

The Process of Spiritual Sight



'The eyes of your spirit allow revelation-light to enter into your being. When your heart is open the light floods in. When your heart is hard and closed, the light cannot penetrate, and darkness takes its place.' Luke 11:34

The power of spiritual sight cannot be over-emphasized. When we don't have spiritual sight or have poor sight, we run the risk of running into error and taking steps that could damage our destiny. This series we will be looking at the process of spiritual sight so the Holy Spirit can guide us in having the right understanding about who God is, who we are in God and the right steps to take.

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Day 1

Total Blindness

'But even if our gospel is [in some sense] hidden [behind a veil], it is hidden [only] to those who are perishing; among them the god of this world [Satan] has blinded the minds of the unbelieving to prevent them from seeing the illuminating light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.' 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 AMP

There are primarily two types of blindness, one is total blindness and the second is partial blindness. Total blindness is when a person is totally incapacitated from seeing God's light. Imagine two people in a building with a thick concrete wall between them. Person A on one side is shining a very bright light which makes everything on his side crystal clear. Person B on the other side is in total darkness because the room he's in doesn't have any form of light or windows and he is totally walled in by deep concrete. Even though the light on person A's side is shining, person B just can't see the light at all because of the concrete wall.

When a person is totally spiritually blind they have absolutely no relationship with or interest in Jesus and any discussion about Him is foolishness as far as they're concerned. But it's not really their fault. Since the fall of man in Genesis 3 we all took on the sinful nature and spiritual blindness is part of that nature.

'Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.' Psalms 51:5

'But your iniquities have separated you from your God.' Isaiah 59:2a

God is the source of light (John 1:15) and because our sinful nature separates us from His light, we are all born into and function in darkness. This is why when you're trying to share the gospel with someone, the first thing you should do before speaking to the person is to pray that the veil of blindness over their spiritual eyes be lifted so God's light can start penetrating.

'the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow, a light has shined.'" Matthew 4:16

When person B accepts the gift of salvation, it's as though there's a crack in the concrete wall, so some light is now seeping through and person B is now no longer in total darkness. However the light isn't sufficient to function with fully. The concrete wall of darkness doesn't all come down at one go, so constant prayer for them is required

Prayer: Father I bring before you those in my life and spheres of influence and ask that you remove the veil of darkness over their hearts and minds so your glorious light can start shining through.



Day 2

Partial Blindness

'When they arrived at Bethsaida, some people brought a blind man to Jesus, and they begged him to touch the man and heal him. Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village. Then, spitting on the man's eyes, he laid his hands on him and asked, "Can you see anything now?" The man looked around. "Yes," he said, "I see people, but I can't see them very clearly. They look like trees walking around." Then Jesus placed his hands on the man's eyes again, and his eyes were opened. His sight was completely restored, and he could see everything clearly. Jesus sent him away, saying, "Don't go back into the village on your way home.'" Mark 8:22-26

Today we're looking at partial blindness and the scripture above is our anchor text for this study. These verses represent the only record in the Bible I'm aware of that Jesus had to lay hands on someone twice for healing and it's interesting that it had to do with blindness. I believe this scripture teaches us a principle about regaining our full spiritual sight – it's progressive.

Remember the illustration we looked at yesterday of someone accepting the gift of salvation being representative of a ray of light to someone in a dark concrete walled room? That person can no longer be said to be walking in total blindness, but there isn't full clarity just yet either. Unfortunately, many of us stop at the point of salvation without understanding that it's just the beginning of the journey and not the final destination.

'So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing.' 1 Corinthians 9:26

When we realize we are embarking on a long journey, it's easier for us to prepare and pace ourselves, especially if we understand that there will be many challenges on our way. When can't see those obstacles clearly, we will focus on the wrong areas and engage in what Paul calls 'shadow boxing': hitting the air and wearing ourselves out without actually making any impact. The last thing we want is to get to the finish line and find out that we ran into too many obstacles that could've been avoided, or that we even finished the wrong race.

Prayer: Even if we have read Mark 8:22-26 several times before, ask the Lord to grant you fresh revelation of this word and use it as a spiritual deposit to teach you about spiritual blindness.



Day 3

Separation

'When they arrived at Bethsaida, some people brought a blind man to Jesus, and they begged him to touch the man and heal him. Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village. Mark 8:21-22a

The Bible tells us that the blind man was led by some people to Jesus, which represents people interceding for and evangelizing to someone and leading that person to Christ. Remember we said at the beginning that total blindness is our default mode? So someone has to pray for the veil of blindness to be lifted and someone also has to introduce that person to the gift of salvation. We are not the ones that save people, we're just the tools Jesus uses to introduce Himself so His gift of salvation can be accepted. But it doesn't stop there.

Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village.

Why didn't Jesus just heal him there and then with the crowd? When you come to Jesus for spiritual sight it's a personal journey. Once you accept His gift, Jesus takes you by the hand and leads you on the path you need to take. The blind man wouldn't have known where he was going but he trusted Jesus not to lead him astray. He surrendered to Jesus.

'The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.'" Psalms 32:8

'And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him.' Colossians 2:6

The challenge a number of believers face is that we accept Jesus as saviour, but not necessarily as Lord over our lives. If Jesus is Lord over our life, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we will allow Him to transform our character and this transformation often begins with periods of separation. We need to give the Holy Spirit time to work in us. Time in prayer, in Bible study and in being still before Him. It's during these times that the ray of light in our dark room starts getting stronger and brighter. Otherwise we will have received the gift, but still be ignorant of many of our rights as children of the kingdom.

