

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

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Hebrews 12:2 - "Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.

The powerful hymn *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus* was written by Helen Howarth Lemmel (1863–1961), a British-born hymn writer who spent much of her life in the United States.

The hymn, originally titled "The Heavenly Vision," was published in 1922. It was inspired by the life of missionary Lilias Trotter. Lemmel based the hymn on a poem Trotter had written entitled "Focused: A Story and a Song." An excerpt of this poem that inspired Lemmel states, *"So then turn your eyes upon Him, look full into His face and you will find the things of earth will acquire a strange new dimness."* May we all be aware of the beauty of our Lord, and of the deceptively dim nature marking the distractions of this world.

These distractions are all around us. It almost seems as if the world's greatest fear is boredom. In response, we have structured the technological age in which we live to be overflowing with "shiny" things. These things include ones we look at, long after, and ones that entertain us and distract us at every turn. If you are anything like me, you can find yourself looking toward the things this world has to offer while forgetting the wondrous and infinite nature of the Savior who has allowed us to be part of the family of God.

We must understand, as those who call Jesus Lord, that He alone can satisfy our ever-wandering hearts. When we sense a longing within ourselves for something "more," we have a choice to make. On the one hand, we can give in to distraction and seek to be satisfied by the things of the world, finding our hearts still longing to be satisfied. Or, on the other hand, we can turn our eyes upon Jesus. When we truly make an effort to dwell on the majesty of the Lord Most High, the things of this world will indeed grow strangely dim, as He reveals Himself to be ever brighter.

That is the thing about Jesus. The greatness of His love is an eternal spring. Our hearts will never be underwhelmed. He is a bottomless well of all that is good. We are simply called to follow Him. Look towards Him. Seek Him. Follow Him. Find our purpose in Him.

So, what now? As the last stanza of this powerful hymn expresses, followers of Christ have a glorious purpose. We must go. Turn your eyes upon Jesus, and go. Go tell this broken world of the everlasting hope offered by our wonderful Savior. Eternity is waiting.

Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell!