

# New Life

CHURCH CRAWLEY



**STAY  
FOCUSED  
ON GOD**

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# Staying Focused on God means:

- ***UNDERSTANDING GOD'S NATURE***
- ***RECEIVING GOD'S STRENGTH***
- ***EMBRACING GOD'S PURPOSES***
- ***PLAYING OUR PART***





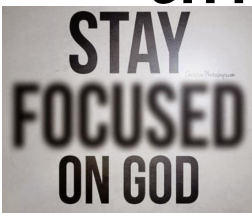
# Staying Focused on God means ***EMBRACING GOD'S PURPOSES***

We need to understand a little bit of history to embrace Gods purposes:

- Cyrus the Great (around 600 BC) figures in the Hebrew Bible as the deliverer of the Jews.
- He is mentioned 23 times by name and alluded to several times more.
- (Isa 44:23: 45:8, 45:1-7). Isaiah's message of deliverance from bondage: God chooses Cyrus, a foreign ruler, to set God's people free.

The consistent declaration of the bible is that God is in control, despite what we may think at times

- **Job 42:2-4** “no plan of yours can be thwarted”
- **Psalm 33:11** *"the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations"*
- **Eccles 3:1-10** “he makes everything beautiful in its time”



## Psalm 27:3-4

“Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident. One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD.”



God's purpose for you?

Not yet a follower of Jesus?

2 Peter 3:9

“he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish,  
but **everyone** to come to repentance.”



It also has a very practical application for us who claim to follow Jesus:

*“Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be **strengthened by grace....**”*

**Hebrews 13:9**



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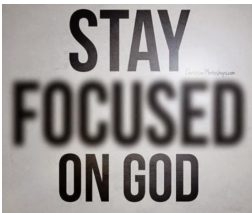
*“Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, **joined** and **held** together by every **supporting** ligament, **grows** and **builds** itself up in love, as each part does its **work**.”*

**Ephesians 4:14-16**



- JOINING
- HOLDING
- SUPPORTING
- GROWING
- BUILDING
- WORKING

Ephesians 4:14-16



How do we do this?

Look for evidence of the grace of God

Acts 11:19-23 Barnabus

People need your words of encouragement,  
now more than ever.



## Ephesians 4:29

*“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen”*



London Marathon recently –  
cardboard spectators for the elite athletes



JESUS DOESN'T  
WANT YOU TO  
BE A  
CARBOARD  
CHRISTIAN

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## Conclusion: So what do we do in response?

*"Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honour, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he ploughed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!"*

**Hebrews 12:1-3 MSG**