

OH BE CAREFUL LITTLE EYES! : PART ONE

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Oh Be Careful Little Eyes What You See, Scriptural Basis For The Song, Our Eyes Are A Window To Temptation, Adam And Eve, John's Warning, Worldly Enticements, Moses' Example, Keep The Heavenly Vision, Resist Satan's Tactics, Paul's Battles With The Flesh, Flesh Versus The Spirit, Mental Battle And Controlling Our Thoughts, Fall Of The Sons Of God, Judah And Tamar, Samson And Delilah, David And Bathsheba, 51st Psalm, God's Mercy And Forgiveness Is Our One And Only Hope

Many of my Christian readers will undoubtedly be familiar with the following traditional song entitled "Oh Be Careful Little Eyes", as it has been a Sunday School favorite for many decades. While there are a number of variations to this song, this is the one with which I am familiar:

Oh be careful little eyes, what you see
Oh be careful little eyes, what you see
For the Father up above is looking down in tender love
So be careful little eyes, what you see.

Oh be careful little ears, what you hear
Oh be careful little ears, what you hear
For the Father up above is looking down in tender love
So be careful little ears, what you hear.

Oh be careful little tongue, what you say
Oh be careful little tongue, what you say
For the Father up above is looking down in tender love
So be careful little tongue, what you say.

Oh be careful little hands, what you do
Oh be careful little hands, what you do
For the Father up above is looking down in tender love
So be careful little hands, what you do.

Oh be careful little feet, where you go
Oh be careful little feet, where you go
For the Father up above is looking down in tender love
So be careful little feet, where you go.

While I was unable to trace the origin of this song via the Internet, I would venture to say that its author was more than likely inspired to write it after reading such verses as the following:

"Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil."
Proverbs 4:25-27, KJV

"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil

and the good." Proverbs 15:3, KJV

"Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh." James 3:5-12, KJV

While the words to "Oh Be Careful Little Eyes" are rather simple in nature, in light of the previous verses, it is easy to see that this song contains some rather profound truths, which we would all be wise to live by. Sadly, some things are more easily said than done; even such simple things as watching what we look at, being careful where we go, and guarding our tongues against speaking evil. These problems with our sinful human nature are by no means new. They have been around for millennia; in fact, since God first placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden; and it is there where we shall begin the main discourse of this article.

The eyes. Oh the eyes! How often we let them get us into trouble, and cause us to sin! Adam and Eve certainly found this out the hard way, and we have been paying for their mistakes ever since. Of course, we can't blame it all on them, because we have each done our part to further lay sin upon sin; and quite often, it begins with just a simple look, or a quick glance. Satan was obviously aware of this human weakness, and that is why in Genesis chapter three we find the following sad scene:

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." Genesis 3:6, KJV

Oh yes; Satan knew how to trap the First Pair; he knew how to get to their pride and vanity; right through their eyes! That is why the Apostle John so clearly warns us to beware of the subtle tactics used by that demon of darkness when he writes the following. Please notice that one of the three big tactics that Satan uses, includes the lust of the eyes:

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." 1 John 2:15-16, KJV

Who can possibly deny that in our modern society, the world is indeed ruled by crafty big businessmen who have relied upon Satan's "Big Three", that is, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, in order to entice and enslave humanity in their plastic, hedonistic, temporal, materialistic world of the flesh? From sunrise to sunset, we are all constantly being bombarded with Satan's enticements via the radio, via the television set, via books and magazines, via movies and videos, via billboards, via the Internet, and by any other means possible. We are told that we can drive the best car, we can have the best-paying job, we can live in the biggest house, we can attract the prettiest girl, we can have the best looks, we can be all that we can be, if we will simply bow down, and allow ourselves to be enslaved by Satan's worldly system.

