

I AM SEEING THINGS

INTRO:

Often we walk down the path of uncertainty, trapped in our limited ability to only see our circumstances in the natural. Due to the Giant sized issues in our lives we may sometimes find it difficult to focus on how much bigger God is and His ability to overcome anything.

When we face difficulty or challenges in our life we learn two things: Something about God, and something about ourselves. Although in various situations we endure a crucifixion but we must continue to believe for resurrecting power.

HEBREWS 12:1-2

And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. **2** We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.[a] Because of the joy[b] awaiting him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

We must not be limited by our natural ability to see, but extend beyond the grave of every circumstance and situation by way of having spiritual vision.

Biblical Example:

John 20:24-29

Jesus Appears to Thomas

24 One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin),[a] was not with the others when Jesus came. **25** They told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side."

26 Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said. **27** Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!"

28 "My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed.

29 Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."

I'd like to share with you a word today on the topic of...

~MAIN SLIDE

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In my life I've had the need like Thomas to have my vision disciplined from physical perspective to spiritual perspective.

I learned that the ability to see is so critical to the human existence.

Of all the organs in the human body, the most awesome one is the eye.

Hearing, tasting, feeling and smelling are important senses, but the ability to see surpasses them all.

The question is....

“Does your spiritual prescription allow you to see with the glasses you're wearing?”

Psalms 119:18

Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions

If we are going to live with our spiritual eyes open and activate our faith to another level; we must first get our eyes examined!

~ POINT 1

EYE EXAM

If we are experiencing trouble seeing in the natural we schedule an eye exam.

A comprehensive eye exam from an optometrist or ophthalmologist can detect eye problems before they steal your vision.

During the Eye Examination - The optometrist assess your vision and the ability to focus on and discern objects. Your eye doctor will not only determine your prescription, but will also examine your eyes for common eye diseases, assess how your eyes work together as a team and evaluate your eyes as an indicator of your overall health.

But when you are having an eye exam spiritually it is not an examination of the eyes, but of the heart. It has been medically proven that visual symptoms can be a warning sign of a cardiovascular problem. Sometimes it may be difficult to see God active and working in our lives. It will cause us to look around for signs and wonders to see if there's something we are missing unaware that we are having a heart condition.

Jeremiah 17:9 New Living Translation (NLT)

9 “The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?”

Luke 11:34 New Living Translation (NLT)

34 “Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. But when it is unhealthy, your body is filled with darkness.

During a spiritual examination the goal is to open the eyes of your heart **so that faith will give vision to your victory.**

In the natural you may see things crumbling around you, but because of your heart condition of believing that all things are possible through Christ Jesus your near or far sided vision is corrected because of the glasses you’re wearing.

NOTE: Natural abilities produce natural things. Spiritual gifts transmit spiritual things

Three Things a Spiritual Eye Exam does:

1. Looks for robbers of your vision.
 - a. One of the most successful vision robbers is self. You must be willing to die for the vision God has given you.
2. Identifies your focus and ability to discern
3. Evaluates your spiritual health

If we are going to live with our spiritual eyes open and activate our faith to another level; secondly we must...

~ POINT 2**Gaze at the Unseen**

Vision is the state of being able to see and it begins with light rays bouncing off the surface of objects. While faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. (Hebrews 11:1 NLT)

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 New Living Translation (NLT)

17 For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! **18** So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

God wants us to begin seeing what He is doing in the spiritual with our hearts wide open to receive and take Him at His word.

2 Corinthians 4:13-16 New International Version (NIV)

13 It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken."^[a] Since we have that same spirit of^[b] faith, we also believe and therefore speak, **14** because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. **15** All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

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~ POINT 2

Gaze at the Unseen

Take it from Paul! In the scripture he gained something from focusing his eyes on the unseen. The unseen (his faith) made him optimistic even under discouraging circumstances. Seeing the invisible (the unseen) is key to our salvation because it is impossible to please God without faith.

When you gaze at the unseen it strengthens your visual acuity.

One's visual acuity is an indication of the clarity or clearness of one's vision. In-other-words it is a measurement of how well a person sees.

Prominent writer Anaïs Nin that reflects this idea: We don't see things as they are; we see them as we are. Once you begin seeing things as you are it is an indication your vision is blurred...

We are often limited by our need to see before we will believe. *Seeing is not believing—believing is seeing.*

We must improve our spiritual vision so that the walls of fear and doubt cannot doom us to a life of spiritual mediocrity.

How do you get the right prescription?

- Get your spiritual eyes checked
- answer/ confess with Integrity
- see without limits

When we obtain spiritual vision we obtain the capacity to spiritually assess things with the ability to focus and discern unseen objects and/or circumstances.

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:18)

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