



FROM: THE DESK OF PASTOR CARUANA
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IT'S TIME TO CHANGE OUR FOCUS

During this worldwide pandemic, everyone has been talking about avoiding the virus at all costs. Businesses, sports arenas, schools, theaters, and even churches have been shut down, but they are now beginning to come back to life as we continue to sanitize our hands throughout the day and wear masks in public.

The virus has cost millions of jobs and tens of thousands of deaths. It is truly a life-changing event. I was praying about the emotional and financial toll it has had on our society, and I came to an interesting observation: we were focusing on avoiding and surviving instead of adding and growing.

The Apostle Paul once said, *"All the things I once thought were so important are gone from my life. Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as my Master, firsthand, everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant — dog dung. I've dumped it all in the trash so that I could embrace Christ and be embraced by him."* (A paraphrase of Philippians 3:8 by Eugene Peterson in *The Message*).

Can you imagine being like Paul? He lost everything for Christ, but he was **focused on GAIN**. He was beaten, shipwrecked, falsely accused, and rejected by his people and yet considered it all as dung compared to knowing Christ. Wow!

No matter what you are going through, no matter what you have lost, start looking for the increase. If you focus on avoiding, you'll subtract; but if you're looking to increase, you'll add. Here are a few helpful tips to shift your perspective:

1. Position yourself for a huge comeback. Look for opportunities to build your business or to improve the situation at work or home.
2. Look for people who need help. Look to win souls for Christ.
3. Look to improve your personal health through exercise and a healthy diet.
4. Look to the Word of God to find wisdom.
5. Look to the Holy Spirit for guidance.

It's time to change our focus. I started to do these steps this past week. What will you do to experience different results?

Will you declare this with me? *"Lord, I'm going to focus on increasing health, wealth and happiness. I'm going to love others and spread joy and the good news of Jesus!"*

Remember: Destinations are more dependent on focus than on wishes and desire.

You and I will make it!

You and I are miracles in the making! Thanks be to God.