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Seeing

**"And looking upon Jesus as He walked, He saith, Behold the Lamb of God!  
And the two disciples heard Him speak, and they followed Jesus."  
(John 1:36, 37)**

An earnest young Christian who had a deep longing to follow and grow in Christ went to visit an elderly Christian known by all in the community for his godly life and fervent lifelong love for his Saviour. The elderly saint was sitting with his dog on his porch enjoying a beautiful sunset. After greeting him, the young man asked his question, "Why is it that so many Christians are so zealous for the Lord right after they are saved but eventually seem to give up and slip back into living like the world - acting just like they did before they were saved? You have been a Christian for many years and you always seem so happy in the Lord. What makes you different?"

There was silence as the old saint thought. Then smiling, he spoke. "Young man, let me tell you a story. One day I was sitting here with my dog when a large rabbit ran across the yard right in front of us. My dog jumped up and took off after that rabbit, excitedly chasing after him all over those hills. His barking caused several other neighbourhood dogs to join him in the chase. It wasn't long, however, before those dogs seemed to lose interest in the chase. One by one they all left and before long only my dog was still eagerly chasing the rabbit.

"That story is the answer to your question."

The young Christian sat silent, confused. Then bursting out, he said, "I don't understand. How does dogs chasing a rabbit answer my question about faithfully following Christ?" In a gentle voice the old saint replied, "Perhaps you have trouble understanding what I meant because you didn't ask the right question." "Well, what is the right question?", he frowned. Smiling, the old man continued, "You should have asked, why didn't the other dogs continue chasing after the rabbit?"

The young man silently considered the question. Unable to think of an answer he looked questioningly into the old brother's face.

**"They never saw the rabbit",**  
was the gentle answer.

. . . *Rowan Jennings*