

Fixing our eyes

I recently recalled an event from my youth that reminded me of how intense my focus on the Lord should be.

When I was scarcely 20, I began to race in amateur car races. I recalled one difficult road course with a sharp downhill turn where the elevation change making it impossible to see if another car was spun out or if several cars had crashed. After a few nervous practice laps, I began to notice the flag officials that stood just off the track at the top of the hill. They had a perfect field of vision and could see both the approaching race cars and the blind corner that was beyond the top of the hill. Soon I began to stop worrying about the corner and instead glanced to the side to focus on that official near the flags. As long as he thought it was all clear, I knew it was safe. When I thought about the danger that could lurk beyond the crest of the hill, I became fearful. But when I looked at that official standing still as a statue, I knew there was nothing to fear and all would be OK. Lap after lap, we approached the corner at high speed, passing other cars and being passed while we raced for position. In the midst of all the competition and being only inches from other cars, still I made that official my primary focus. Before the race was completed we saw the flagman waving the yellow flag and slowed to see several cars that had collided and were getting untangled. Without the timely warning we would have plunged over the hill into the middle of the crash scene.

What a beautiful picture of what our focus on the Lord should be like. He can see where we have come from and where we are going and what is around the corner that is beyond our field of vision. We can worry and be fearful but really only need to glance away from the circumstances and focus on Him to experience His peace.

Heb 12:2 NIV Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.