The Blessing of Sight

(Selected Scriptures)
9/11/05

Introduction:

To Appreciate sight, you have to remember what it was like to be blind



The Man Born Blind - John 9:1-11

- **Believe it or not, many people really do not want to see!**
  John 1:5; John 3:19; Acts 28:27; John 12:40; Romans 11:8; Romans 11:10

- **Seeing is <u>not</u> always necessarily a Blessing**
  Matthew 5: 29-30; Matthew 6:22

**** If being able to see physically is a blessing, to be able to see spiritually is infinitely so***

What are the blessings of Spiritual Sight?

When you have spiritual sight...

I. **Your eyes are opened to the truth of <u>Jesus Christ and His Salvation Plan</u>** (You are illuminated to Who He is and What He has done) *(Acts 26:18;* 2 Cor. 4:6*)*

II. **You no longer live a life in the realm of <u>Darkness</u>** *(Col. 1:13)*

III. **You are illuminated to the truth of God's <u>Word and Will</u>** (*1 John 2:27)*

IV. **Your eyes are opened to the truth of your <u>Grand and Glorious Future</u>** (Eph.1:18)

Conclusion: *Psalm 36:9*
*For with thee is the fountain of life: **<u>in thy light shall we see light</u>**.*

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Personal Testimony:

- My need for Glasses since the age of 8
- My eyes became increasingly worse
- Lasik Surgery on 9/6/05 @ 10:00 a.m.
- Apprehension replaced by Joy when surgery is complete

Testimony of my spiritual blindness being removed in March, 1976

Acts 9:18
And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

To Appreciate sight, you have to remember what it was like to be blind

The Man Born Blind - John 9:1-11

"He saw . . . a man . . . blind" – Jesus saw a man who couldn't see. It is comforting to know that Jesus sees all; even those who can't see Him. And He cares. His heart is touched with the feelings of our infirmity.

This man never saw his mother's face; never saw a sunrise or sunset; never set eyes on the wonders of God's creation. He lived all of his life in a dark world, perhaps wondering about the mysteries of the appearances of the shape, size, colors of God's beautifully-designed world.

The poor and needy often found it most advantageous to stand and wait near religious spots, because as people were done worshipping they would be more apt to give alms out of a heightened God-consciousness.

The restoration of the man born blind has affinity with John 8:12, for now Christ's claim that he was "the light of the world" received a literal demonstration (Wycliffe Bible Commentary, p. 1092). The One who gives spiritual life to a world that had none also restored physical light to a man who had none.

Jesus heals this blind man for 3 reasons:

1) To show compassion and help the man

2) To prove by this sign that He was the Messiah (Mt. 11:5)

3) And to set up an occasion for Him to give a short sermon on spiritual blindness (9:39-41)

"This chapter portrays what happens when the light shines: some are made to see, like this man born blind; while others, who think they see, turn away, blinded, as it were, by the light (9:39-41)." (Carson, p. 359)



The Lord uses this passage to teach us about a much more serious form of blindness than physical blindness.

There is a blindness that goes deeper and lasts longer. A blindness which is so hideous that it conceals itself from those suffering from it. You see, when one is physically blind he knows it, but when one is spiritually blind he does not know it. I'm speaking of a blindness of the soul toward God and the things of God.

The blindness of which I speak today is a "mind blindness" whereby the mind of the unbeliever has been successfully lied to by the enemy of our souls.

2 Cor. 4:3-4
But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: [4] In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Paul in no way excuses the spiritually blind, but makes a point that such blindness is due to <u>deliberate ignorance</u>. Many simply don't want to see the truth, so that they might continue in their vanity and unrestrained godless living.

Ephes. 4:17-19
This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, [18] Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: [19] Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Many People really do not want to see!

John 1:5
And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John 3:19
And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Acts 28:27
For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

When People deliberately choose to remain blind, God may righteously choose to keep them that way:

John 12:40
He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.

Romans 11:8
(According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.
Romans 11:10
Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway.

The Bible warns us about the dangers of the "blind leading the blind" – that both would fall into the ditch.

The Pharisees remained spiritually blind due to:

- **LEGALISM (John 9:13-16)**
  (Many twist the purpose of God's Law by adding man-made rules & traditions)
- **CLOSED-MINDEDNESS (v.17-20)**
  (Many are too stubborn to believe the clear & available evidence about Christ)
- **THE FEAR OF MAN (v.21-23)**
  (Many are intimidated by others and therefore do not come to Christ)
- **PRESUMPTION (v.24-25)**
  (Many jump to premature conclusions about Christ without honestly examining the facts about Him)
- **STUBBORN PRIDE (v.26-34)**
  (Many smugly pride themselves in their associations to religious big shots and look down upon no-name disciples)
- **SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS (v.39-41)**
  (Many assume that they are OK the way they are; They sense no spiritual sight problem)

See: John 9:39-41

They which see" – the word "see" is to be understood in quotes. They assumed to see; they thought they saw (according to v. 41).

