



What Does Proverbs Say About: The Eyes

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The Eyes of the Lord and the Eyes of Man **A Sermon Message from the Book of Proverbs**

Over the last few weeks, we have received sermon messages from Elders and members of staff that have shared the wisdom of King Solomon and others in the Book of Proverbs, sometimes called the Book of Wisdom. I want to thank Yam, China, Pastor Paul, Don and Jordon for their prayerful messages on these important insights from Scripture. This morning, I have the privilege of concluding this series with what I pray will be an insightful message based on our eyes. Before we begin, please join me in prayer.

Heavenly Father, we turn our hearts to you as we seek understanding of your words given to us to provide guidance and a pathway toward righteousness. I pray Lord that these messages will motivate us to seek you more and that your Holy Spirit will fill us with your truths that we might grow in our discipleship and seek through your Spirit to help bring others into your kingdom. Amen

Introduction

As we have heard, the Book of Proverbs has much to say about wisdom, righteousness, integrity, speech, relationships, and the fear of the Lord. Yet woven throughout the book is a recurring theme that often goes unnoticed—the theme of the eyes.

The eyes are more than physical organs of sight. In Scripture, the eyes symbolize perception, attention, desire, understanding, discernment, pride, and spiritual focus. What we choose to look at influences what we think, what we desire, and ultimately how we live.

Proverbs speaks about many kinds of eyes:

- The eyes of the Lord
- The eyes of the wise
- The eyes of fools

- Proud eyes
- Lustful eyes
- Envious eyes
- Eyes fixed on wisdom
- Eyes that look straight ahead

As we examine these references, we discover that Proverbs presents a contrast between God's vision and human vision. God sees perfectly, while humans often see imperfectly. God sees truth, while we are tempted by appearances. God sees the heart, while we are often distracted by what is temporary. There is hope for us as we read in 1 Corinthians 13:12, "For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face." In ancient time, mirrors were made of polished metal rather than clear glass, giving a dim, blurry, or fuzzy reflection. The Apostle Paul used this example to help explain that we only understand a small piece of the big picture right now. Today we will explore what Proverbs teaches about the eyes and how these truths can transform our walk with Christ.

I. The Eyes of the Lord See Everything

One of the most powerful verses in Proverbs is Proverbs 15:3:

"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good."

This verse reminds us of God's omniscience. Nothing escapes His notice.

God sees:

- Every act of kindness
- Every hidden struggle
- Every temptation
- Every prayer
- Every sin
- Every act of faithfulness

Human beings can only see what is visible. We see appearances. We see actions. We see outcomes.

But God sees motives.

He sees what happens behind closed doors. He sees what happens when no one is watching. He sees the tears shed in private and the victories won in secret.

For the righteous, this truth is comforting.

Perhaps no one notices your service. Perhaps no one recognizes your sacrifice. Perhaps your faithfulness seems overlooked.

But the eyes of the Lord see.

For the wicked, this truth is sobering.

Many people believe they can hide sin. They assume that if no one knows, there will be no consequences.

But Proverbs reminds us that there is no hidden corner beyond God's sight.

The same eyes that watch over us also hold us accountable.

This truth should inspire both confidence and reverence.

The Eyes of the Lord Delight in Righteousness

Proverbs 22:12 says: "The eyes of the LORD preserve knowledge, but He overthrows the words of the traitor."

God's eyes are not passive. He is actively involved in His world.

He preserves truth.

He guards wisdom.

He protects His purposes.

Throughout Scripture we see God watching over His people.

When Hagar felt abandoned in the wilderness, God saw her.

When Joseph was forgotten in prison, God saw him.

When David was overlooked by his family, God saw him.

When the disciples struggled in the storm, Jesus saw them.

The eyes of God are never indifferent.

The Lord watches over His children with loving attention.

Many believers live as though God is distant. Proverbs teaches the opposite. God is intimately aware of every detail of our lives.

Nothing escapes His loving gaze.

III. Proud Eyes Are an Abomination

Proverbs 6:16-17 begins a list of things the Lord hates: "There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to Him: haughty eyes..."

Notice that the first item mentioned is proud eyes.

Why?

Because pride is the root of many sins.

Proud eyes communicate self-sufficiency.

Proud eyes say:

- "I don't need God."
- "I know better."
- "I deserve more."
- "I am superior."

Pride was the sin of Satan.

Pride was the temptation in Eden.

Pride continues to destroy individuals, families, churches, and nations.

The proud person looks down on others.

The humble person looks up to God.

Proud eyes compare.

Humble eyes worship.

Proud eyes seek recognition.

Humble eyes seek obedience.

One of the greatest dangers of pride is that it blinds us to our own need.

The Pharisee in Jesus' parable saw everyone else's faults but not his own.

The tax collector saw his own need for mercy.

Only one went home justified.

Proverbs calls us to reject proud eyes and cultivate humble hearts.

IV. Envious Eyes Lead to Destruction

Proverbs 23:6 warns: "Do not eat the bread of a man who is stingy; do not desire his delicacies."

Some translations speak of a person with an evil eye.

In biblical language, an evil eye often refers to envy, greed, or selfishness.

Envy begins with what the eyes see.

We see another person's success.

We see another person's possessions.

We see another person's opportunities.

Instead of gratitude, envy grows.

The eyes become focused on what others have rather than on what God has provided.

Our culture thrives on comparison.

Social media constantly invites us to compare our lives with carefully edited images of others.

Comparison steals joy.

Comparison breeds resentment.

Comparison fuels discontentment.

Proverbs teaches us to guard our eyes from envy.

A grateful heart sees blessings.

An envious eye sees only what is missing.

The cure for envy is gratitude.

When we focus on God's goodness, envy loses its power.

