

20-20 Vision

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Mark 8:22–26 (NKJV) “Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. ²³ So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. ²⁴ And he looked up and said, ‘I see men like trees, walking.’ ²⁵ Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly. ²⁶ Then He sent him away to his house, saying, ‘Neither go into the town, nor tell anyone in the town.’”

The man in this passage was totally blind. He wanted to see. Jesus not only restored his vision, but He gave him clear vision. How is your vision? Is your vision clear? Perfect natural vision is 20/20. A person with 20/20 vision can read at twenty feet what others with normal vision can read at that same distance. A person who is legally blind has 20/200 or less in the better eye with the best possible correction OR has a visual field of 20 degrees or less. Total blindness is the inability to see at all. The man in this story was totally blind.

Physical blindness can be caused by a birth defect, injury, or disease. There is another type of blindness caused by a lack of light. This kind of blindness can be caused by absolute darkness, blindfolding, or by closing the eyelids.

There is another kind of vision that is revealed in the word of God. That is spiritual vision. Whereas natural vision enables us to see and discern natural things, spiritual vision is the ability to see and discern spiritual things. Spiritual vision is the ability to see beyond the natural realm into the spiritual realm. Natural vision enables us to see where we are now, the obstacles and opportunities around us, and how to progress successfully in our journey. Spiritual vision is the ability to see where we are spiritually, the obstacles and opportunities around us spiritually, and how to progress successfully with God. We may have perfect natural vision, but if we do not have spiritual vision, our lives can end in ruin. Proverbs 19:18 (KJV) says, “*Where there is no vision, the people perish...*” Spiritual vision is essential to embracing God’s purpose and potential for our lives. David Yonggi Cho, founding pastor of the world’s largest church in Seoul Korea once said: “Show me your vision and I will show you your future!” Helen Keller once said: “The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.”

In the same way that we see natural things through our natural eyes, so we see spiritual things through the eyes of faith. Paul said, “*while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*”¹ We must either *look* at things that *are seen* or *look* at things that *are not seen*. The things that are seen are the earthly and temporal things that are subject to change. The things that are not seen are the heavenly and eternal things that are not subject to change. We must learn to look beyond our natural circumstances and see things from God’s perspective.

¹ 2 Corinthians 4:18 (NKJV)

We see the unseen things of God through the eyes of faith. Faith is not a denial of physical reality. Faith is embracing spiritual reality that supersedes physical reality. The spiritual realm is God's reality from which He made all that is physical. The world says, "I won't believe it until I see it." Faith says, "I won't see it until I believe it." Paul declared, *"For we walk by faith, not by sight."*²

Sadly, many believers live like they are legally blind. They are saved but they stumble over the same issues as the unsaved. They live according to their five physical senses. They are always under the circumstance. They have no clue why they are struggling or what their problems are. Such is the case when we harbor hate in our heart: *"But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes."*³

Those who are lost are totally blind. They cannot see spiritual things at all. To them spiritual things are foolish: *"But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."*⁴ The god of this world has blinded their minds. *"But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."*⁵ Apart from a spiritual new birth, the lost will not be able to see the realities of God's kingdom: *"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'"*⁶

The spiritual sight is offered to all who will believe. However, some refuse to receive spiritual sight because they insist that they already see: *"Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, 'Are we blind also?'"*⁴¹ Jesus said to them, *"If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains."*⁷

Some are blinded by darkness: They have spiritual eyes but walk in spiritual darkness: *"This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all."*⁶ *If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth."*⁸

How do the spiritually blind regain their sight? How do those with spiritual sight regain 20/20 vision? The following account gives us important insight. A Jewish Pharisee named Saul was a great persecutor of the church. He was a very religious man but he was spiritually blind. The following is Saul's account of his encounter with the living Lord Jesus Christ: *"So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."*¹⁶ *But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you."*¹⁷ *I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that*

² 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)

³ 1 John 2:11 (NKJV)

⁴ 1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)

⁵ 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 (NKJV)

⁶ John 3:3 (NKJV)

⁷ John 9:40-41 (NKJV)

⁸ 1 John 1:5-6 (NKJV)

they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me."⁹

First, in order to gain spiritual sight, a person must have their eyes opened. This is accomplished when a person responds in faith to the preaching of the gospel. Second, a person must turn from darkness to light. This means they must turn away from the lies of Satan that have deceived them and turn to the Truth of God's Word. Third, a person must turn from the power of Satan to God. They must transfer their allegiance from Satan to God. They must enter God's kingdom by submitting to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Fourth, a person must receive forgiveness of their sins. They must admit they are a sinner and have sinned against God. Then by faith they must believe that what Jesus Christ did on the Cross was sufficient to remove the penalty of their sin so that they might receive forgiveness by faith in Christ. Fifth, a person must embrace their inheritance. Inheritance belongs to a son or daughter. They must embrace the fact that God is now their Father and that they are now a son and daughter of God. They are now an heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus Christ. Sixth, a person must walk in love: *"He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him."*¹⁰ Seventh, a person must walk by faith and not by sight: *"Then He put His hands on his eyes and made him look up. And he was restore and saw everyone clearly."*¹¹ The first time Jesus prayed for the blind man he looked at men and did not see clearly. The second time Jesus made the man LOOK UP and he saw everyone clearly (20/20).

Like the blind man, we must ask Jesus to open our spiritual eyes so we can see. Then we must maintain 20/20 vision by looking up to God, seeing things through the eyes of faith, and walking in love. If we do, we will walk in the light and never stumble.

⁹ Acts 26:15–18 (NKJV)

¹⁰ 1 John 2:10 (NKJV)

¹¹ Mark 8:25 (NKJV)