

**Ephesians 3:19** and to come to know the love of Christ which surpasses *gnōsis*, that you might be filled up to all the fullness from God. (EXT)

**1 Peter 1:8** and though you have never seen Him, you continue loving Him, with reference to Whom at the present time you continue not seeing Him, yet you keep on believing with sublime unalloyed happiness that is inexpressible and full of resplendent glory. (EXT)

8. Sharing the happiness of God and occupation with Christ always coordinate together. You cannot enjoy one without the other.
9. The resplendent glory of divine truth with which you are filled is an extremely high inventory of biblical absolutes that you have converted into working objects for the execution of divine thought in your life.
10. This is the application of your “vindication by works,” the conversion of the process of “hearing the Word” into the function of “doing the Word.”

#### **F. Imperative Moods:**

1. The phrase, “Occupation with Christ,” is actually a mental attitude by which the believer is commanded to focus his attention on Jesus Christ in order to appropriate His character traits.
2. The word “occupation” has numerous definitions but the one used here needs definitions and we go to two sources:

**That which occupies or engages, the time and attention.<sup>1</sup>**

**A particular course of action in which one is engaged, especially habitually. To engage a person or the mind or attention.<sup>2</sup>**

3. The term refers to one focusing his attention on the “author and finisher of our faith” for guidance, example, protection, leadership, problem-solving, encouragement, and accompanied with mercy and grace.
4. In the combat of the Invisible War, Jesus Christ is the General of the Armies and Scripture issues guidelines on how to engage in battle with the Dark Side.
5. Hebrews 12:1–3 may be characterized as a three paragraph field orders for believers to deploy during their spiritual lives. Verse #1 gives the Reason to Advance, #2 the Attack’s Objective, and #3 Occupied with Christ.

<sup>1</sup> Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary (1953), 2d ed., s.v., “occupation.”

<sup>2</sup> The Oxford English Dictionary, (1971), s.vv., “occupation, occupy.”



**Hebrews 12:1** Therefore, since we also keep having and holding such a great cloud [ νέφος (*néphos*): **battalion** ] of witnesses supporting us [ as examples; see Hebrews 11's list of faith-rest heroes ], having removed every impediment and all ensnaring sin, let us advance on the run with endurance in the conflict set before us,

### The Reason to Advance:

1. The particle “Therefore” resumes the idea stated in Hebrews 10:39 while Chapter 11 presents illustrations that highlight the spiritual exploits of Old Testament winners.
2. This storied lineup of super-grace heroes is presented as an encouragement to each Church Age believer to stay the course God has designed for him.
3. We have the completed canon of Scripture both Old and New Testaments. Those celebrated in Hebrews 11 only had portions of the written Tanakh while Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Judah functioned on none at all, although Theophanies provided first hand revelations from the Lord.
4. The “removal of every impediment” refers to worldly distractions that hinder the consistent inculcation of the Word of God. None of these are classified as sin, but they serve the purpose by preventing one’s spiritual advance.
5. Sin is a major league distraction that also robs the believer of fellowship with and mentorship of the Holy Spirit and calls a halt to the spiritual life until rebound puts him back in the battle.
6. The final clause is an illustration from warfare, “let us advance on the run with endurance in the conflict set before us.” When the bugler sounds “charge” the army moves toward the enemy on the run using his artillery of thought to “extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one” (Ephesians 6:16).
7. The “conflict set before us” is the Angelic Conflict waged in the scrum of the Invisible War. The battle being waged can be individual or collective: (1) a believer’s own personal situations that require his soul’s divine artillery to extinguish or (2) collectively with other members of the Pivot to fight the good fight of faith against the relentless forces of the Dark Side within one’s client nation.

**Ephesians 6:13** Take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. (NASB)



## The Attack's Objective:

### Hebrews 12:2

### fixing your eyes

[ ἀφοράω (*aphoráō*): “to concentrate” ] on Jesus  
 [ occupation with Christ as commanding Officer ],  
 the Founder and Perfecter of our faith, Who, in  
 exchange for His present happiness set before Him,  
endured the cross [ spiritual death ], having  
disregarded the shame [ the imputation of mankind's  
 sins ], He has sat down [ καθίζω (*kathízō*): session ] at  
 the right hand of the throne of God.