Sadly, many people, including many Christians, have fallen for these satanic lies, and they have bitten the bullet so-to-speak. Modern Christianity has in large part become a farce, in which status quo is deemed more important than true Godly worship and living. Many Christians, beginning with their worldly leaders and shepherds, have compromised their faith, in order to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; but it was not so with Moses, as we see here:

"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward."
Hebrews 11:24-26, KJV

In fact, as I point out in other articles, such as in "The Heavenly Vision: Have You Got It?", all of the Patriarchs of old maintained their eyes and vision on the Heavenly Goal, and they did not allow themselves to become bogged down by the things of this current world. Again, consider this:

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city." Hebrews 11:13-16, KJV

In reading the Epistles, we discover that the Apostle Paul was by no means ignorant of Satan's subtle tactics. In his letter to the Corinthian brethren, and then also to the brethren at Ephesus, Paul writes:

"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." 2 Corinthians 2:11, KJV

"Neither give place to the devil." Ephesians 4:27, KJV

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to

man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."
1 Corinthians 10:13, KJV

The Apostle James likewise offers us a sound admonition regarding our spiritual warfare when he writes:

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7, KJV

So it isn't that we don't know any better, it is just that we are so weak when it comes to resisting the temptations of the flesh; and we are not alone. The Bible is filled with examples of men of God who yielded to their fleshly desires. Even the Apostle Paul admits that fighting the old man of the flesh was not always an easy task for him. On at least one occasion, he was frustrated with his losing battle against sin and the weaknesses of his flesh; and thus he was prompted to write:

"For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin." Romans 7:15-25, KJV

Returning to Paul's first Epistle to the Corinthian brethren, he also wrote the following lines:

"I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."
1 Corinthians 9:26-27, KJV

In writing to the brethren at Galatia, Paul again brought up this very same point, and described the continual battle which we must all fight, as our flesh wages unending warfare against the Spirit, and the Spirit wars against our flesh:

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness,

lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Galatians 5:16-25, KJV

As I noted a moment ago, quite often these temptations of the flesh begin with a simple look, or a quick glance. That is all it takes for Satan to plant the seed of temptation in our hearts and minds; and as I have mentioned before, it is in our minds where the real battle is being waged. Thus, Paul was also inspired to write:

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" 2 Corinthians 10:5, KJV

When we fail to control our thoughts, and allow our eyes to wander, sooner or later we will fall to temptation if we are not careful. While we have already briefly examined the Fall of Adam and Eve, let us now take a look at some of the other stories which are found in the Old Testament. While Adam and Eve lusted after knowledge and power, these are not the only things which can lead us to sin. In Genesis chapter six, we discover that a desire for sex lead to a great rebellion in Heaven, and ultimately resulted in the condemnation of the Angelic Sons of God:

"And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown." Genesis 6:1-4, KJV

Did you notice what caused the downfall of the Sons of God? Moses tells us that they "saw the daughters of men that they were fair"; so again, those Angelic Beings sinned with their eyes; they lusted with their eyes; which the Apostle John said we are simply not to do. That is what eventually led to their rebellion against God. If you would like to read more on this topic, please refer to such articles as "The Book Of Enoch: Truth Or Heresy?", "Nephilim: The Giants of Genesis", "The Judgment Of Angels, Demons And Men" and "Sex, A Bowl Of Soup, And The Nature Of Angels".

Ironically, in His Wisdom, God even knows how to use our human weaknesses of the flesh for His Glory. I have shared before the story concerning Judah and Tamar. As I point out

in the series "My God Is A Shocker", the Bible tells us that Judah's son, Onan, selfishly ejaculated on the ground, that is, he spilled his semen on the ground, because he didn't want to impregnate Tamar, the widowed wife of his deceased brother. According to the Levitical Law, Onan was obligated to marry Tamar, in order that the family line might continue:

"And Judah said unto Onan, Go in unto thy brother's wife, and marry her, and raise up seed to thy brother. And Onan knew that the seed should not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in unto his brother's wife, that he spilled it on the ground, lest that he should give seed to his brother. And the thing which he did displeased the LORD: wherefore he slew him also." Genesis 38:8-10, KJV

We are next told that Judah had one more younger son named Shelah; who by law, should have become Tamar's next husband. However, out of fear that he too might die, Judah refused to give him to Tamar when he was grown, even though Judah had given Tamar his word, that she would have Shelah for her husband. So what did persistent Tamar do? She pretended to be a prostitute, in order to entice Judah, her very own father-in-law, into having sex with her. Judah fell for her charm, and this resulted in the birth of Pharez and Zarah, one of whom was an ancestor of Jesus Christ, as well as an ancestor of all of the Judean kings. Following are some of the key verses from the story:

