

The Eyes of a Prophet

Spiritual Blindness-Cause & Cure

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **September 11, 2022**



A prophetic perspective is less about foretelling and more about seeing the world as God sees it. As Christ-followers, we need to clearly see and understand the world around us from God's perspective since our calling is to present His perspective to that same world. But spiritual blindness can diminish our ability to fulfill that assignment. So, we need to have an honest evaluation of the degree to which we are invested and enmeshed in this present world order. If we are too invested, our spiritual sight is diminished. In this session, we are exploring the cause of and cure for spiritual blindness so we can recognize where and how we need to change to more effectively lead with our faith.

I. OLD THINGS & NEW THINGS

A. Old Things

Revelation 21:4 *"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for **the old order** of things has passed away."*

B. Spiritually Blind

2 Timothy 4:9–11 ⁹*Do your best to come to me quickly,* ¹⁰*for **Demas, because he loved this world**, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.* ¹¹*Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.*

John 14:30 *I will not speak with you much longer, for the **prince of this world** is coming. He has no hold on me,*

John 18:36 *Jesus said, "**My kingdom is not of this world**. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."*

1 Corinthians 3:19 *For **the wisdom of this world** is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"*

1. What does it mean to be spiritually blind?
2. In what ways have you seen deception increase in the public square? How are you addressing this in your own home?
3. What is the difference between knowing facts and having Godly wisdom? How does this affect your response to trials in your life?

II. EVERYTHING NEW

Revelation 21:5 *He who was seated on the throne said, "**I am making everything new!**" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

A. New Covenant

Luke 22:20 *In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is **the new covenant** in my blood, which is poured out for you.*

Hebrews 10:19-22 ¹⁹*Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,* ²⁰*by **a new and living way opened for us through the curtain**, that is, his body,* ²¹*and since we have a great priest over the house of God,* ²²*let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.*

Hebrews 8:5-6 ⁵*They (the priests) serve at a sanctuary that is **a copy and shadow of what is in heaven**. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."* ⁶*But **the ministry Jesus has received** is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.*

B. Heavenly Realms

2 Corinthians 12:1-2 ¹ *I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord.* ² *I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was **caught up to the third heaven**. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know--God knows.*

4. What Godly wisdom has our culture left behind for the sake of modernity? In what ways can you stand against this with a biblical worldview?
5. What are some steps you can begin taking to intentionally serve others in your day-to-day life?

Prayer

Psalm 1:1 *Blessed is the man who does not **walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.***

I choose not to walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers, amen.

Ephesians 1:3 *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us in the heavenly realms** with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*

Ephesians 1:19-20 ¹⁹ *and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength,* ²⁰ *which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and **seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,***

Ephesians 6:11-12 ¹¹ *Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.* ¹² *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the **spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.***

C. New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:10-11 ¹⁰ *And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me **the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.*** ¹¹ *It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel . . .*

Hebrews 12:22 *But you have come to Mount Zion, to **the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.** You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,*

Hebrews 11:13-16 (NASB[®]) ¹³ *All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.* ¹⁴ *For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own.* ¹⁵ *And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return.* ¹⁶ *But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, **a heavenly one.** Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for **He has prepared a city for them.***

6. What are some practical ways you can “put on” the full armor of God?

Prayer

Almighty God, we come in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Forgive our affinity for the world and the captivity it brings. Grant that wherever we are shaped by the world rather than by Your Word, we may be helped to recognize it and by Your power to be freed from it. Grant, too, that in rising to live as You have called us to live, we may demonstrate to the world a new and different way of life that once again will free the captives and show a human way of life that is worthy of You, the author of life and of humanity. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.