

Losing our focus and vision

K.P. Yohannan:

It is a challenge to follow His call to walk away from these things—but it is an even greater challenge to realize we always have the chance to turn around, to go back to a life that is more comfortable.

Our Enemy, the devil, knows this, and he works hard to persuade us to do so. Let us look at what he uses to try to make us return:

Losing our focus and vision. Paul's earthly journey was marked by his passion to know the Lord intimately. He said he counted everything as a loss compared to knowing

Christ (see Philippians 3:8). Those in the cloud of witnesses had one thing on their mind—their desire to be in heaven with the Lord. Our aim is the Lord Himself. Hebrews says, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2, niv).

And out of that pursuit of Him, who first loved us, comes a heart to reach the lost. Jesus came to seek and save the lost (see Luke 19:10). And as we grow to know Him more, what is important to Him becomes important to us. Out of Paul's pursuit of the Lord came an undying passion for the lost. He was constrained by his love for Christ to live a life of incredible suffering, from which many heard the Good News (see 2 Corinthians 5:13–14, kjv).

Paul kept his focus and was able to say near the end of his life, "I have finished the race" (2 Timothy 4:7). You and I will stay faithful to continue on this journey as long as we keep the end in mind. Don't let the devil use day-to-day discouragements to take you off course.