V. The Eyes of the Wise Seek Wisdom

Proverbs 17:24 says: "The discerning sets his face toward wisdom, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth."

This verse presents a remarkable contrast.

The wise person focuses on wisdom.

The fool is distracted.

The fool's eyes are everywhere except where they should be.

The wise have direction.

The foolish lack focus.

We live in an age of distraction.

Our eyes are constantly drawn to:

- News feeds
- Social Media
- Facebook
- Instagram
- Entertainment
- Advertisements
- Endless notifications

Attention has become a precious commodity.

Yet wisdom requires focus.

The wise person fixes his eyes on what matters most.

Jesus reflected this principle when He said:

"Seek first the kingdom of God."

The wise understand that where the eyes go, the heart often follows.

If our eyes are fixed on Christ, our lives become aligned with His purposes.

If our eyes wander endlessly, our hearts become divided.

Wisdom begins when we learn to focus on what truly matters.

VI. Keep Your Eyes Straight Ahead

One of the most practical passages in Proverbs appears in chapter 4.

Proverbs 4:25-27 says: "Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you.

Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure. Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil."

This is a picture of spiritual discipline.

Imagine a runner in a race.

Successful runners keep their eyes on the finish line.

They do not constantly look behind them.

They do not become distracted by spectators.

They stay focused.

Solomon says believers should live the same way.

Keep your eyes fixed ahead.

Stay on the path.

Avoid distractions.

Avoid temptations.

Avoid detours.

Many believers drift because they stop watching where they are going.

Spiritual compromise rarely happens overnight.

It begins with small distractions.

A wandering glance becomes a lingering look.

A small compromise becomes a habit.

A habit becomes a stronghold.

The path of wisdom requires focused eyes.

The Christian life is not simply about avoiding evil.

It is about pursuing God's direction with determination.

VII. Lustful Eyes Lead the Heart Astray

Although Proverbs does not use the exact phrase "lustful eyes" repeatedly, the theme is present throughout the warnings against sexual immorality.

Proverbs 6, 7, and other passages warn against being captivated by seductive appearances.

Sin often enters through the eyes.

David's greatest failure began with what he saw.

The temptation was visual before it became behavioral.

Job understood this principle when he declared:

"I have made a covenant with my eyes."

The battle for holiness often begins with what we allow our eyes to consume.

In our generation this truth is especially relevant.

Images are everywhere.

Temptation is only a click away.

The enemy understands the power of visual temptation.

Therefore believers must guard their eyes carefully.

The solution is not merely avoidance.

The solution is replacing unhealthy vision with a greater vision of Christ.

When our eyes are captivated by God's beauty, worldly temptations lose much of their appeal.

VIII. A Cheerful Eye Brings Blessing

Proverbs also teaches that healthy vision affects our entire outlook on life.

Proverbs 15:30 says: "The light of the eyes rejoices the heart."

There is a connection between what we see and how we live.

Some people view life through the lens of cynicism.

Others view life through the lens of faith.

Faith-filled eyes see possibilities.

Faith-filled eyes recognize God's hand.

Faith-filled eyes notice blessings.

A cheerful eye reflects a thankful spirit.

This does not mean ignoring hardship.

Rather, it means recognizing God's goodness even in difficult circumstances.

The Apostle Paul demonstrated this perspective.

Though imprisoned, beaten, and persecuted, he continually saw evidence of God's grace.

His eyes were fixed on eternal realities.

As believers, we are called to see life through the lens of God's promises.

IX. The Ultimate Vision: Seeing the Lord

The greatest lesson concerning the eyes is not merely what we see but whom we see.

I'd like to pause here for a moment to relate a very personal experience.

Several years ago, I participated in a three-year teaching seminar on the person and work of the Holy Spirit. The Seminar was called *Dunamis*, a Greek word meaning power, in this case the power of the Holy Spirit. I

experienced an overwhelming encounter with Jesus during this training. At one point, I went forward to lay prostrate on the steps leading to the Dias. As I was praying earnestly, I had a vision of Jesus with His arms outstretched inviting me to dine with Him at the banquet table. To say this was moving would be a dramatic understatement. I had seen the Lord Jesus!

Back now the heart of this message:

The goal of wisdom is not information.

The goal is relationship with God.

Throughout Proverbs, wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord.

When we truly see God, everything else falls into proper perspective.

Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted up.

His response was humility.

Peter saw Christ's power.

His response was repentance.

John saw the risen Lord.

His response was worship.

A vision of God changes people.

When our eyes are fixed on God:

- Pride decreases.
- Envy fades.
- Temptation loses power.
- Wisdom grows.
- Faith strengthens.

The Christian life is ultimately about seeing Christ more clearly every day.

The writer of Hebrews expressed it beautifully:

"Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith." HEB 12:2

The eyes of faith transform the life of the believer.

In Conclusion

The Book of Proverbs teaches profound truths through the imagery of the eyes.

We have seen:

- The eyes of the Lord see everything.
- God's eyes watch over righteousness.
- Proud eyes are hateful to God.
- Envious eyes destroy contentment.
- Wise eyes seek wisdom.
- Focused eyes stay on the right path.
- Lustful eyes invite temptation.
- Cheerful eyes bring joy.
- Faith-filled eyes look ultimately to God.

The question before us is simple:

Where are our eyes fixed?

Are they fixed on ourselves or on God?

Are they fixed on possessions or on His promises?

Are they fixed on temporary pleasures or eternal treasures?

Are they fixed on distractions or on wisdom?

The eyes reveal the direction of the heart.

May we pray with the psalmist:

"Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things."

And may we live according to the wisdom of Proverbs, fixing our eyes on the Lord who sees us, guides us, protects us, and calls us to walk in His ways.

For when our eyes are fixed on Him, our lives will follow His path.

Amen.