

The Eyes Have It

Over the past several months, I have had a series of styes on both eyes which are generally annoying and sometimes painful. When I have had health issues in the past, one wise member of our group asked me what I am learning through this experience. As a result of his counseling, I decided to see (be watchful) for what the Lord may be trying to reveal to me through this experience.

We recently discussed the Full Armor of God which is referenced in Ephesians 6:10-18. While it is true that we should “We walk by faith, and not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7), there is a practical matter of getting around in our physical world. So while the helmet of salvation covers our head, is it possible that there are holes to peer out? Even the Spartan helmet shown below has openings for the eyes. If there is not a direct covering for the eyes, how do we protect them?



First, let's look at a few scriptures regarding the eyes.

Psalms 119:18 - Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.

Luke 10:23 (NIV) - 23 Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.

1 Samuel 16:7 - 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

Acts 9:18 - Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,

Ezekiel 20:7 (NIV) - 7 - And I said to them, “Each of you, get rid of the vile images you have set your eyes on, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.”

Matthew 5:28 - 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Job 31:1 - “I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman.

Matthew 5:29 - If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

Luke 11:33-36 - 33 “No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light. 34 Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are unhealthy, your body also is full of darkness. 35 See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness. 36

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Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you.”

There are a couple of other writings that I found helpful when thinking about this topic.

“Attention leads to adoration. What you look at, you long for and love.” Jon Tyson.

“Watch your eyes, men. Both the eyes of your bodies and the eyes of your minds. If they are corrupt, they can but corrupt all the rest. The eye is the light of the body. Your thought is the light of your heart. But if your eye is not pure – because since the organs are subject to thought, a corrupt thought will corrupt also senses – everything in you will become obscure, and a seducing haze will create impure phantasms in you. Everything is pure in him who has a pure thought which causes a pure look, and the light of God descends as a master where there is no obstruction of senses. But if out of ill will you have accustomed your eyes to disorderly visions, everything will become darkness in you. In vain you will look at the most holy things. In the darkness they will be nothing but blackness and blackness will be the deeds accomplished by you.

Therefore, o children of God, defend yourselves against yourselves. Look after yourselves diligently against all temptations. There is no evil in being tempted. An athlete prepares himself for victory fighting. But it is evil to be overcome because you are not prepared and you are negligent. I know that everything serves as a temptation. I know that defense is exhausting. I know that it is tiring to have to struggle. But think of what you will gain through these things. And for one hour of pleasure, whatever kind it may be, would you like to lose an eternity of peace? What does the pleasure of the flesh, of gold, of thoughts leave you? Nothing. What do you gain by rejecting them? Everything. I am speaking to sinners because man is a sinner. Well tell me the truth: after satisfying your senses, your pride, your greed, have you felt fresher, happier, safer? In the hour following your satisfaction, which is always the time of meditation, have you sincerely felt that you were happy? I have never tasted the bread of sensuality. But I will reply in your stead: “No. Languor, unhappiness, uncertainty, nausea, fear, restlessness: that was the juice squeezed out of the hour spent in pleasure”.

But I beg you: while I say to you: “Never do that”, I also say to you: “Do not be inflexible with those who make mistakes”. Remember that you are all brothers, made of one flesh and one soul. Consider that there are many reasons why one is led to sin. Be merciful towards sinners and kindly help them and take them back to God, showing them that the path they have followed is full of dangers for the flesh, the mind, and the spirit. Do that and you will receive a great reward...Because the Father Who is in Heaven is merciful to good people and He knows how to give you one hundred fold to one.”

The Poem of the Man God, 174. The Sermon of the Mount. The Beatitudes (Part Five). Encounter with the Magdalene.

So, after reading and meditating on these messages, I am convicted that I have not been as disciplined as I should be with what draws my attention and holds my thoughts. I will strive to meditate on good things to transform my mind.

Philippians 4:8 (NKV) -

Meditate on These Things

8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

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Romans 12:2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

If you have previously studied this topic, are there any other passages that you feel shed light on this topic?

Do you have any other insights or advice that you can share with the group?

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Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV) - The Armor of God

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 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. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.