1. “Fixing your eyes” stresses the act of looking steadfastly and intently on an object. The Object here is Jesus Christ upon Whom we are to concentrate. He is given two titles: (1) ἀρχηγός (*archēgós*): “Originator, Founder” and (2) τελειωτής (*teleiōtēs*): “Finisher” or “Perfecter.”
2. What He founded and perfected is “our faith.” An inventory of divine thought contained in the immutable Word of God that is organized into doctrines pertinent to eleven categories of systematic theology.
3. The phrase, “in exchange for His present happiness” is the translation of two words, (1) ἀντί (*antí*): “instead of” and (2) χαρά (*chará*): “joy” or better, “happiness.”
4. The Lord possessed total happiness, but that mental attitude was surrendered so that he could endure the environment of spiritual death while disregarding the shame of being imputed the sins of the world.
5. When the judgment was completed, the Lord's human spirit went to the Father, His soul to the Holy Spirit, and His body to the tomb.
6. Three days later He was resurrected (Matthew 28:6), forty days later He ascended into the third heaven (Acts 1:9), after which His session occurred at the right hand of the Father (Hebrews 12:2).
7. “Session” is a theological term that describes the Lord taking a seat at the right hand of the Father. Here is a brief definition of the word *kathízō*, translated, “sat down”:

**Session.** The Old Testament portrays God as seated on the throne of the universe, thereby signifying sovereignty (1 Kings 22:19; Psalm 2:4; 99:1). In Psalm 110:1 the Messiah is invited to occupy a position of honor at His right hand (Mark 12:36; Acts 2:34; Hebrews 1:13)

To this position God exalted Christ at his ascension (Ephesians 1:20–23, which employs *kathízō*).



Hebrews 1:3; 10:12; 12:2 describe the session as the sequel to his one complete sacrifice on earth. He sits as high priest after the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 8:1; 10:12), exercising his priesthood of sympathetic assistance to men and intercession for them (Hebrews 4:14–16; 2:17–18; 7:17–27) until all is finally subjected to him (Hebrews 10:13). His session also points toward his future judgment (2 Corinthians 5:10).<sup>3</sup>

### The Command to Be Occupied with Christ:

**Hebrews 12:3** Consider, deliberate in your mind [ Aorist<sup>4</sup> middle imperative of ἀναλογίζομαι (*analogízomai*): “to reason with careful deliberation”<sup>5</sup> ] about Him [ Jesus Christ ], having endured [ ὑπομένω (*hupoménō*): persevered ] such opposition [ ἀντιλογία (*antilogía*): reproach ] by sinners against Himself, so that you do not become wearied [ κάμνω (*kámnō*): fainthearted ], even despondent [ present passive participle of ἐκλύω (*eklúō*) ] in you souls. (EXT)

4. The verb *analogízomai* is a hapax legomenon in the Greek New Testament. It is borrowed from Classical Greek and used in the writings of Plato, Diogenes, and Philodemus. It is defined by the terms:

**Reckon up, sum up; calculate the past and the present in comparison with the future; take into account.**<sup>6</sup>

5. The imperative mood of verse 3 actually sums up the information preceding it going back to the final verse of Hebrews 10:

**Hebrews 10:39** We are not among those who retreat to their own destruction [ **sin unto death** ], but rather we are among those who have doctrine preserving our souls. (EXT)

<sup>3</sup> D. H. Wheaton, “Session,” in *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, ed. Walter A. Elwell (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984), 1007.

<sup>4</sup> “The ingressive aorist adds the concept that you begin to think because of what you have just learned. This command can be obeyed only when you have mastered the principles delineated in verses 1 and 2: consistency and persistence of positive volition toward doctrine. Once you seize and hold the high ground, your perspective changes and so does your scale of values. You gain an entirely different viewpoint of who or what is important in life. You become aware of Jesus Christ as the only Celebrity, and you begin to concentrate on Him” (R. B. Thieme, Jr., *Follow the Colors* [Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 1975], 73–74).

<sup>5</sup> Walter Bauer, “ἀναλογίζομαι,” in *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature*, 3d ed., rev. and ed. Frederick William Danker (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2000), 67.

<sup>6</sup> Henry George Liddell and Robert Scott, *A Greek-English Lexicon*, 9th ed., rev. Henry Stuart Jones (New York: Oxford University Press, 1940), 111.



