

Day 29

Keeping Cross-Eyed

2 Peter 1:3-9

For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.
2 Peter 1:9

When people are unable to see clearly at a distance, they suffer from nearsightedness. They can see people or objects up close, but things become blurred at greater distances. As people's nearsightedness grows worse, they may become legally blind.

Frequently we Christians struggle with a different form of nearsightedness. Hurts, disappointments, and wrongs that we have experienced "cloud" our ability to see our God's love for us. With this nearsightedness, we focus on the wrong done to us and avoid interacting with the other person. We might see her walking toward us but then pretend to not see and steer clear of her. We are blind to the injustices that we cause.

Spiritual nearsightedness prevents us from seeing the horizon on which stands the cross of Christ towering over the wrecks of time. This condition prevents us from recognizing that all our sins, hurts, and disappointments were washed away by the blood of the Lamb. Christ gave his life so that we would be forgiven.

Jesus was not nearsighted but cross-eyed. He focused on his mission, living the perfect life, dying on the cross for our sins, and rising again, all for us, his beloved children. When we are tempted to be nearsighted, may the power of God's Spirit call to mind for us his grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ, so that our eyesight can remain cross-eyed.

Heavenly Father, heal my nearsighted vision so that I can gaze upon the cross of your Son and remember that I am forgiven. Keep me "cross-eyed" so that I can share Christ's forgiveness with others. I pray in the Savior's name. Amen.

*Adapted from Forgiven to Forgive - 6 Weeks of Daily Devotions
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Write or type your answers. Writing your answers helps you to meditate more deeply on the question, organize your thoughts, and provide a visible way for you to review and reflect on how this devotion applies to your specific situation.

1. What has your opponent done or said that keeps getting your attention?
2. How have those wrongs or hurts caused you to lose hope or become more discouraged?
3. How did Jesus overcome being discouraged and go to the cross for you?
4. How does the cross change your ability to forgive?
5. Pray these words of the hymn: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

*When the woes of life o'er-take me, Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.*

*When the sun of bliss is beaming Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming Adds more luster to the day.¹
Amen.*

¹ William J. Sparrow Simpson; public domain.