

broken focus.

"Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids look right before you. Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil."

Proverbs 4:25-27

I've just finished teaching 16 lessons on the Old Testament men of faith using Hebrews 11 as the text.

One character not mentioned as a hero is Isaac's elder son Esau. Often people give his brother Jacob a hard time but I think that's not entirely fair. Esau had many more character flaws than Jacob. One thing he suffered from was broken focus.

Because of his carnality and the smell and sight of savory stew, Esau's focus was broken, ripping away his inheritance and his birthright. One of the greatest enemies we could come across in life is broken focus.

The Bible tells us, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." However people of great character refuse to break focus because they realize that doing so would result in their downfall.

How many times have we decided to commit to something, prayer, devotion, reading or church, then, without realizing it our vision is broken by distractions?

Perhaps an untidy area catches your attention, a child is calling and you see to them; and then a phone call eats away your time. All the while, in your mind, you are telling God, "I'll be back in a minute." One thing leads to another, and before you know it the day is half gone. This situation is not uncommon.

Days lead to weeks, weeks lead to months, until one day we look back at our lives and ask, "How did I get here?"

We must continue to remain focused on what God has called us to do and look straight ahead and not allow ourselves to be distracted. Esau was greatly distracted and he lost everything! Our ability to maintain focus will cause us to rise above any circumstances that we face and propel us into the future God has for us.

In case you still feel sorry for Esau, he *is* mentioned in Hebrews 12:16 but it's not very nice – God felt strongly about Esau's broken focus.

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