1. Chapter 11 is a roster of Old Testament saints who have overcome impediments, challenges, and difficulties typical of the devil's world and with doctrine overcame them.
2. We recently noted the situation report of Abraham in Hebrews 11:17–19 where he utilized his Law of Freedom to reference the five paragraphs of the Abrahamic Covenant as the working objects of his faith resulting in his “vindication by works” on Mount Moriah.
3. It would have been better if those who separated the New Testament manuscripts into verses would have left the first three verses of chapter 12 as the coda for chapter 11.
4. The spiritual heroes highlighted in chapter 11 are referred to as, “so great a cloud of witnesses” in Hebrews 12:1. New Testament believers are to follow the examples of those Old Testament heroes.
5. These are individuals who the Holy Spirit singled out to offer us encouragement about keeping our eyes focused on the “Founder and Perfecter of our faith” noted in Hebrews 12:2.
6. You are not to conclude that these individuals are up in the sky looking down on us to be our witnesses. The word “cloud” is the noun **νέφος** (*néphos*), used figuratively for a numberless throng.
7. These heroes are said to be “surrounding us,” the present participle of **περίκειμαι** (*períkaimai*): used figuratively for the throng surrounding Church Age winners.
8. These “witnesses” are not floating around in the sky. Their reputations are clearly demonstrated in the Tanakh and their exploits are reviewed in chapter 11.
9. Therefore, Church Age believers are to be motivated to take their example to “remove every impediment and the easily ensnaring sin.”
10. When engaged in a conflict, a soldier does not need to be burdened with unnecessary encumbrances, illustrated here by the noun **ἁμαρτία** (*hamartía*): “sin.”
11. Verse 2 introduces the first mandate to be occupied with Christ. The first word in the verse is the present active participle of **ἀφοράω** (*aphoráō*): to fix or focus one's eyes.”
12. The customary present indicates this effort is expected of every believer while the active voice indicates that believers produce the action of the verb. The imperatival use of the participle is a command. This gives us the translation: “Be concentrating on” or “Be focusing your eyes on Jesus!”



13. This reminds us of the chorus of the hymn, “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” by Helen H. Lemmel:
- 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.
14. Tammy, Eric, and I often choose a special hymn for Sunday’s first sessions. I present the history and background behind the hymn and its writer and the congregation joins in the singing of it. The backstory of ,“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus,” is in volume 1 of the *Then Sings My Soul* trilogy. At the top of the page of the story accompanying the song is this notation: “... let us run with endurance the race set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith” (Hebrews 12:1c–2a).
15. Hebrews 12:2 issues the first of two commands in verses 2 and 3 that mandate the believer to become occupied with Christ. The second occurs at the very beginning of verse 3, just noted.
16. Concentration on Jesus also focuses the believer on the Lord’s sacrifice on the cross where the verse informs us that he endured or persevered against “sinners,” whose sins were imputed to Him for judgment.
17. From this concentration, the verse moves into a negative final clause which is introduced by a purpose, aim, or goal, “so that you do not become wearied in your souls, the aorist active subjunctive of **κᾰμνω (kámno)**: or even exhausted because of living in reversionism.
18. Unchecked, a wearied soul can become despondent, the causal present passive participle of **ἐκλύω (eklúō)**. This is a retroactive progressive present denoting what was begun in the past and continues into the present time.
19. The passive voice reveals that believers in Jerusalem of A.D. 67 were despondent, a status revealing they were in reversionism and are being encouraged to get back in fellowship and refocus on their occupation with Christ.

### Principles on Occupation with Christ:

1. Occupation with Christ is the tenth and ultimate problem-solving device. Acquisition of it is the highest spiritual function for the believer in time.
2. Occupation with Christ is the ultimate expression of love toward the three Persons of the Trinity:

**Deuteronomy 6:4**      “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is  
our God, the Lord is one!



**Deuteronomy 6:5** “Yon shall love the Lord your God with all your heart [ Hebrew: לֵבָב (*levav*); Greek: καρδία (*kardia*) ] and with all your soul [ Hebrew: נֶפֶשׁ (*nephesh*); Greek: ψυχή (*psuchē*) ], and with all your might. (NASB)

3. Love is not an emotion, but a system of thinking from one’s inventory of doctrine in the soul. The ability to love God is developed from one’s knowledge about Him, about Christ, and about the Holy Spirit.
4. God loves us which is the joint function of his divine attributes of righteousness, justice, and omniscience which may also be expressed as the integrity of God.
5. Our ability to develop love for God starts with our positive volition to Him and a desire to know about Him. Following our expression of personal faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, we enter into an environment that goes far beyond human comprehension.
6. The new believer must come to the realization that he is now in a completely different environment with regard to inculcation of information. Spiritual growth cannot be compared with the academic exercises one engages in the classrooms of academia.
7. This new set of subjects finds its origin in the mentality of the Trinity, a portion of which God has decreed to allow angels and humans to acquire, but for successful comprehension, they must rely on a supernatural teacher Who will instruct them from a divine inventory of ideas.
8. In the Church Age, that classroom is the local church where the instructor is referred to as a pastor-teacher in Ephesians 4:11. This is a spiritual gift and under the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit, he is able to develop and present sermons to that portion of God’s flock assemble before him.
9. The teaching of the Bible is necessary for advance in the plan of God and ultimately the ability to advance in the exercise of biblical problem-solving devices.
10. The overwhelming predominance of people in world history have been born, lived, and died without ever considering the riches of sublime thought available in the Bible and how superior that information is when compared to the resources provided by the devil’s world.
11. Nevertheless, the believer must begin the advance somewhere, and God has provided the system by which he may advance in the acquisition of divine thought.



