

What's in Your Blind-spot?

Part Two

To recap from part one, a blind spot is an area on the retina of the eye in which there are no light receptors. Therefore one is unable to perceive objects in a certain area of one's visionary field, even though they are large as life! This blind-spot grows larger as one gets older. I use this as a natural picture of what occurs in the eyes of our hearts - there are certain things which we are unable to spiritually discern even though they are present and having an effect on our spiritual health.

David prayed:

*Psa 19:12 Who can understand his errors? Oh make me pure from **secret faults***

This word 'secret' in the Hebrew means 'hidden, covered'. In effect David is praying about his blind-spots. He goes on to say:

Psa 19:13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me

This word translated 'presumptuous' actually means 'arrogant, proud'. David is aware that pride is connected to sin. His train of thought flows directly from speaking of hidden sin to the sins flowing from pride. Could there be a connection? Do you remember Goliath and the way God struck him down? He sent the stone right into his blind-spot so that Goliath did not discern its approach. Goliath was so busy declaring his superior strength and ability; he did not see the stone coming. Arrogance and pride caused a lack of vigilance - they blinded him to the approaching stone.

Let us dig a little deeper into the causes of blindness. In Matthew 23, Jesus refers to the Pharisees as being 'blind' five times. He rebukes them for saying they can see and points out their blind-spots; the beliefs which they declare do not line up with their behavior. The Greek word for 'blind' comes

from a root word meaning, 'to envelop with smoke, to inflate with pride or self-conceit'! So here we can see that religious pride and self-righteousness bring about spiritual blindness. The Pharisees were confident that they were more spiritual than others, more knowledgeable and therefore definitely more righteous! Think of the Pharisee in the story Jesus told, who went into the temple and prayed:

Luk 18:11 'Oh, God, I thank you that I am not like other people--robbers, crooks, adulterers, or, heaven forbid, like this tax man. I fast twice a week and tithe on all my income.'

Does that not remind you of the Laodicean Church in Revelations 3:

*Rev 3:17 You brag, 'I'm rich, I've got it made, I need nothing from anyone,' oblivious that in fact you're a pitiful, **blind** beggar, threadbare and homeless.*

One of the traits of the present-day Laodicean church age is blindness. It is our spiritual pride and self-righteousness that has caused these blind-spots. Remember one of the meanings of the root word for 'blind' is 'to envelop with smoke'. What is it that causes these smokescreens to rise up between our spiritual radars and the truth?

In proverbs 7, we read about the modus operandi of a seductive spirit. Its chief tool is flattery; words which stroke the ego of the intended victim until he feels all puffed up with self-conceit and is powerless to resist. The Hebrew word from which 'flattery' comes, means 'to remove a portion'. Is this not what causes a blind-spot? When a portion of the light-sensitive cells on the retina are deadened or removed, then a blind-spot appears. When the smokescreen of spiritual pride blocks out an area of sin in our lives, the eyes of our hearts cannot perceive it. We feel we are quite spiritual and need no help in that area.

Unfortunately, much of the blame for the state of spiritual blindness of the Church lies at the feet of those who have succumbed to seducing spirits and

bring flattering messages from these dark sources, speaking them out in the name of the Lord.

Jer 23: ...the Jerusalem prophets are behind all this. They're the cause of the godlessness polluting this country." A Message from GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies: "Don't listen to the sermons of the prophets. It's all hot air. Lies, lies, and more lies. They make it all up. Not a word they speak comes from me. They preach their 'Everything Will Turn Out Fine' sermon to congregations with no taste for God, Their 'Nothing Bad Will Ever Happen to You' sermon to people who are set in their own ways.

For some time now, the prevailing message brought to the Church by many so-called prophets has been one of flattery, deceiving God's people into a state of false peace and the illusion that their lives are right before God. As Jeremiah 23:29 explains, the effect of a true Word from God will be conviction and repentance resulting in refinement; breaking down before building up:

Jer 23:29 Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

Two of the four uses of the Word in our lives are in the context of conviction of sin:

2Ti 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness

Jesus tells us in Revelation 3 that He rebukes those He loves. How is it then that we hear so little rebuke and so much undiluted encouragement and flattery from the mouths of the prophets? The scripture usually used in connection with prophesy is this:

1Co 14:3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

We have assumed that 'edification' means 'to build up and encourage' when in actual fact, it has more to do with straightening up. The Greek word actually means 'to be a house builder, to construct'. A builder has to build according to the architectural blueprint in order to produce a house which is true to the original plan. This concept is discussed in greater detail in my article, *The Plumb-line*. Suffice to say that any shoddy building and deviations from the blueprint are not tolerated by the building inspector.