"And it was told Tamar, saying, Behold thy father in law goeth up to Timnath to shear his sheep. And she put her widow's garments off from her, and covered her with a vail, and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place, which is by the way to Timnath; for she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given unto him to wife. When Judah saw her, he thought her to be an harlot; because she had covered her face. And he turned unto her by the way, and said, Go to, I pray thee, let me come in unto thee; (for he knew not that she was his daughter in law.) And she said, What wilt thou give me, that thou mayest come in unto me? And he said, I will send thee a kid from the flock. And she said, Wilt thou give me a pledge, till thou send it? And he said, What pledge shall I give thee? And she said, Thy signet, and thy bracelets, and thy staff that is in thine hand. And he gave it her, and came in unto her, and she conceived by him." Genesis 38:13-18, KJV

So do you see how God went about fulfilling His purpose? He actually used Judah's own sexual urge against him; He used Judah's lust of the eyes in order to trick him into doing His Will, so that the Judean line would continue, and Jesus Christ would ultimately be born in the distant future.

Of course, we know that Judah was not the only womanizer of the Old Testament period. It seems that Israel's famous strongman, Samson, also couldn't keep his eyes off of those pretty women. The only problem was that those women were not Israelites; they were of the camp of the enemy; that is, the Philistines; and Samson's lust for foreign feminine flesh caused no small consternation for his parents. Consider part of the story concerning Samson's wife from Timnath:

"And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines. And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife. Then his father and his mother said unto him, Is there never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well. But his father and his mother knew not that it was of the LORD, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel." Judges 14:1-4, KJV

Several chapters later, following the "jawbone of an ass" episode, we again find Samson's wandering eyes getting him into trouble with his enemies. This time, the object of his passion is a harlot who lives amongst the Gazites:

"Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her. And it was told the Gazites, saying, Samson is come hither. And they compassed him in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him. And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron." Judges 16:1-3, KJV

In spite of the serious trouble which his lust of the eyes had already caused him, Samson just kept on yielding to the desires of his flesh; and ultimately, it led to not only his own downfall, but to the literal downfall of the Philistine temple dedicated to their false Dagon as well, in which over three thousand Philistines were celebrating at the time. As many of my readers will already know, these events came about as a result of Samson's infatuation with a woman of the Philistines by the name of Delilah, who was bribed by the lords of the Philistines, as we see here:

"And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver." Judges 16:4-5, KJV

After much pleading, Samson eventually revealed the secret of his seven locks of hair to Delilah; and once his strength had departed from him, he was overcome by the Philistines, his eyes were plucked out, and he was taken as a prisoner to Gaza, where he worked as a slave in the prison house, as we see by the following verse:

"But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house."
Judges 16:21, KJV

While the writer of the Book of Judges tells us that all of these things occurred according to the Will of God, in order to punish the Philistines, I can't help but wonder if there might not be some deeper lesson to be learned here. I find it rather significant that Samson's greatest weakness was his lust of the eyes, and in the end, he lost both of them. While I believe that Jesus was speaking in a symbolic sense in the following verse, and was referring to the individual members of the Body of Christ, we can draw an interesting parallel between what Jesus states, and what occurred with Samson:

"And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire."
Matthew 18:9, KJV

As we have seen, the Bible is filled with stories of men who were both great leaders, as well as great sinners. Perhaps the one with whom most people are probably familiar, is King David. We find the story of his illicit affair with the beautiful Bathsheba, and his murderous attempt to conceal his crime, in the eleventh chapter of the Second Book of Samuel:

"And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house. And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child. And David sent to Joab, saying, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David. And when Uriah was come unto him, David demanded of him how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered. And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess of meat from the king. But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house. And when they had told David, saying, Uriah went not down unto his house, David said unto Uriah, Camest thou not from thy journey? why then didst thou not go down unto thine house? And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing. And David said to Uriah, Tarry here to day also, and to morrow I will let thee depart. So Uriah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow. And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house. And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from

him, that he may be smitten, and die. And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men were. And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell some of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also." 2 Samuel 11:2-17, KJV

As I point out in other articles, David's sins did not remain hidden, and the Lord eventually used the Prophet Nathan to expose David's folly, and to bring him to a point of repentance. Sadly, David and Bathsheba did have to pay a great price for their lustful desires. Not only did they lose the child, but as a result of David's sins, the Lord cursed David's family with war and treason until the very end.

