

e-KardíaGram

Your Heart.
God's Beat.

For I don't do the good I want to do, but instead do the evil that I don't want to do. But if I do what I don't want to do, I am no longer the one who is doing it, but it is the sin that lives in me... For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 7:19–20; 8:2 ISV)

Another message that I received from the Lord said: "Zerubbabel laid the foundation of this Temple, and he will complete it. (Then you will know these messages are from God, the Lord Almighty.) Do not despise this small beginning, for the eyes of the Lord rejoice to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. For these seven lamps represent the eyes of the Lord that see everywhere around the world." (Zechariah 4:8–10 TLB)

A children's riddle goes like this: "What has four eyes but cannot see?" The answer, as most Americans remember from their childhood, is the U.S. state with the longest name: "Mississippi." Ha-ha...four "I's" rather than four "eyes." And speaking of four eyes, that's what my friends called me when I was forced as a boy to start wearing eyeglasses so I could see my teacher write on the chalkboard. I had my own two eyes plus the two "eyes" of my eyeglass lenses. So, while I didn't like the glasses or the nickname, I was "Four Eyes."

Are these plays on words clever? I suppose so, at least for children. But, perhaps surprisingly they remind us of a truth in adult life. The more "I's" we have the more trouble we seem to get into. "I want. I need. I think. I am smarter than you. I..." We are in good company, though, with the apostle Paul; read again his confession to the Romans. And what's the middle letter in the word sin? "I."

Here's another riddle (but not so funny): "What has seven eyes and can see everything?" The answer to that one is God, the Lord Almighty. When we're entangled by selfish traps that our "I's" set for us, more "eyes" help us see better, just like I could when I got my eyeglasses in school. Those eyes, the eyes of God, see it all, and His Spirit in us provides the clear vision we need to complete—as Zerubbabel did—His building plan for us.

—Jeff Russell

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E-KardíaGram is produced by The Kardia Foundation. Written by Jeffrey A. Russell, PhD, ATC

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