

Tangible Examples of Looking Beyond

We can get bogged down in problems, or we can look beyond them to something great God has for us, even beyond big picture life goal things like the purpose for our lives. By choosing to look beyond whatever it is we are facing right in front of us, we can find God's purpose, fulfillment, and hope.

Here are some examples of areas where we can practice this idea of looking beyond what is right in front of us:

1. **Spouse:** We can become consumed by conflicts or unmet expectations in our marriage, or we can seek God's design for a loving, unifying partnership that reflects Christ's sacrificial love.
2. **Kids:** Parenting challenges can overwhelm us with stress and exhaustion, but we can embrace the joy of nurturing our children's hearts toward God's truth and purpose.
3. **Finances:** Financial struggles can trap us in anxiety and scarcity, or we can trust in God's provision, stewarding resources with faith and generosity.
4. **Discipline (Kids):** The frustration of disciplining children can feel endless, but we can view it as an opportunity to guide them lovingly toward wisdom and godliness.
5. **Worth/Identity:** Feelings of inadequacy can erode our sense of self, but we can find our true worth in being God's beloved creation, made with purpose.
6. **Sin issues:** The weight of personal sin can lead to shame and despair, but through repentance, we can experience God's grace and freedom in Christ.
7. **Frustration/Anger:** Holding onto frustration and anger can poison our hearts, but choosing forgiveness allows us to reflect Jesus' mercy and find peace.
8. **Expectations:** Unrealistic expectations can breed disappointment, but surrendering them to God opens us to His perfect plan and timing.
9. **Stewardship:** We can stress over managing possessions or talents, or we can see stewardship as a privilege to honor God with what He's entrusted to us.
10. **The Past:** Regrets or past mistakes can haunt us, but we can trust God to redeem our history, using it for growth and His glory.
11. **Unforgiveness:** Clinging to unforgiveness can chain us to pain, but extending forgiveness mirrors Christ's love and sets us free.
12. **Turning bad to good:** Life's hardships can feel defeating, but we can trust God to transform trials into opportunities for growth and testimony, as He promises.
13. **Abuse:** The scars of abuse can trap us in fear or shame, but God's healing love can restore us, offering hope and a future beyond the pain.
14. **The Present:** Daily chaos can distract us from meaning, but embracing the present as a gift from God helps us live intentionally for Him.
15. **Time management:** Feeling overwhelmed by time constraints can lead to frustration, but prioritizing God's purposes helps us use time wisely for eternal impact.
16. **Thought processes:** Negative or anxious thoughts can consume us, but renewing our minds with God's truth aligns us with His peace and perspective.
17. **The Future:** Uncertainty about the future can spark fear, but trusting in God's sovereign plan allows us to walk confidently into what's ahead.
18. **Fear of the unknown:** The unknown can paralyze us with worry, but faith in God's guidance empowers us to face the future with courage.
19. **Measuring up:** The pressure to meet others' standards can crush us, but finding our identity in Christ frees us to live for His approval alone.

20. **Managing inputs:** Overwhelm from information or influences can cloud our focus, but filtering inputs through God's Word keeps us grounded in truth.
21. **Boundaries:** Struggling to set boundaries can lead to burnout, but healthy limits reflect God's call to love others while honoring our own well-being.
22. **Self discipline:** Lack of discipline can stall our growth, but cultivating it through God's strength empowers us to live purposefully and faithfully.
23. **Keeping your word:** Failing to keep promises can damage trust, but honoring our commitments reflects God's faithfulness and builds integrity.
24. **Bitterness:** Bitterness can fester and steal our joy, but by surrendering it to God, we can embrace His grace, finding freedom and peace in forgiveness.
25. **Budgeting:** Budgeting can feel restrictive and stressful, but by aligning our finances with God's principles, we can steward resources with wisdom and experience the freedom of trusting His provision. Being intentional with a budget can help us look past the problem of lack and into the blessing of having more than enough.