

How Are Your Eyes?

Introduction. The ability to see is one of man's greatest endowments. Only those deprived of sight after knowing its blessing can fully appreciate it. It is hard to even imagine how it must be to be born blind. How thankful we ought to be for our eyes.

There are repeated references to the eyes in the scriptures. Many of these are spiritual references, which makes the investigation of them very important. The eye is the faculty of discrimination, perception, and discernment, and scientists have estimated that 87% of impressions come by seeing. This lesson is a spiritual eye check-up. How are yours?

I. ***Are They Blind?***

- A. Each year, over 30,000 people go blind in North America, and 92% are adults. How many do you suppose go spiritually blind each year?
Spiritual blindness was ascribed to several in the Bible.
 - 1. To the watchmen who failed (Isaiah 56:10).
 - 2. To deceitful false teachers (Matthew 15:14).
 - 3. To those who willfully reject the truth (2 Corinthians 4:4).
- B. Spiritually, someone can see and perceive not (Isaiah 6:9).
 - 1. Because of prejudice (John 1:11).
 - a) The Jewish leaders saw Christ, but did not perceive Him, His mission, or the nature of His kingdom.
 - b) Today that prejudice is shown in statements like, "You believe in water salvation," "You're too narrow-minded," or "You're the only ones who are saved."
 - 2. Because of tradition (Matthew 15:9).
 - a) People now say, "That's what my parents believed and it's good enough for me."
 - b) Many blindly follow the customs of their ancestors and it destroys them.

II. ***Are They Out Of Focus?***

- A. The out of focus eye can cause serious spiritual problems.
 - 1. It confuses immediate advantage with eternal values (2 Corinthians 4:18).
 - 2. It confuses human attainment with divine atonement (Acts 10:2).
 - 3. It confuses matters of faith with matters of opinion (2 Corinthians 5:7).
 - a) Church work is mistakenly based on the "good it does" (1 Kings 12:28).
 - b) Christians do everything based upon positive, divine authority (Colossians 3:17).

- B. Properly focused eyes set their affections on the things above (Colossians 3:2).
 - 1. We look for that heavenly "house" (2 Corinthians 5:1).
 - 2. We can see "afar off" because we have added the "graces" (2 Peter 1:9).

III. **Are They Evil?**

- A. Evil means "of a bad nature or condition," and the evil eye causes the body to be full of darkness (Matthew 6:23).
 - 1. God wants singleness of service from us (vs. 22).
 - 2. No man can serve two masters, so we have to choose (vs. 24).
- B. The diseased eye must be "plucked out" (Matthew 18:9).
 - 1. Jesus is not demanding this physically. This kind of physical, radical operation would not cure evil. God created these bodies and they are capable of righteous living.
 - 2. Whatever cannot be pursued without leading us to sin must be abandoned. It is better to go to heaven without enjoying these pleasures, than to enjoy them and be lost.

IV. **Are They Downcast?**

- A. Several notable people in the Bible were downcast: Cain (Genesis 4:13-14), Moses (Exodus 6:12), Joshua (Joshua 7:7-9), Elijah (1 Kings 19:4), and Jonah (Jonah 4:3).
- B. It is sad to see someone acquainted with sorrow (and who isn't) who refuses to look to God for help. Some even blame God for their sorrow (cf. Job 2:9-10).
- C. Peter walked on the water until he looked down (Matthew 14:25-30). Only the Lord can give true comfort (Psalm 121:1; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

V. **Are They Lustful?**

- A. This is especially true in our time, and is capitalized upon by advertisers.
 - 1. Men love to look at scantily clad women, and women do all they can to promote it.
 - 2. But how should a Christian dress?
 - a) The dress will be right when the heart is right (1 Peter 3:3-4).
 - b) Paul describes proper dress as "modest (i.e., orderly) apparel" (1 Timothy 2:9).
- B. Peter said some "have eyes full of adultery" (2 Peter 2:13-14).
 - 1. These are people who see illicit sexual activity wherever they look (Matthew 5:28).

2. The "lust of the eyes" is one of the avenues of sin (1 John 2:15-17).
 - a) With Eve, it was the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:6).
 - b) With David, it was Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:2-3).
 - c) With Simon, it was greed for the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:18-19).

VI. ***Are They Closed?***

- A. Jesus wept because Jerusalem deliberately rejected His words (Luke 19:41-42).
- B. Sadly, the same is true of eyes in our time.
 1. Some are closed because of laziness (Acts 17:11).
 2. Some are closed because of fear (Acts 24:25).
 3. Some are closed because of indifference (Zephaniah 1:12).
- C. Even Christians sometimes close their eyes.
 1. Some close their eyes in services (Proverbs 6:8-10). Do people see us alert during Bible study and worship (Psalm 119:97; 122:1)?
 2. Some close their eyes to the suffering of others (James 1:27). Do people know of this church because we follow the example of Jesus (Acts 10:38)?
 3. Some close their eyes to the unsaved (Matthew 28:18-20). Do people see us "lift up our eyes" to teach people the life-saving message of Christ (John 4:35)?

Conclusion. The Laodiceans were, among other problems, blind (Revelation 3:17). Are you in darkness today? The Bible will open your eyes (Ephesians 1:18). Admit your "eye problem," obey the word, and you will sing, "I once was blind but now I see" (cf. Psalm 17:8).