

Musing on Perspective — Week 3

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Last year I was privileged to go on my third short-term missions trip to the country of Panama. One morning during my devotions, I read Psalm 61:2. The last part of that verse says, "Lead me to the rock that is higher than I." Why would the psalmist make that request? As I meditated on it, I understood that standing on level ground affords us a limited view. But when we climb up higher, we can see much farther; i.e., we get a new perspective. I asked the Lord to open my eyes to new perspectives that day and boy, did He!

I began to see homes that North Americans would consider way too small and inadequate. Yet the people who own these houses feel so fortunate and blessed. I saw churches constructed of cement blocks, with no air-conditioning (in 85-100 degree heat) and no restroom facilities. Yet, week after week these churches are packed with believers whose greatest desire is to honor God in worship, no matter the external conditions. I saw a young, educated couple, who could have done many things in life, but chose to follow God's call and are overseeing an orphanage on a shoestring budget.

My "new perspective" humbly reminded me to be grateful and never take for granted what God has entrusted me with. Why don't we climb up on the rock and take a new look at our marriages? Are you grateful for your spouse, or do you consistently dwell on their flaws and perceived short-comings? Do you look at them through eyes of love and grace or through lens of judgment and criticism? Are the two of you allies or opponents? Do you take each other for granted?

Think about this: God did not have to give you a spouse. You could be like the millions of single adults who long for a marriage partner to love and cherish. A new perspective can help us to remember that "iron sharpens iron" and those difficult and trying situations may be God's way of revealing attitudes in our lives that need to be corrected and changed.

I pray that our Father God will give us all a new perspective and that our homes, no matter what their size, will be filled with love and gratefulness.