

The Eyes, Which Eyes and Seeing As God Sees

Michael Barrett: Message given July 1, 2018

Gen 2:15-3:13; Act 9:1-18

Gen 2 & 3

The opening of the eyes of the soul...the origin and nexus of very different modes of seeing

Adam and Eve – 1) their natural / physical eyes were opened; 2) they were in fellowship with God with no barriers, hindrances, restrictions or limitations; 3) the deceit of the serpent seduced them to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; 4) the promise was that if they ate, their eyes would be opened, and, a) they would be as gods, and b) they would know god and evil.

Gen 2:17 “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

Gen 3:3 “But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.”

Gen 3:4-5 “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”

Gen 3:7 “And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.”

When they ate, the eyes of their souls were opened and they knew that they were naked. By realizing that they were “naked”, they understood that they were disconnected from their Father. It was in the Father, as sons, that they were assured of provision, protection and place. As a result of their disconnection, they immediately engaged in an attempt to “regain” their place, their protection and their provision. Their eyes were indeed opened.

Gen 3:9-13 “And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.”

Their eyes were opened and they saw their Father as their enemy. They, 1) were afraid of their Father; 2) saw that their state / condition was totally altered; 3) made coverings to mitigate the fact that they saw themselves to be naked; 4) hid themselves. All of this

as a result of their altered state – AND the fact that the eyes of their souls had been opened.

Act 9

The opening of the eyes of the spirit...Saul of Tarsus

Act 9:1-2 “And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.”

Saul could “see” – he “saw” the disciples of Jesus as the enemy of the Jew, Judaism and, by extension, God. The eyes of Saul’s soul were open! He perceived as a result of seeing with the eyes of his soul.

Act 3:3-8 “And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus.”

Saul was “blinded by the light”! What he normally and naturally would have seen, he could no longer see. It was his encounter with Jesus that “closed his eyes.” His encounter with The LIGHT totally shifted his perception. Furthermore, he went from independence to dependence instantly as the result of being humbled by the Lord.

Act 9:9 “And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.”

When he opened his physical eyes out of the encounter with Jesus, he could no longer see. And further, he had to be “led by the hand.”

Also, the encounter with Jesus had instantly upended Saul’s routine and priorities – he didn’t eat or drink for three days.

Act 9:10-12 “And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.”

The Lord always intended to restore Saul’s sight. And, just like the Lord, He would send one who was in every way the very kind that Saul perceived by the soul to be his and God’s enemy. This one, Ananias, was given grace to carry to Saul! And mercy!!

But an amazing transformation had already begun in Saul. God was already acclimating Saul to “seeing” with his spirit. The Lord closed Saul’s physical eyes and the eyes of his soul, and opened the eyes of his spirit! In this new condition, Saul is already beginning to see and hear by the agency of his spirit. The Lord says to Ananias, “he is praying and has seen in a vision a man named Ananias.....” Physical eyes closed, eyes of his soul closed and eyes of his spirit opened – and by day three, Saul is already “seeing.”

Act 9:13-18 “Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.”

Ananias, somewhat reluctantly, goes. He “putting his hands on him” said, “Brother Saul...” 1) of course we can understand and sympathize with Ananias’s reluctance; 2) but being a true disciple of Jesus, he obeys; 3) he “puts his hands on him” – thus assuring Saul of the Lord’s forgiveness and acceptance; 4) and Ananias says, “Brother Saul” – confirming to Saul that he is officially included in the living body of Christ and the family of God – it is official!!

Ananias says that “Jesus (the very One that you formerly have been persecuting) has sent me.” And furthermore, that the purpose of Ananias being sent to Saul includes a grace to restore Saul’s sight and for him to experience being filled with the Holy Ghost!

Other Scriptural observations

- The starting point – entry and mechanism: **Joh 3:3** “...except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
 - The prerequisite for seeing with the eyes of the spirit is the new birth!
 - Anything and everything else or other is a non-starter
 - See **2 Co 5:16-17**
- Seeing by the spirit is seeing into the realm of the Spirit: **Rev 4:1-2**
 - I looked and, behold, a door was opened in heaven
 - John looked
 - John saw an open door in heaven
 - How far could John see?
 - How far away from where John was, was heaven?
 - Those are the wrong questions!
 - John saw what the Father allowed John to see

- John was seeing from earth to heaven
- God said come up here and I will show you things to come
- Immediately John was “in the spirit”, and “behold”!!!
 - John was permitted to see by the spirit into the realm of the Spirit
 - Not how far, but rather which dimension
 - Which heaven? See **2 Co 12:2** “third heaven”
 - John saw the throne and the One seated on the throne
- **Pro 20:12** “The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the Lord has made even both of them”
- **2 Co 5:16 NIV** “So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.”
 - Seeing from earth to heaven
 - Or seeing from heaven to earth
 - The later is God’s view – the way He sees the thing
- Can you “see” and not “see”?
 - **Mat 13:13-14** seeing and not seeing
 - Don’t perceive and understand
- Seeing the thing but having an inaccurate perspective
 - **Mar 8:22-25**
 - Blind man brought to Jesus
 - Jesus ministers healing to him
 - Jesus asks him what he sees
 - He answers that he sees men as trees walking
 - Jesus ministers to him a second time
 - Asks him what he sees
 - The man “looks up”
 - And sees every man clearly
 - When was the man healed?
 - Why did Jesus minister twice to this man?
 - Ocular healing did not completely heal this man!!
 - He had to have a healed perspective
 - *****tell the story – “an answer for your mind”!!**