



Week 3 - Seeing Eyes

This week's text – 2 Corinthians 3:1-4:6

Key idea: We are all spiritually blind unless God intervenes through the Spirit.

Sermon Points

The spiritual blindness of us all

Text: 2 Corinthians 3:12-15 & Romans 1:19-21

Though scripture tells us that God can be plainly seen in creation, we are still unable to see him, because Satan has blinded us. This also means that instead of being able to see our own sin and our need for a saviour, we believe the lie that we do not need saving. We tell ourselves that we are decent human beings, and that we can fix our mistakes, if we just try hard enough. We elevate ourselves to be our own Gods (masters of our own souls), and we set our own moral compasses. Even as believers, we can slip into a semi-veiled state, allowing sin to creep in, justifying it as it grows and slowly takes root in our thinking, behaviour and character. Satan doesn't let up once God removed the original veil from our eyes. He hates God and will make every attempt to put new veils over our eyes, so that we stop enjoying a pure and unhindered relationship with the Lord.

God is the answer to our blindness

Text: 2 Corinthians 3:16-18

We cannot unveil ourselves, just as blind people cannot make themselves see. Removing our spiritual blindness is a miracle and therefore needs the divine intervention of God. The Holy Spirit does the miraculous for us by lifting the veil, and he reveals the gospel to us as the truth. When we are confronted with the truth, the Holy Spirit convicts our hearts of sin, and we then have a choice to make; we either reject his offer of forgiveness and walk away from the truth, or we accept it and place our faith and trust in the resurrected Christ, surrendering our lives fully to him.

God does the work; our role is to respond. We cannot earn the work God has already done, in Christ, and we simply do not have any power to overcome the curse of sin and death. Our salvation is miraculous and effected by the power of his Spirit. His grace is a gift, and it has to be received as one, for it to take root in our hearts.

Our journey does not stop at the unveiling of our hearts, that is just the beginning. The Holy Spirit's work of convicting us of sin and conforming us into the likeness of Christ is a life-long journey. He works in all the layers of our hearts, continually dulling our tastes for earthly pleasures, bringing us freedom from sinful desires and redirecting our priorities towards his. As believers we CHANGE. Change is the evidence that the Holy Spirit is alive and active in our lives. Change happens when we do life with other Christians, sharing our struggles and our victories over sin. Community is essential to our growth.

Our Responsibility

Someone loved God and us enough to share the gospel with us. Without those people, who sewed into our lives, we would not be Christians today. We have the responsibility, and we should have the desire to take the same message of salvation to others. The problem is that we all fear rejection and humiliation at some level. In addition to that, some of us unnecessarily take on God's part of the job, which falsely burdens us. Our job is to faithfully and obediently tell the message, but it is only God who can do the miraculous unveiling of the heart, bringing people out of the darkness and into the light.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why are we all spiritually blind without God's miraculous intervention?
2. How does God unveil our eyes so that we can see the gospel?
3. What is our role in the process of receiving the gospel by faith?
4. *(Leader note: Spend some time, sharing testimonies, specifically around the process of their hearts being unveiled to see the gospel. There may be some unsaved people in your group, who have not yet surrendered their lives to Christ, so do not expect everyone to want to share. Ask for a few volunteers).* Share with the group what the process of the unveiling of your heart looked like on your journey to becoming a Christ-follower. (I.e. was it an instant unveiling, or a slow and progressive process? Was there a specific moment where you realised you could see and understand? Did you go from being an atheist to a believer, or from being religious to being born again?)
5. Why do you think, that as believers, we can still fall into certain patterns of spiritual blindness, even though we have been reconciled to God?
6. Why is life-change a mark of the Spirit's work in our lives?
7. Why is Christian community important for our spiritual growth, and in what ways do you think we, as a community group, could better help one another in the fight against sin, and in living a righteous, joy-filled and abundant life?
8. Why is it each one of our responsibility to take the gospel to others?

Go around the group and ask each person to briefly answer the following question: What is this week's big take-away for you and how do you think God wants you to respond?