



Eyes, Ears, & Hearts (Pt. 1)

Week 23 | November 4, 2024

Part 1: Eyes to See (Proverbs 20:12; Psalm 119:18)

We are all **so broken**. We are *injured* as individuals, *fractured* as families, *cracked* as churches, and *corrupted* as communities. We are all in desperate need of Christ's timely and direct **intervention**. The *Good News*, though, is that Jesus gave us the key to experiencing **healing, restoration, and renewal** in *our lives, churches, and communities* thousands of years ago. It's not a matter of medicine, or a function of time. No, instead Christ tells us that the key to receiving God's **holy healing** is a matter of the eyes, ears, and *heart*. (Matthew 13:15)

Vision is essential to **growth**, forward **movement**, and **closeness** with God (Proverbs 29:18). Scripture makes it clear that our *spiritual sight* and *discernment* are the key to pursuing and knowing our Creator as we have been **called** and **created** to do. The problem is that we live in *a world of darkness*. In this time of ignorance and blindness, only a few **see the light**. Though it is *available to all*, only some will find and walk the narrow path that God has laid out for us. Thankfully, we serve a King who came to **give sight** to *the blind* by removing everything that impairs our vision including:

1. Scales & Veils (Acts 9:18; 2 Corinthians 3:14)

- a. **NOTE:** *Scales and veils* are the things in our life that **obstruct our view**. They keep us from seeing the truth and *hold us back* from experiencing all that **God has in store** for us. Often they are a result of our past experiences, upbringing, and traumas that have been left *unresolved*. They are **strengthened** and **encouraged** by the evil forces of this world and often require *tremendous effort* to remove. Amazingly though, our God has already **done the work** to *peel away* the scales and *tear down* the veil hindering our sight! (Ezekiel 13:21; Mark 15:37-38; 2 Corinthians 3:16-18)
 - i. **For Ex.** "Lord God, thank You for coming to bring **sight** to *the blind* and **healing** for *the broken*. Thank You for offering Your light to this sinful, fallen world and its sinful, fallen people. I ask, Lord, that You would work **a miracle** in our lives by *removing the scales* from our eyes and by *tearing away the veil* impairing our vision. Set us free from **our past** so that we can see *You* here in the present."
 1. **REMEMBER:** The *removal of scales* often requires the **assistance** of others. (Acts 9:12,17)

2. Fantasies (Isaiah 41:29; Jeremiah 3:23-24)

- a. **NOTE:** *Fantasies* are **deceptions** we have believed that eventually lead to delusion. Often starting out as *something good*, such as a **pleasant memory** or a **harmless ambition**, they quickly morph into a wicked trap designed to *ensnare* and *distract* us from **the truth** God wants us to see and live. Fantasies and delusions *blind us to reality* and provide **an escape** from the facts of life that are often too hard to bear. This escape is *misleading* and *short lived* though, for the **path of deception** always ends in destruction. (Proverbs 11:3; Ephesians 5:6; Isaiah 42:16)

- i. **For Ex.** “Father God, thank You for **the truth** that You *give* and which You ARE. Thank You for setting us free by this truth, for **giving us life** through Your truth. Please *shine Your light* into our lives today and expose all of our **fantasies** and **delusions** for *the lies* that they are. Cleanse us of all **deceit** and **self-deception**, giving us eyes to see and seek Your truth above all else.”
 1. **REMEMBER:** *Holding on* to fantasies leads to **spiritual poverty** and ruin. (Proverbs 28:19)

3. **Blind Spots** (Matthew 7:3-5; Psalm 19:12; Psalm 139:23-24)

- a. **NOTE:** *Blind spots* are areas of sin in our lives that are **invisible** from our point of view. These are the things that *trip us up* when we **least expect it** and are the shortcomings that *everyone else* seems to see but that we **remain oblivious** to. The danger of a blindspot is that their destructive power is magnified by *our lack of awareness*. Only by gaining a **pious perspective**, meaning that of God Himself, can we hope to *avoid the catastrophe* that comes when these **gaps in our sight** are left undealt with. (1 Corinthians 2:16; Romans 8:6; Ephesians 1:18)
 - i. **For Ex.** “Lord Jesus, thank You for giving us **Your mind** at salvation. Thank You for *the privilege* it is to see things from your point of view. Please today remove every **blind spot** of sin from our lives, *exposing* anything and everything in, among, and around us that is not of You. **Search us**, Lord, and *identify* everything in our lives that is offensive to You. Give us the **desire** and **power** to see *You, ourselves, and others* from Your heavenly perspective.”
 1. **REMEMBER:** Attempting to *guide others* without addressing **our own blindness** will lead to mutual destruction. (Matthew 15:14)

Questions for Reflection:

- Have you been trying to fix your blindness **on your own**?
 - Humble yourself and *ask for help*. God gave us a spiritual family for a reason.
- What **fantasy** have you *fixated on*, thinking it was harmless?
 - Surrender your **fiction** for fact, because *the truth* is always better.
- Are you attempting to **lead others** down a path *you cannot see* yourself?
 - This is the way of pride and hypocrisy. Only once **our vision** has been *repaired* can we help our brothers and sisters.