

A STUDY ON THE POWER OF
SPIRITUAL SIGHT

OPEN MY EYES



“Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand... But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear” Matthew 13:13, 16

People are dual in nature: there is our natural self which is our body, then there is our spirit which is our true self. While both are simultaneously in existence during the period we're alive on earth, they may be having two very different experiences. This is why when Jesus was talking about people not seeing in the verse above, He wasn't speaking of natural but spiritual blindness. Which means we can have 20-20 perfect vision with our natural eyes but be partially or totally blind in the spirit.

The spirit realm is the driver of whatever we see manifesting in the natural, so if our vision is poor spiritually we will be significantly short changed in life. This series we are looking at what it means for our spiritual eyes to be open so we can live effectively and victoriously as Jesus intended.

Our prayer is that as we commit to drawing near to the Lord the Holy Spirit will open our eyes so we see clearly where it matters.



Day 1 Salvation

“If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.”
2 Corinthians 4:3-4

The key thing that separates a believer in Christ from a non-believer is blindness. The Bible tells us that the god of this world has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. It’s because of this blindness that the things of God seem like foolishness to those who do not believe.

“These people... follow their natural instincts because they do not have God’s Spirit in them.”
Jude 1:19

“For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:12

Before sharing the gospel with an unsaved person, the first thing a believer must do is pray that the hold of the enemy is broken over that person/those people so the blindness will be lifted and the light of the gospel will shine through. If all we do is speak/preach without praying then we may not see results because when it comes to souls, we are contending with spiritual forces not just the people we see. This is why Jesus needs labourers (you included) to pray for and reach the person(s).

“I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow.”
1 Corinthians 3:6 NLT

It’s important to note that not everyone that is preached to truly gives their life to Christ immediately, but a seed has been planted which must continually be watered by prayer. So you may be the one to plant the seed and pray for the person, but the person may accept Jesus as saviour at an encounter with someone else. This is why we don’t stop praying for people to be saved as God will partner with us to network into their lives people who will keep bringing His word to them.

Prayer: Lord I pray for (mention them by name) that the blindness over their minds be broken so Your light can shine in them and they can see the need for Jesus and be translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light.

Day 2 God's Purpose

'For this reason, since the day we heard about it, we have not stopped praying for you, asking [specifically] that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom [with insight into His purposes], and in understanding [of spiritual things]' Colossians 1:9 AMP

Paul's prayer point above shows two things: first is that God is willing to share His purposes with us, second is that it is possible through prayer for our eyes to be opened to gain insight into God's purposes for our lives, environment, times we are in, etc. As such we don't have to function in the dark or operate by trial and error, rather we can be laser sharp and aligned to God's agenda per time, which would be the ideal way to live.

'From the tribe of Issachar... All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take.' 1 Chronicles 12:32 NLT

Life is made up of seasons and there is an allotted time and purpose for every season. If we misunderstand what a season represents because we can't see what God is doing at the time, we won't respond appropriately, and it may cost us. The Bible tells us about the sons of Issachar who always understood the times and knew what to do per time. This means that it is possible for us to consistently know what is to come, what is going on and how to position ourselves accurately in the center of God's will for our lives and everything concerning us.

'Then I said, "Look, I have come. As is written about me in the Scriptures' Psalms 40:7 NLT

When our eyes are opened to see what God is doing per time, we will find that we do not respond to situations the way others might because we can see God's desired purpose for that situation. For instance, though Jesus lived a relatively short time biologically, He completed God's purpose for His life. Similarly, when our eyes are open, we won't react to what we see, but instead we will respond to what God has said about what we're seeing.

Prayer: Lord open my eyes to see what You are doing per time, in/with/around me so I can align. Help me to see the way You see so I can respond to each season accurately.

Day 3 Understanding

“that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,” Ephesians 1:17-18

In Paul’s prayer above he noted that one of the areas we need to have the ability to see in the spirit is in our understanding because if our understanding is closed, there are things about God we will never be able to grasp. And if we can’t grasp who God is, we won’t be able to relate with Him well or live in a way that pleases Him. If our understanding isn’t opened, it’s also possible to spend time in spiritual activities and still not get the right insight.

“Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My Lord, what shall be the end of these things?”” Daniel 12:8

“And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.” Luke 24:45

Daniel had an encounter where he was shown and told things about the end times. But even though Daniel heard what was said, he didn’t understand what he was told. Similarly when Jesus was teaching the disciples, He had to open the eyes of their understanding so they could comprehend what was written. This tells us that just because we have heard or read something doesn’t mean we actually understand what we have heard or read. And if our understanding is wrong, then our interpretation and response will also be wrong.