They "saw" according to man's standards of spiritual vision.

v. 40
"Are we blind also?" – They ask this only to see Christ's opinion of them, not that they were willing to recognize their own blindness by his answer.

v. 41
Jesus saves those who admit to their lostness and hopelessness; but tot he self-righteous who see no spiritual lack in themselves, Jesus can do nothing but let them remain in their sins.

Seeing is not always necessarily a Blessing

Matthew 5: 29-30

"Offend" - to cause to stumble and fall. The greek word referred to a stick in a trap that would spring and close the trap when an animal would touch it (Reinecker, p. 15).

Jesus is saying that if your eyes should look upon something that would trap you and detract your sight from ever seeing God's plan of salvation, it would be better off if you had no eyes than to forever end up in hell fire.

The "eyes" are that body part which triggers the lustful thought, and the "hands" are that which grasp that which is forbidden resulting in a sinful act.

Jesus on more than one occasion spoke of plucking out the eye and cutting off the hand that would cause you to stumble (cp. Mk. 9:43, 47; cp. Mt. 18:8, 9).

Jesus is not really encouraging bodily dismemberment. But he is saying that you would be better off losing anything in this life that would keep you from Heaven in the next life.

Victory does not come by amputating certain parts of your body, but by purifying the desires of the heart.

1 John 2:15-16
Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Matthew 6:22

Much that comes into the heart (v. 21), must first come through the gate of our eyes.

"If. . . thine eye be single" - meaning not double-visioned, at one point focusing on the world and its splendor and wealth, and then looking at our Heavenly Master (v. 24). Just as we can't serve two masters, so we can't focus both on the world and Christ. *"A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways"*

V. 23

"Worldly ambition has a strong fascination for us. The spell of materialism is very hard to break" (Stott, cited by MacArthur, p. 409).

Our eyes are like windows. When clear, the radiance of Christ comes beaming through. But when our eyes become evil (symbolizing dirt and filth of the blinding effect of materialism), our whole inner self is darkened; the joy is gone; Christ seems distant, and our life is miserable! Keep your focus! Don't let money impair your vision.

** If being able to see physically is a blessing, to be able to see spiritually is infinitely so*

What are the blessings of Spiritual Sight?

When you have spiritual sight...

I. Your eyes are opened to the truth of Jesus Christ and His Salvation Plan (You are illuminated to Who He is and What He has done) *(Acts 26:18;* 2 Cor. 4:6*)*

Matthew 13:16
But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

Acts 26:18
To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

1 Cor. 13:12
For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

2 Cor. 5:7
(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

You see God's glory reflected in Christ (II Cor. 4:6)
2 Cor. 4:6

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

II. You no longer live a life in the realm of Darkness *(Col. 1:13)*

John 8:12
Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 12:35
Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.
John 12:46
I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

Ephes. 5:8
For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

Col. 1:13
Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

"Delivered" = to rescue

Jesus Christ is called "the deliverer."

Rom. 11:26 - "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion a Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob."

Jesus Christ refused deliverance from the cross, so that He might deliver us from the power of darkness (Mt. 27:43 - "He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.").

Jesus delivered (rescued) us from eternal death (II Cor. 1:10 - "Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us.").

Jesus delivers (rescues) our lives from utter ruin and evil (II Pet. 2:9 - "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.").

Jesus will deliver (rescue) us from the future wrath of God (via Rapture) (I Thes. 1:10 - "And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come").

"From the power of darkness" = lit. "out of the authority of the darkness" (cp. Luke 22:53 - "This is your hour, and the power of darkness").

"Authority" = the ruling power

"The darkness" = the specific realm of Satan

Before conversion, we were under the rule of darkness. We were slaves to sin (Rom. 7). We were in bondage to Satan.

"Darkness" in Scripture points to:

1)spiritual blindness (ignorance) (Jn. 1:5; I Jn. 2:11; Acts 26:18)
2)a love for sin (Jn. 3:19)
3)falsehood (I Cor. 4:5)
4)the unregenerate world (II Cor. 6:14)
5)the realm of demons (Eph. 6:12)

NOTE: The aorist tense verbs "made us meet. . . delivered . . . translated" point to a once and for all (final and complete) salvation.

Note the contrast: "Delivered from (ek) darkness"
"Translated into (eis) kingdom"

"Translated" = to transfer; to remove from one place and transplant to another. Lit. to change the place where one stands.

The word was often used to signify deportation of a body of men or the removal of them to form a colony (Eadie).

"This word was used to describe the deportation of a population from one country into another. History records the fact that Antiochus the Great transported at least 2,000 Jews from Babylonia and Colossae." (Wiersbe, p. 46)

Just as God rescued O.T. Israel from bondage in Egypt and transferred them into His promised land, so the Lord has rescued us from the bondage of the world, and has placed us (positionally) into the kingdom of His dear Son.