'I say, 'You are gods; you are all children of the Most High.'" Psalms 82:6

Prayer: Lord Jesus I accept you as my saviour, and I yield to you as Lord over my life.



Day 4

Blurry Vision

'Taking the blind man by the hand, He led him out of the village; and after spitting on his eyes and laying His hands on him, He asked him, "Do you see anything?" And he looked up and said, "I see people, but [they look] like trees, walking around." Mark 8:23-24

As we start seeing things in the spirit our vision may not be crystal clear from day one. Like the man who just received his sight, we may see things but our interpretation of what we're seeing may be inaccurate. This is because there's a process of maturing that's required.

'Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.' 1 Corinthians 13:12

'[I always pray] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may grant you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation [that gives you a deep and personal and intimate insight] into the true knowledge of Him [for we know the Father through the Son]. And [I pray] that the eyes of your heart [the very center and core of your being] may be enlightened [flooded with light by the Holy Spirit], so that you will know and cherish the hope [the divine guarantee, the confident expectation] to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints (God's people)' Ephesians 1:17-18

How do we know completely? As we allow the Holy Spirit to guide, teach, mould and refine us our spiritual eyesight begins to sharpen as more light floods through. We begin to see and understand and discern and make the right decisions and walk in a manner that pleases God. This isn't something we can achieve in our own strength. The Holy Spirit must be in charge of the process. It's like going to the opticians for an eye test, the optician keeps adjusting the lens until you can see and read the letters correctly.

'Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.' Luke 24:45

It's one thing to see, it's another to understand. When we see and understand we begin to make accurate interpretations. Otherwise, we may misunderstand what we're seeing and what God is doing in us. If we lack understanding, we will not cooperate fully with the Holy Spirit's moulding process.

Prayer: Precious Holy Spirit, flood my heart with your light and open my understanding so I can see and interpret accurately.

Day 5

Total Restoration of Sight

Then Jesus placed his hands on the man's eyes again, and his eyes were opened. His sight was completely restored, and he could see everything clearly. Mark 8:25

Jesus laid his hands on the man again and his eyes were opened. This tells us that there's a difference between seeing and our eyes being opened. When we see in the natural, our physical eyes can visualize what's in front of us, but our spiritual eyes aren't necessarily opened. When we see in the spirit, then our understanding is opened. Not only do we see the truth in scripture, but we see the truth concerning Jesus and by extension our identity.

'So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.' Colossians 1:9-10

It's one thing to see or read something, and another to understand it. When we have understanding, we're able to comprehend what we are looking at and know how to effectively apply it in order to get the results we're looking for. If we want to have a close walk with God, we need to first have an understanding of who God is and what He wants from us so we can place the right priority on the things that matter to Him.

'The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.'" Psalms 32:8

'Turn my eyes away from vanity [all those worldly, meaningless things that distract—let Your priorities be mine] and restore me [with renewed energy] in Your ways.' Psalms 119:37

When the Lord opens our eyes, He begins to show us what is really important to our destinies and that of those connected to us and what to focus on. He helps us set the right priorities and also helps us stick to them.

Prayer: Lord open my understanding – keep me from the things that are just distractions and help me focus on what really matters.

Day 6 Don't Go Back

Jesus sent him away, saying, "Don't go back into the village on your way home. Mark 8:26

Let's explore the final instruction Jesus gave the man: "Don't go back to the village..." Don't go back to your old crew, don't go back to your old habits, don't go back to your old ways otherwise you will blur your vision again. The same way the nutritionists suggest certain foods and exercise are good for natural eyesight, certain foods and activities can also sharpen our spiritual sight. Likewise, we can also blur our vision again if we don't maintain the right spiritual 'diet' and activities.

But Jesus replied, "It is written and forever remains written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.' Matthew 4:4 AMP

'Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.' 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

To keep our eyesight sharp requires daily commitment to spending time in the word of God as that is what gives our spirit sustenance. We must also be intentional and deliberate about what and who we allow to occupy our personal space. Paul understood this principle and was diligent in what he allowed in his personal space. Why is the company we keep important? Who spend time with influences our thought and decision making process. Constantly being with people who don't understand the journey you're on or value the choices you're making and may end up discouraging you. So, our prayer for today is to have the right people around us who will encourage us as we run this race.

Prayer: Father put me in the company of people who love you and who spending time with will help sharpen my spiritual sight.

Day 7

The Goal of Clear vision

'By living in God, love has been brought to its full expression in us so that we may fearlessly face the day of judgment, because all that Jesus now is, so are we in this world.' 1 John 4:17

There are many benefits of having clear spiritual vision so let's look at just a few below.

It helps us sharpen our discernment which reduces the avenues for us to fall into error and make wrong choices: Discretion will watch over you, understanding and discernment will guard you Proverbs 2:11

It helps us prioritize with eternity in mind: May all those who seek You [as life's first priority] rejoice and be glad in You; May those who love Your salvation say continually, "Let God be magnified!" Psalm 70:4

It helps us live a well-balanced life as we understand we're here for a very short time: "Lord, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered—how fleeting my life is.' Psalms 39:4

But most importantly we are better able to see who Jesus is and who we are in Him: 'For he knew all about us before we were born and he destined us from the beginning to share the likeness of his Son. This means the Son is the oldest among a vast family of brothers and sisters who will become just like him.' Romans 8:29

Jesus is our template for living and the clearer we see Him, the more closely we can trust and walk with Him. That is the ultimate goal for clarity in our vision – for us to be like Jesus here on earth and represent Him effectively.

Prayer: Lord Jesus open my eyes to see you, that I may receive a revelation of a deep, personal and intimate insight into the true knowledge of You.



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