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32

Is it possible that there are things we are struggling with simply because we lack the full understanding of that area? When we can see accurately we will have a grasp of who God is, who we are in Him, what is going on around us and what to do about it.

Prayer: Lord open the eyes of my understanding of who You are and the truth of Your word. Open my eyes to see who I am in You

Day 4

Discerning of Spirits

'But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all... to another discerning of spirits...' I Corinthians 12:7,10

Being able to see in the spirit is one of the tools the Lord makes available to believers as a protection mechanism as one of the critical things it does for us is that we are able to discern the spirit at work behind a circumstance or people's actions.

'One day as we were going down to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit that enabled her to tell the future. She earned a lot of money for her masters by telling fortunes... This went on day after day until Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the demon within her, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And instantly it left her.' Acts 16:16,18

While in Philippi, there was a slave girl who followed Paul and Silas shouting daily about them being men of God. Yes, she proclaimed the facts however, Paul saw in the spirit that what was enabling her was an evil spirit so he cast the demon out. Had Paul's eyes not been opened, he may have been deceived into validating the girl which would have later caused damage to his ministry.

'Repent of your wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive your evil thoughts, for I can see that you are full of bitter jealousy and are held captive by sin' Acts 8:22-23

When Phillip was in Samaria, one of the people who followed him everywhere was a man called Simon who used to be a well-known sorcerer. When Peter and John arrived to baptize Phillip's converts, Peter's eyes were opened to see what was really in operation in Simon's heart. These two incidents tell us that not everything that seems to look good, or everyone that seems to say or do the right things is from God.

How could Paul and Peter have known that all was not well in these scenarios if their spiritual eyes weren't open? Imagine how many problems would be solved and issues avoided if we could see what was really going on. This can be our daily experience through the Holy Spirit as He opens our eyes to discern what is really going on and who people really are.

Prayer: Lord open my eyes to see what is really going on in the realm of the spirit.

Day 5 Breakthrough

“But forget all that— it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?...” Isaiah 43:18-19

There are times God has answered a prayer but we don't recognise it because there was a particular type of response we wanted from Him. But God doesn't think the way we do because He starts from the end and works back to the beginning. So while we may be looking for a specific outcome to happen instantaneously, God may create the circumstances that will lead to us being transformed into the person that can handle the breakthrough we are praying for. But if we don't see what He's doing, we will miss it.

“When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them along the main road that runs through Philistine territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land. God said, “If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.” So God led them in a roundabout way through the wilderness toward the Red Sea...” Exodus 13:17-18

When God does a new thing He often starts within us before working around us. When the Israelites left Egypt for Canaan, He knew they couldn't go straight from being slaves to battle ready warriors so He took them along a longer route. There may be times when the breakthrough we are looking for comes with battles we aren't ready for yet. To help us God may take us along what seems to be a longer route so He can ensure we're well prepared to harness the full benefits. But if we don't have this perspective, we may just think He's delaying unduly.

“Pain has come to the people like the pain of childbirth, but they are like a child who resists being born. The moment of birth has arrived, but they stay in the womb!” Hosea 13:13

If we don't see what God is doing, we may unknowingly resist our own progress. The process may not be attractive or feel good, but if God is in charge guiding us through, the version of us that He brings out at the end of the process is actually a breakthrough in itself.

Prayer: Open my eyes to discern the new thing You are doing in and around me.

Day 6 Identity

“Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us...” Genesis 1:26

“...God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God...” Genesis 3:45

When the serpent engaged Eve in the garden of Eden, he enticed her with a promise of becoming like God, but what Eve didn't realise at the time was that right from their creation she and Adam were already made like God. So the serpent was trying to make her believe she could become something she already was. Satan's tactic hasn't changed and he still tries to deceive us by misrepresenting who we really are. Unfortunately, when we can't see who we are, we live below our spiritual authority and capacity.

“The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you...” Romans 8:11

“For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him.” Romans 6:7-8

“Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church.” Ephesians 1:21-22

The scriptures above are just a few that point us to the truth that as believers:

- The Holy Spirit lives in us
- Our spiritual position is in Christ and Christ is above ALL
- This means we have authority over the devil and all his kingdom

When our eyes are opened to this reality, we realize that not only has sin lost its power over us, so we're no longer slaves to our past. We will also see that we have unlimited access to Everything Jesus paid for when He died and rose again. Walking with this revelation will completely transform the way we handle matters of life. It doesn't mean we won't face challenges, but we live with the understanding that we are in charge, and we already have the victory so the enemy can't win in our lives.

