Living In The Present While Looking To The Future

According to Copilot Search, "To live in the present means to be fully engaged with the current moment, free from distractions of the past of worries about the future. It involves being attentive to your surroundings and experiencing life as it unfolds." Basic human nature is to do just that, live in the present. Although there is nothing wrong in enjoying the earthly blessings God had provided us, but as grand as some things may be in life, imagine how much greater our joy will be when we hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant.. enter into the your of your lord" (Matthew 25:23).

Paul's words to the Corinthians complement those of Jesus. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58). As Paul instructs the Corinthians, he reminds us that living in the present is not always pleasant (no rhyme intended). Some days we do not enjoy living in the present and are grateful when the present is the past. Looking to get out of living in the present and moving to the future is also part of human nature. Such is life. However, faithful Christians have no need to worry about the future; rather we look forward to the future and should have our sights set toward it. Training our thoughts toward the future is necessary for remaining steadfast and immovable.

The story of Jacob and Esau help us understand the importance of looking toward our eternal future (Genesis 25:27-34). Esau appears to be concerned only with living in the present. Esau is so focused on the present and satisfying his hunger, that he sells his birthright to Jacob. Jacob, who was living in the present but looking toward the blessings of the future, buys Esau's birthright for a bowl of

stew. Living in the present certainly has its place in physical life, but the blessings of our eternal future are much more important.

The Hebrew writer states, "For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come" (Hebrews 13:14). The writer furthers by explaining just how we get to that future city. "Therefore let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased" (Hebrews 13:15-16). Let us each purpose to live in the present accordingly (Matthew 6:33), while looking to the future and finishing the race successfully to obtain a "crown of righteousness" (2 Timothy 4:6-8).