

PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)

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Perspective Eyes to See—Ears to Hear

Art Nelson

Introduction

I feel that the Lord wants to deal with our *perspectives*, our viewpoints, how we see things. I have written about this idea in various forms in the past. [[Dark Light](#), [With Open Eyes](#), [The Deformed Inner Man](#)] However, I keep coming back to this concept as I believe that the Lord wants us to see something important in it.

Jesus repeatedly referred to having *eyes that see* and *ears that hear* what He was saying. The very fact that He emphasized our need to have seeing eyes and hearing ears means that it is possible to have blind eyes and deaf ears. It may even be that our natural fallen state is one of being blind and deaf to spiritual Truth. However, God did not create us blind and deaf.

Blind and Deaf

When we read in Genesis of the time that Adam and Eve spent in the Garden of Eden it is obvious that they could see and hear spiritually because God would come down and walk and talk with them in the cool of the evening. Yet, their eyes and ears were blind and deaf in some manner because part of the temptation from the Enemy was "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ([Genesis 3:5 NASB](#))

After contemplating things Eve decided that the promise of the Enemy sounded good. She took the fruit and gave some to Adam and they ate from the forbidden tree.

[Genesis 3:7-8 NASB](#) Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. (8) They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Now, the results of their eyes being opened were that they recognized that they were naked and were ashamed and tried to cover their nakedness and when they heard God walking in the Garden they hid from Him. Reality had not changed; however, now that their eyes were open, their perception of reality had changed. They now perceived things with *open eyes*.

Now, the question is this, “What were these “opened eyes” and why did they see reality differently? To answer this we need to understand that we were created in the image of God. He is a triune being and, therefore, we are triune beings also. God fashioned a body for Adam from the ground, breathed His breath into him and Adam became a living soul. So, we have a body that partakes of the earthly, a spirit that partakes of the Spirit, and a soul that is uniquely the result of union of Spirit and body. Our body is sense conscious; our spirit is God conscious, and our soul is self conscious. Each aspect of us has in some manner their own form of senses or perception.

Adam and Eve obviously had proper perception from the natural body—their physical eyes were open and they could see natural things. Also, it appears that their spiritual eyes were opened since they could perceive God when He walked in the Garden. However, the eyes of their soul appeared to be closed—they had no self perception of right or wrong, good and evil. Since the Enemy promised them that their eyes would be opened and they would be as God knowing good and evil, it would appear that it was the eyes of the soul that is being discussed.

When Adam disobeyed, the spiritual relationship with God was severed. Our sins have made a separation between us and our God [*Isaiah 59:2*]. Our spirits died; we have spiritual eyes no longer. However, our soulish eyes were opened and began to operate in conjunction with our natural eyes.

Prior to the fall, our perceptions were processed by our spirits and the response was implemented by the soul. After the fall, our perceptions are processed *and* implemented by our souls centering around our own understanding of good and evil. When we are born again we receive a new spirit which has spiritual eyes and ears. However, our practice, our habit, is to walk by sight—that which we see with our natural eyes and which we process with our soulish eyes. We have to learn to walk by faith which is the evidence of things not seen with the natural eyes but is seen by the spiritual eyes.

So, when Jesus speaks of eyes to see and ears to hear He is talking about our spiritual perceptions which must be processed in our spirits not our souls. He is speaking of a *perspective* that is from the spirit and not the natural.

Examples of Spiritual Sight

When Jesus was talking with Nicodemus He told him that there were things that he couldn't see until he received a new spirit; that is, until he was born again.

Jesus answered and said to him, "**Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.**" (*John 3:3 NASB*)

The Kingdom of God cannot be seen at this time with natural eyes. Jesus told Pilot that His Kingdom was not of this world, not of this realm [*John 18:36*]. Only with the new birth do we receive spiritual eyes that have the ability to see the Kingdom of God.

Paul's prayer for the Ephesians was that “the eyes of your heart may be enlightened”; that is,

opened, “so that you will know” [*Ephesians 1:18 NASB*]. He then names three “whats” that can only be known by spiritual insight.

Change Our Perspective

We have allowed our spiritual eyes to close. We have “gone to sleep” as it were spiritually. As a result our perspective is of the soulish eyes and interpreted from the natural viewpoint. We see things that are along the lines of what is written in Ecclesiastes of things “under the sun”; that is, the natural, worldly perspective. While there is a natural wisdom that comes from this, it is a wisdom that comes by observation, reason and logic. It is a wisdom that causes us to walk in our own understanding, in our soulish self and not in the Spirit.

For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you." (*Ephesians 5:14 NASB*)

In the context of this verse, it seems clear that Paul was speaking of those who had “gone to sleep” spiritually and were living their lives from the natural, worldly perspective. Paul was also speaking to believers when he told them:

Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. (*Romans 13:11 NASB*)

It is time for us to awaken from sleep. Our perspective must move from ourselves, our desires, our needs to the perspective of our Heavenly Father. We have to see from His viewpoint if we want to fulfill our calling in Him. His plan and purpose and our place in it is all that matters. We will never have eyes to see or ears to hear if we are only live for ourselves.

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For comments or questions contact Art Nelson at this address:

artnelson@lifestreamteaching.com

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