Prayer: Lord open my eyes to see who I am and all I have access to in You

Day 7 Deception

'Jesus told them, "Don't let anyone mislead you' Matthew 24:4

Deception involves a process of misrepresenting the truth which is what makes it dangerous because it's not clearly an outright lie. Consequently, when deception is in operation we can be misled to the extent that we may not even know we have missed the mark.

'I am writing these things to warn you about those who want to lead you astray.' 1 John 2:26

Deception is intentional, subtle, rarely be seen by the naked eye and many times the presence of deception will initially be felt or sensed – something just doesn't seem right. That's why it's critical that to have a prayer time and spend time in God's Word which heighten our spiritual sensitivity. It's this spiritual sensitivity that gives us a "no" in our spirit when everyone else and even our physical eyes seem to be saying "yes".

'Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.' 2 Timothy 2:15

'Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.' 1 John 4:1

As powerful as it may be, succumbing to deception isn't inevitable and the Bible gives us critical pointers to guide us in identifying deception. First is to be a lifelong student of God's Word. The Bible isn't mere text, but spirit and life. The more we engage it and meditate on God's word, the more our spirit is equipped to separate falsehood from truth. Second is to test every spirit against the backdrop of God's word.

These principles aren't limited to just church alone but should be applied in every facet of life. There are many who seek to take advantage of others so we need to ensure our spiritual eyes are open so we make the right assessments of things around us.

Prayer: Lord open my eyes so I do not become a victim of any form of deception

Day 8

Prophetic Sight

“In those days if people wanted a message from God, they would say, “Let’s go and ask the seer,” for prophets used to be called seers” 1 Samuel 9:9

In Biblical times prophets were also called seers due to their ability foretell and forthtell. Foretelling speaks to the prophet’s supernatural ability to see what was going to happen in the future and forth telling speaks to their ability to say what was on the mind of God. Both foretelling and forthtelling are enabled by an ability to see into the realm of the spirit.

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.” John 16:13-14

“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.” 1 John 2:20

We may not all function in the office of a prophet, but every believer who has the Holy Spirit has the supernatural ability to engage Him to know what is to come in our lives and what God is saying to us at a point in time, because God is always speaking to His children. This means that anyone giving us a prophecy concerning our lives should be confirming what we already sense God is saying. The fact that this ability is resident in a believer doesn’t mean it’s automatically functioning as it must be activated in the place of prayer. If that is the case then what and how should we be praying?

“But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit,” Jude 1:20

When we pray in the Holy Spirit, our inner man is strengthened, discernment built up and spiritual sight is sharpened because the Holy Spirit is guiding us Himself. The more we pray the clearer we see and the more accurately we function. Adding to this a life of consecration (following whatever instructions the Holy Spirit gives us per time), makes us overcomers who are truly led by the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Lord help me to be consistent in the place of prayer so my sight is constantly sharpened

Day 9

Eternity

'So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.' 2 Corinthians 4:18

An eternal truth is that life is spiritual and whatever we can see with our physical eyes is temporary, while the spiritual is permanent. Since our daily experience is on earth, and it is physically impossible to see into eternity, our spiritual eyes have to be opened in order to appreciate his truth.

The hurry, pressures and pleasures of life can be so overwhelming that we easily forget that regardless of how long we may live on earth, we will be in eternity for much longer. We may also lose sight of the fact that what we do with our lives determines where we will spend eternity. Knowing this, the enemy intentionally does his best to keep us either blind or distracted so we don't keep this perspective. Consequently, we must also be just as intentional to keep our sight fixed on what really matters.

'Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand.' Colossians 3:1

'And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment' Hebrews 9:27

There's an appointment we must all keep which transits us from time to eternity. Because this transition is inevitable, there is security in keeping the reality of heaven in our hearts even as we function here on earth. Because God has placed eternity in our hearts (Ecc 3:11) material things alone don't seem to satisfy us. But God doesn't leave us in a state of dissatisfaction, He gives us the opportunity to partner with Him in ensuring His plans for our lives are fulfilled and beyond that we can also participate in making the realities of heaven tangible to others. The things of heaven can only be real to us by the help of the Holy Spirit who opens our eyes and adjusts our perspectives. The clearer we see, the more intentional we will be in how we live on a daily basis so our sight doesn't get blurred by daily living.

Prayer: Lord open my eyes to the superior realities of heaven and what it means for me.

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