

2020 Vision

Visible Neglect

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **April 16, 2023**



Most of us have had an eye exam, and normal is 20/20, with no need to correction. We can use that idea about our spiritual vision because the Bible invites us to see beyond our physical eyes. The year 2020, in many ways, began to change how we “see.” God began to awaken us to what was happening in our world in some new ways. A curtain was opened and parted, and God began to give us new insight, new understanding, and a new vision, even amid a greater release of the power of darkness. God is moving in some new ways, and we need 20/20 spiritual vision.

Matthew 15:10–16 (NIV84[®])

¹⁰ Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen and understand. ¹¹ What goes into a man’s mouth does not make him ‘unclean,’ but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him ‘unclean.’ ” ¹² Then the disciples came to him and asked, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?” ¹³ He replied, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. ¹⁴ Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵ Peter said, “Explain the parable to us.” ¹⁶ **“Are you still so dull?”** Jesus asked them.

I. 2020 VISION CHANGES

The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Isaiah 59:14–15 ¹⁴ *So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter.* ¹⁵ *Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice.*

Lawlessness

1 Samuel 8:19–20 ¹⁹ *But the people refused to listen to Samuel. “No!” they said. “We want a king over us.* ²⁰ *Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.”*

The Church . . . Afraid and Compromised

1 Corinthians 2:4–5 ⁴ *My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power,* ⁵ *so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.*

1. **How has the Lord opened your eyes spiritually in new ways over the past three years?**
2. **Where have you seen an increase in lawlessness and ungodliness in our culture? In what ways can you take a stand against it and bring Truth into your spheres of influence?**
3. **Where have you seen Christians be passive about what is going on in the world? How can you specifically encourage other believers in your life to stand up for the Truth?**

II. BEYOND 20/20 VISION

Hebrews 11:1–3 ¹ Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family.

Hebrews 11:22 By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones.

Hebrews 11:23 By faith Moses’ parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.

Hebrews 11:26–27 26 He (Moses) regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

Hebrews 12:2–3 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

4. When was a time you had to step out in faith not knowing the next step? What was the outcome?

III. VISIBLE NEGLECT

Hebrews 2:1–3 (NASB95[®]) ¹ For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. ² For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, ³ **how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?**

A. Two Warnings Provided, Related in Cause and Outcome

B. Forms of Neglect — Neglecting the Holy Spirit

John 16:7, 13 (NIV84[®])

⁷ But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. . . . ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

Born of the Spirit

John 3:5 (NIV84[®])

Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.”

Baptized in the Spirit

Mark 1:8 (NIV84[®])

“I baptize you with water, but he (Jesus) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22–23 (NIV84[®])

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Gifts of the Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:1 (NIV84[®])

Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.

5. In what ways have you neglected spending time on growing spiritually? How can you remedy that in your life?

6. Where can you more intentionally invite the Holy Spirit into your life?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, forgive us for our idolatry. We have placed our trust in many things other than You. Forgive us for choosing comfort and convenience over obedience and faithfulness. We have ignored Your precepts and neglected Your great provision for our lives. Look upon us now with mercy; respond to us with expressions of grace. Holy Spirit, we are listening — lead us, direct us that we might once again walk uprightly before God. Through our lives, may the name of Jesus be honored and esteemed. May the purposes of God be brought forth in our generation. In Jesus’ name, amen.