"Of His dear Son" - of the Son He loves (cp. Mt. 3:17; 17:5).

To love Jesus Christ is to love the One who is closest to the heart of God the Father.

1 Peter 2:9

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

God describes believers four ways:

1)***"A chosen generation" -*** a selected, elected race of believers; a generation of God's sovereign choice

2)***"A royal priesthood" -*** cp. v. 5. A kingly priesthood

In the Old Testament, "the levitical priests were not kings; and the Davidic kings were not priests (II Chron. 26:16-21), but in Christ believers are made both kings and priests" (Rev. 1:6) (Anderson, RBP, p. 36)

3)***"An holy nation" -*** (SEE: Exod. 19:5-6). Israel did not obey God's covenant and hence forfeited this designation. Now, true believers are set apart by God and for God.

4)***"A peculiar people"*** - The word *"peculiar"* in this verse does not mean "odd" or "strange," but <u>special</u> - belonging only and exclusively to God.

We are God's very own property, His special treasure, His prized possession. We are uniquely His!

"That" - Here is the purpose for which God made us His own. God saved you so that you by your life would ***"show forth"*** (tell out; proclaim; or "advertise") the praiseworthy virtue and power of God, who has once and for all (Aorist tense) called us out of the domain of Satanic darkness and into God's wonderful light (I Jn. 1:5).

III. You are illuminated to the truth of God's <u>Word and Will</u> (*1 John 2:27)*

A once and for all time illumination (enlightenment) occurs at salvation (Heb.6:4; 10:32)

1 John 2:27
But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

"Anointing" - same Greek word as "unction" in v. 20.

More truths about the Spirit's anointing: the Spirit's anointing is:

1. <u>Personal</u> ("<u>ye</u> have received")

2. A <u>past</u>, <u>completed</u> <u>reality</u> ("received" - Aorist, indicative)
   (It's not a process)

3. <u>Passively</u> received from God ("of Him")

4. <u>Permanent</u> ("abideth in you")
   (It's not a temporary illumination)

5. <u>Pedagogical</u> ("teacheth you")

"Teacheth" - present tense; the Holy Spirit <u>is</u> (right now) teaching us as believers.

He has both "taught" you in the past and "teacheth" you in the present.

The real teacher is the <u>Holy Spirit</u> (the Holy Spirit who teaches for your "one Master" - Christ - Mt. 23:10).

To the degree that a man of God is faithful to God's Word will determine the degree to which the Holy Spirit teaches through that man.

The teaching the Spirit gives is <u>free</u> (no tuition), <u>easy</u> (no books needed), and <u>direct</u> (no professors with Ph.D's needed).

John is not denying the need for Bible teachers and preachers.

--Such are a <u>gift</u> from Christ (Eph. 4:11-12)

--Such are <u>used</u> by Christ (Mt. 28:19-20)

--Such are to be heard and heeded as they impart God's Word (Heb. 13:17; II Tim. 4:2; Heb. 10:25; I Th. 5:20).

What John is saying in context is that you don't need a teacher to teach you how to distinguish truth from lies (truth from error).

The Spirit only teaches truth (Jn. 16:13) and He often does this through human instruments (Eph. 4:11-14) (Ryrie note).

However, the ability to distinguish truth from error is an ability you all have if you have the anointing.

Just as He remains in you (continually teaching you), you will (indicative mood) remain in Him.

IV. Your eyes are opened to the truth of your Grand and Glorious Future (Eph.1:18)

Ephes. 1:18
The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints

"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened" - a statement referring to the spiritual illumination which occurred by the Holy Spirit at conversion.

Prior to this enlightenment, man had no capacity to know God. We knew about God (Rom. 1:19-20), but were spiritual blind (I Cor. 2:14)

"Understanding" = lit. heart, the inner core of your being.

Your heart has eyes! It can see, perceive, and know!

"Hope" = confidence; assurance (cp. Eph. 6:17 - helmet of salvation = the assurance of salvation)

Hymn - "Blessed Assurance"; "I know Whom I Have Believed"

"Hope" = salvation is a know so, not a "hope so" int he way we use the term today.

"Calling" - invitation; God's invitation to eternal life is legitimate, real, and trustworthy! (EX: getting invited to something and finding it hard to believe they would invite you)

"The hope of his calling" = the certainty of God's invitation to salvation. In other words, Paul wanted them to be secure (not doubting) in their eternal salvation.

When Illuminated, you become aware of “things to come” via the Scriptures
1 Thes. 5:4-5

But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Conclusion: Psalm 36:9

Psalm 36:9
*For with thee is the fountain of life: **in thy light shall we see light**.*