, feast upon the words of Christ, and press forward with steadfastness in Christ.”



President Russell M. Nelson

Focus on Jesus Christ

- A Firm Mind
- Look!
- An Eye Single
- Singleness of Heart

A Firm Mind

But behold, I, Jacob, would speak unto you that are pure in heart. Look unto God with **firmness of mind**, and pray unto him with exceeding faith, and he will console you in your afflictions, and he will plead your cause, and send down justice upon those who seek your destruction. O all ye that are pure in heart, lift up your heads and receive the pleasing word of God, and feast upon his love; for ye may, if your **minds are firm**, forever. – Jacob 3:1-2

What does it mean to have a Firm Mind?

A Firm Mind

For behold, they [angels] are subject unto him [Christ], to minister according to the word of his command, showing themselves unto them of strong faith and a **firm mind** in every form of godliness. – Moroni 7:30

What are the different forms of godliness?



Look!

1. Tree of Love representing the love of God (1 Nephi 11:8)
2. Mary, the mother of Jesus (1 Nephi 11:12-13)
3. The birth of the Savior (1 Nephi 11:19)
4. The Savior's ministry among the people (1 Nephi 11:24)
5. The condescension of God (1 Nephi 11:26)
6. Angels ministering among the people during Jesus' and his apostles' ministry (1 Nephi 11:30)
7. People healed by the power of the Lamb of God (1 Nephi 11:31)
8. Jesus slain for the sins of the world (1 Nephi 11: 32-33)
9. The Nephites and Lamanites, their wars, and Jesus Christ's visit. (1 Nephi 12:1-6)
10. Three generations of righteousness of the Nephites and then destruction (1 Nephi 12:11)
11. The Gentiles and the great and abominable church (1 Nephi 13:1-3)
12. The Apostle John who will write the remainder and the end of the world (1 Nephi 14:18-22)

Why did the Spirit want Nephi to focus on these 12 things?



An Eye Single to the Glory of God

Eye Single

- And faith, hope, charity and love, with an eye single to the glory of God, qualify him for the work. – (D&C 4:5)
- “Generally speaking, **‘an eye single to the glory of God’ means sacrifice**. It means that instead of endlessly doing what we want to do, we have to do what the Lord wants us to do, but we have to do it in his way when he wants us to do it. This, of course, is not the natural inclination of man.” (Elder Hartman Rector Jr. – Oct 1971)
- And if your eye be single to my glory, your whole bodies shall be filled with light, and there shall be no darkness in you; and that body which is filled with light comprehendeth all things. (D&C 88:67)

What is the Glory of God?

Why does having our eye single to the glory of God fill us with light?

Eye Single

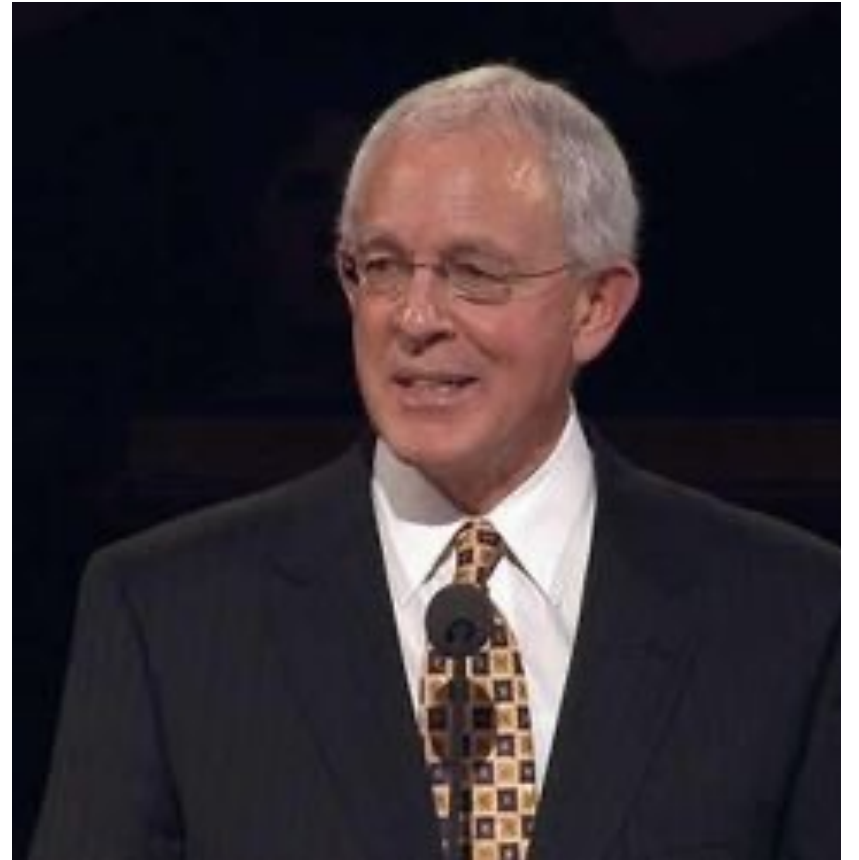
“To have your eye single to the glory of God means having your focus completely on God’s purpose, which is also your purpose as a missionary.” – Chapter 2 PMG II

(Be Focused on Your Missionary Purpose)

What is God’s Purpose?

Marlin K. Jensen

“Latter-day Saints whose eyes are single to God’s glory see life from a **vastly different perspective than those whose attention is directed elsewhere**. Such members, for instance, care little about receiving credit or recognition for their good deeds. They are more interested in feeding the Lord’s sheep than in counting them. In fact, they frequently find their greatest happiness in serving anonymously, thereby leaving the beneficiaries of their kindness with no one to thank or praise except the Lord.”



Why do those whose eyes are single to God’s glory have a vastly different perspective?

Singleness of Heart

And this commandment shall be given unto the elders of my church, that every man which will embrace **it** *[the commandment to preach the Gospel with a loud voice]* with singleness of heart may be ordained and sent forth, even as I have spoken. – D&C 36:7 (December 9, 1830)

Why would it only have been those who embraced the commandment with singleness of heart that were ordained and sent forth?

Life Without Focus

- A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. (James 1:8)
- We will “be children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (see Eph 4:14)
- “Men and women who even momentarily take their eyes off of God’s glory and seek to exalt themselves, or who become entangled in the vain things of this world, will find that the kingdom quickly moves on without them.” – Marlin K. Jensen Oct 1989 Gen Conf

What are the Blessings of Focus?

Blessings of Focus

- Yea, we see that whosoever will may lay hold upon the word of God, which is quick and powerful, which shall divide asunder all the cunning and the snares and the wiles of the devil, and lead the man of Christ in a strait and narrow course across that everlasting gulf of misery which is prepared to engulf the wicked— Helaman 3:29
- And if your eye be single to my glory, your whole bodies shall be filled with light, and there shall be no darkness in you; and that body which is filled with light comprehendeth all things. D&C 88:67
- Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Invitations

- Increase our focus on Jesus Christ and His kingdom
- Let go of the world - especially horizontal approvals
- Set a goal to find one serious person each day