"...But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD...Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun. And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die." 2 Samuel 11:27b, 12:9-14, KJV

Exactly which commandments was the Lord referring to in the previous verses? Undoubtedly, it was probably these ones:

"Thou shalt not kill...Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's." Exodus 20:13, 17, KJV

Ironically, while David and his family suffered because of his sins, many Believers have been blessed since that time, because David's great repentance resulted in one of the most heart-felt Psalms that David ever wrote; his Psalm of repentance; Psalm 51, which I share with you below:

"[To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.]

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when

thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar." Psalms 51:1-19, KJV

How many of us can identify with such a beautiful Psalm, written at a time when David had been greatly humbled, and his sins had been utterly exposed before the Lord. But, where there is great repentance, there is also great Mercy and great Forgiveness from the Lord; for as it is written:

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18, KJV

"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23, KJV

"Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust." Psalms 103:13-14, KJV

In spite of his serious sins, to this day, King David is recognized as one of the greatest kings of ancient Israel. Not only that, but God found him worthy to be an ancestor of Jesus Christ. What an honor indeed! Moreover, this example of God's Mercy and Forgiveness towards David gives us all hope, that no matter how bad we have been, no matter how many sins we have committed, we can still find forgiveness, if we will only return to the Lord with a truly repentant heart.

As we continue this article in part two, we will delve even deeper into the topic of our eyes. I trust that you will join me.

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King Herod's Dance And John The Baptist, We Are All Sinners
Spiritual Vision, Breaking Our Communion With God, Light Of
The Body, Diseased Vision, Ministry To The Blind, Spiritual
Blindness Of The Jews, Jesus The Great Light, Refusing The
Light, Paul's Dramatic Conversion, Loving Chastisements,
Israel's Continued Blindness, Promise And Anointing Of Holy
Spirit, Blind Without The Spirit, Keep Your Eyes On Jesus

While we have discussed some of the great men of the Old
Testament who yielded to the sin of the lust of the eyes,
they were not the only ones. Turning to the New Testament,
we discover that it was as a result of evil King Herod's
lust for his very own daughter-in-law, which climaxed at a
birthday party where the lovely lady performed a very sexy
dance, that John the Baptist lost his head:

"But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of
Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod. Whereupon he
promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask.
And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give
me here John Baptist's head in a charger. And the king was
sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat
with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her. And he
sent, and beheaded John in the prison. And his head was
brought in a charger, and given to the damsel: and she
brought it to her mother. And his disciples came, and took
up the body, and buried it, and went and told Jesus."
Matthew 14:6-12, KJV

So whether they be good or evil, we have seen that quite a
few Biblical personalities yielded to the lust of their
eyes. And lest we begin to think in our pride that perhaps
we are not quite as bad as they were, or not quite as guilty
as they were, let us not forget the words of our Lord who
said:

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou
shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That
whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath
committed adultery with her already in his heart."
Matthew 5:27-28, KJV

"...He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a
stone at her." John 8:7b, KJV

Truly then, as King David, the Prophet Isaiah, and the
Apostle Paul all wisely wrote, we are all sinners saved only
by the Grace and Mercy of God:

"...They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there
is none that doeth good...They are all gone aside, they are
all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good,

no, not one." Psalms 14:1b, 3, KJV

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." Isaiah 64:6, KJV

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one... For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Romans 3:10, 23, KJV

While we have thus far discussed the sin of lusting with our eyes, and the serious consequences which can result from it, the Bible speaks of an even greater sin which we can commit with our eyes; not with our physical eyes, but rather with our spiritual eyes. I am referring to the loss of spiritual vision. In the Book of Proverbs we find the following very interesting verse:

"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." Proverbs 29:18, KJV

Obviously, the writer is not simply speaking of physical vision, being as losing one's physical vision does not necessarily result in death. It is for this reason that he clarifies his statement by adding "he that keepeth the law, happy is he". In the original Hebrew, the word used here for "vision" is "chazown", pronounced khaw-zone', one of the meanings of which is divine communication.