12. It was noted above that the Bible is a system of thinking that far exceeds the efforts of human comprehension. That deficiency is overcome at the moment of salvation by means of the indwelling and teaching ministries of the Holy Spirit.

**John 14:26** “The Helper, the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

13. By submitting to the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit and communication by means of the pastor-teacher, the believer grows in grace:

**2 Peter 3:18a** but grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

14. When the believer submits unwaveringly to this system of instruction, he will acquire an inventory of absolute, unassailable, and irrefutable truth within his soul:

**1 Corinthians 2:10** For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

**v. 11** For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

**v. 12** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

**v. 13** which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thought with spiritual words.  
(NASB)

15. When the believer advances to the level of spiritual comprehension, he has available for application the superior knowledge of God. With it, he is able to advance to the level of unalloyed happiness because his orientation to the reality of the Word is superior to the assumptions others acquire from the devil's world.
16. It is from this advanced super knowledge that a believer is able to become occupied with Christ. This problem-solving device signifies the ultimate position in the believer's spiritual advance in the plan of God.





17. Occupation with Christ is the summum bonum of spiritual independence. Where the challenges common to the fallen environment of the devil's world continue apace and unrestrained, the believer, whose dependence on Christ is absolute, remains above the fray.
18. Regardless of the time in human history a person occupies this earth there will be a preponderance of those who function on human viewpoint, human good, and evil. No matter where you reside, these people dominate the environment.
19. Decisions made without divine guidance can only have limited positive impact and that only when they are in accordance with establishment viewpoint as defined in the Word of God.
20. The United States of America is a client nation, whose foundational principles, enshrined in its Declaration and Constitution, are extracted from Scripture.
21. The nation that subscribes to these biblical guidelines is protected by God as long as those principles are subscribed to and applied by the resident Pivot of that national entity.
22. Presently, there are nations scattered all over this planet whose foundational principles do not line up with biblical guidance. As a result, their citizens' environment of freedom is limited accordingly.
23. During the 242 years since the Declaration, this nation has had its ups and downs, but always sustained by a resident Pivot that adheres to the directives of biblical guidance while significant others subscribe to establishment viewpoint.
24. The drift away from establishment norms betrays a cosmic creep toward hedonism, the system that historically fills the void. The system that seeks to restore order is usually some form of totalitarianism.
25. The Bible has been the resource that has supplied a steady flow of client nations whose rise and fall have precipitated an unabated journey westward, now functional in the USA.
26. In the midst of the usual tug-of-war that typifies the Angelic Conflict, there are those who have prepared their souls to rise above the fray while at the same time are having positive historical impact.
27. These types are members of the Pivot, aware of the Zeitgeist's challenges, but not dismayed by them, they keep on plugging away, taking in doctrine every day, with the stability of soul provided by their occupation with Christ.



28. Recognition of the Law of Freedom, the advanced believer recognizes the downtrends of the culture, but stands fast in support of the divine viewpoint and the principles of biblical truth.
29. Loyal to the truth, they recognize the possibility that at some point the mental contest, now having advanced to vitriol, may well elevate into civil disobedience because of which they may become casualties.
30. The power of divine thought in the souls of the Pivot is the result of the spiritual advance to occupation with Christ. The advanced believer does not take this personally, but understands it is part of the Invisible War.
31. The Dark Side's strategy and tactics systematically indoctrinates those it recruits with prolonged bombardments of propaganda. Those sufficiently indoctrinated are deployed to foment civil disobedience and violence against those with whom they disagree.
32. These are the opening ploys of satanic strategy: through civil disobedience, force establishment to make the effort to restore order. If the Dark Side has done its job, then the following legal maneuvers will be structured to rouse the rabble into fomenting rebellion.
33. How that prospect plays out will determine whether client nation USA survives or goes the way of Rome and Great Britain. However, during the contest, the Pivot remains strong and the outcome will be determined by the presence of or the lack of Pivot power.
34. From these examples, some of which are borrowed from current and recent events, we arrive at the conclusion that you cannot change the way other people think. Therefore, the option that is available is to decide to change the way you think.
35. Start out by buying into the fact that those without Christ and Christians without doctrine are on a road to destruction. The only person that can change that destiny is the believer who resolves to change himself.
36. The only source of information to successfully accomplish that objective is truth, and the only resource for unalterable truth is the Word of God which in and of itself is impotent if not inculcated into the soul of a believer.
37. In addition, only those believers who have advanced to the level of occupation with Christ have truly changed themselves and in doing so have maximum historical impact on their lives and the society in which they live.
38. Principle: Scripture does not obligate the believer to change others, but to change himself. The ultimate fulfillment of that obligation is attaining occupation with Christ.

**(End JAS2-50. See JAS2-51 for continuation of study at p. 501.)**

