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THE LOOK THAT BRINGS CONFIDENCE

Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2)

The life of Christian endurance is lived by fixing our eyes on Jesus. The Greek wording in Hebrews 12:2 implies that we look away from everything else in order to concentrate on our object of attention. The secret of endurance, says the writer of Hebrews, is to concentrate on Jesus himself; “gaze steadily at him” is the thought being expressed.

The most vital truth for the life of holy endurance is that Jesus is our sustainer, our source of strength to action, our sovereign grace giver (Hebrews 2:18; 4:16), “the founder and perfecter of our faith” (12:2). Faith is a compound of knowing, trusting, hoping, and stubbornly persisting in trustful hope against all odds. Faith can do this because the one who has graciously brought us to faith, and whom we now trust, helps us to do it. “He has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we can confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?’” (13:5-6). **Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (4:16).**

This confident, expectant approach is faith in action. It is precisely the glorified Lord Jesus who now helps us to stand steady as we gaze on him and cling to him by means of our focused, intentional, heartfelt prayer. It is often said that ‘Help!’ is the best prayer anyone ever makes. When directed to the Lord Jesus, it is certainly the most effective. And that remains true for us now as ever it was for anyone, since, as the writer goes on to say, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (13:8). AMEN.

~Dr. J.I. Packer

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20