In other words, when we take our eyes off of the Lord, when we withdraw ourselves from spiritual communion with Him, when we neglect His Word and fail to live by it, then we truly do become spiritually blind, and we are headed for serious trouble if we don't straighten out quickly. Isn't this exactly what happened to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden? They broke their spiritual communion with the Lord when they chose to listen to Satan's lies instead. They took their eyes off of the Lord, and they lusted after the fruit which Satan had promised them would make them as wise as gods. They broke God's Laws, and they soon suffered for it, and we have also been suffering for it ever since.

Several thousand years later, Jesus would come explaining the importance of maintaining our spiritual vision, and keeping our eyes on Heaven. In one of His sermons He said:

"The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness." Luke 11:34, KJV

It is interesting to note that in the previous verse, in the original Greek, the word "single" is derived from the word "haplous", pronounced hap-looche', which also means whole or sound. In similar fashion, the word "evil" is derived from the Greek word "poneros", pon-ay-ros', which also means diseased or blind. In other words, when our spiritual eyes are no longer sound; when they are diseased and our vision has become impaired, we in fact become spiritually blind, and we walk in darkness. Having now better understood what

Jesus meant by the above verse, it is also much easier to understand some of the other things He said throughout the four Gospels. Consider the following examples:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised," Luke 4:18, KJV

"And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear." Matthew 13:10-16, KJV

"Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." Matthew 15:14, KJV

"Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!...Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel." Matthew 23:24, KJV

"And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod. And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have no bread. And when Jesus knew it, he saith unto them, Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened? Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember? When I brake the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? They say unto him, Twelve. And when the seven among four thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? And they said, Seven. And he said unto them, How is it that ye do not understand?" Mark 8:15-21, KJV

"Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them. But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: That the saying of Esaias the prophet

might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them." John 12:35-40, KJV

As we all know, Jesus was, and is, that Great Light, of whom John spoke at the beginning of his Gospel, which had been prophesied since Old Testament times. He was, and is, the Great Light, who not only restored sight to the physically blind, but who also restores sight to the spiritually blind as well, as we see here:

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." Isaiah 9:2, KJV

"In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not...That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not."
John 1:4-5, 9-11, KJV

So Jesus was in fact the Great Light who shone in the midst of darkness; that is, in the midst of the spiritual darkness of His very own Jewish brethren who refused to receive Him as their Messiah. Thus, Jesus would say a few chapters later:

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved." John 3:19-20, KJV

While many of the Jewish Elders remained spiritually blind until the very afternoon that Jesus was crucified at the place known as Golgotha, the Bible does indicate that a few of them, such as Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimaethea, were secret Disciples who accepted that Jesus was in fact the promised Messiah. But of all of the Jewish Elders who were converted to the Christian faith, the one who had the most dramatic conversion, was as far as we know, the Apostle Paul. As I explain in "A Biblical Cafeteria Or The Whole Course?", Paul went from being an enraged, blind Christian persecutor, to becoming one of the most celebrated Christian evangelists of the First Century, who ultimately gave his very life for the cause of Jesus Christ.

Paul, then known as Saul of Tarsus, was so blinded by his own spiritual pride as a Law-abiding Pharisee, as well as by his deep hatred towards the fledgling Christian Church, that he couldn't even begin to see the error of his ways. Thus it was that the Lord chose to teach Paul a lesson which he would never forget. He decided to give Paul a very graphic example to demonstrate how spiritually blind he really was; and thus Paul was smitten blind for a period of three days, as we see by the following verses:

"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. 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. And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink."
Acts 9:1-9, KJV

But, as we already saw in part one, our God is also a very merciful God; and after He was certain that Paul had learned his lesson, He sent dear brother Ananias to heal Paul's eyes:

"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. 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." Acts 9:10-18, KJV

As I have pointed out before, I find it rather interesting, that in describing Paul's miraculous healing, Luke uses the phrase "there fell from his eyes as it had been scales". Why is this point significant? Because in describing the ancient sea serpent, Leviathan, who I personally believe is symbolic of Satan, (please see "Leviathan: An Ancient Sea Dragon?"), we are told the following:

"His scales are his pride, shut up together as with a close seal." Job 41:15, KJV

Who can possibly doubt that Paul lost a great deal of his pride and vanity following his direct encounter with the Lord?

Considering the life-changing ordeal which he had been through, during which he felt the full wrath of an angry God, is it any wonder that Paul would later write the following to his brethren:

"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth...It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God...For our God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:6, 10:31, 12:29, KJV

Surely, Paul was speaking from firsthand experience. As it is also written in the Book of Proverbs in the Old Testament:

"Open rebuke is better than secret love." Proverbs 27:5, KJV

Later, when Paul was sharing his personal testimony with King Agrippa, regarding how he had been called to serve the Lord, and to preach the Gospel of Salvation, Paul stated the following. Please notice how the Lord emphasizes, just as He did in Luke chapter four when He quoted from the Prophet Isaiah, that He was sending Paul to restore sight to the spiritually blind, just as Paul himself had been healed of the same:

"And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." Acts 26:15-18, KJV

So Paul was miraculously transformed from being a blind leader of the blind, to becoming a bearer of the Light of God's Word. Later, when writing to the brethren in Rome, Paul again brought up the issue of how his own brethren, the Jews, had become spiritually blind, in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, as we see here:

"What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day. And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them: Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back always...For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in."
Romans 11:7-10, 25 KJV

Paul was so burdened by the spiritual blindness of his own people, that we find him mentioning it in a few more of his Epistles. For example, in communicating with the Church at Corinth, he wrote the following lines:

"Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ...But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." 2 Corinthians 3:12-14, 4:3-4, KJV

In writing to the brethren at Ephesus, Paul again expressed his desire that their spiritual eyes would be opened, and that they would understand the message of the Gospel, and that they would not walk blindly as other Gentiles walk, as we see here:

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all...This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:"
Ephesians 1:17-23, 4:17-18, KJV

If there is one thing which the Bible makes clear, it is that the only way that anyone can truly understand the things of God, the only way in which our spiritual eyes can be opened, is through the anointing of His Holy Spirit, which God offers to all men freely, if they will only ask. As Jesus had said to His own Disciples sometime earlier:

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" Luke 11:13, KJV

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 14:26, KJV

Without the Spirit of God working in our lives, and without receptive hearts to receive the things which God wishes to reveal to us, we would all be as spiritually blind as the examples we have seen in this article. In fact, as Paul also tells us, we might even consider the truths of the Bible to be utter foolishness, as so many people do today:

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

1 Corinthians 2:14, KJV

So what about you? How is your vision? Are you still walking in spiritual darkness? Are your eyes only on the temporary things of the flesh of this current wayward world? Are you still blinded to the truth of God's Holy Word, or have you received the Light of Jesus Christ? It is my hope that your eyes have indeed been opened, and that they are stayed upon Jesus Christ and His Eternal Promises, for as it is written:

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:2, KJV

As we are told in the Book of Revelation, God wishes to anoint our eyes with the eyesalve of His Spirit, in order that we might truly see, and truly understand, the great things which are revealed in His Word, beginning with His wonderful Plan of Salvation:

"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see." Revelation 3:18, KJV

If you have not yet received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, and if you are still walking in spiritual darkness, then my prayer for you, in the wise words of King David, is that your eyes will finally be opened to the truth, and that you will recognize Jesus Christ as the only Truth, and the only Way to Eternal Life:

"Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." Psalms 119:18, KJV

"Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way." Psalms 119:37, KJV

If you have already accepted Jesus Christ, or if this article leads you in that direction, then please also consider this:

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

1 Corinthians 2:9, KJV

With these wonderful words, I will bring this article to a close. I pray that it has been a blessing to many.

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