The Greek word translated 'exhortation' actually carries within it the idea of 'imploring, entreating and beseeching'. It is a passionate call the Church to align itself with the revealed Word of God. Sadly, most of what is loosely termed 'prophesy' today serves only to lull the Church into a state of slumber and perceived assurance of immunity from disaster. This is tragic, considering the fact that the Man who calls Himself 'a Refiner's Fire' is standing at the door.

In order to deal with our blind-spots, we need to repent of spiritual pride. Until we do, we will not even begin to see the areas God wants us to attend to. His throne is built on a foundation of righteousness and justice and if we wish Him to be enthroned in our lives, these foundations must be built within our hearts. This can only be accomplished if we become a people who tremble at His Word (Isaiah 66:2). We are told that when we turn to the Lord in repentance, the veil, or smokescreen, is taken away and we are able to see or discern and understand what is before us. In Isaiah 42, the Lord's servant is described in a way that is not very flattering but helpful:

Isa 42:18 Pay attention! Are you deaf? Open your eyes! Are you blind? You're my servant, and you're not looking! You're my messenger, and you're not listening! The very people I depended upon, servants of GOD, blind as a bat--willfully blind! You've seen a lot, but looked at nothing. You've heard everything, but listened to nothing.

The time has come for us to allow God to begin to deal with our blind-spots, to pray as David did that He would clear us of hidden faults. The Pharisees refused to admit they were blind; their pride would not allow them to acknowledge any failing. Therefore Jesus declared that they would be

judged according to the level of spiritual sight they declared they had. This generation of the Church claims to have superior revelation and understanding. If we do not repent of spiritual pride, we will be judged by the lofty standard we claim we have attained. That is a terrifying thought.

Denial is a psychological tool used by people who do not want to face the reality of their situation. It does not however change the situation. It just numbs the person's comprehension of his circumstance. Is it not far better to surrender ourselves to the trustworthy care of the Holy Spirit, whose job it is to convict concerning sin, righteousness and judgment; and allow the searchlight of Heaven to expose those things hiding in the blind-spots of our heart. Once sin is repented of and forgiven, the hiding-place of the enemy is destroyed. That area he used to launch attack against us will be uncovered and neutralized by the power of the Blood.

Let us go back and look at the dealings of God with our forefather of Faith:

Isa 51:1 "Listen to me, all you who are serious about right living and committed to seeking GOD. Ponder the rock from which you were cut, the quarry from which you were dug.

Isa 51:2 Yes, ponder Abraham, your father, and Sarah, who bore you.

The trials Abraham went through on the way to receiving the promise were used to shape him into a vessel fit to inherit the promise. When he left Ur, his name was Abram. This means 'high father' and comes from a root word meaning 'haughty, proud, to exalt oneself'. Seeing that a person's name denoted his character or purpose, it seems that God had to deal with pride in the father of Faith, just as He does with us! Only once Abram had been through a thirteen year period of trial, during which God did not speak to him, did God speak to him again in Genesis 17 and change his name to Abraham - 'father of a multitude'. When God changed a person's name, it was always prophetic of what God was going to do through that person. God wants to take His people from a place of spiritual pride and barrenness, to a place of humility and great fruitfulness. Our Ishmaels, brought forth through intimacy with the world (Hagar was an Egyptian) and its ways, will

never produce the fulfillment of God's promise in our lives. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Pro 15:33 Fear-of-GOD is a school in skilled living-- first you learn humility, then you experience glory.

It is imperative that we realize and repent of our spiritual pride. Abraham had a son, Ishmael and was proud of him. He thought Ishmael was the son of promise because up until Genesis 17, God had not mentioned that Sarai had a part to play in bringing forth the fulfillment of God's promise. When God announced to Abraham that he needed to be circumcised at the grand old age of ninety nine and then proceeded to tell him that shortly his wife would bear the promised son, Abraham had to take a good look at what he had been nurturing and parenting for thirteen years and come to terms with the fact that this was not God's manifestation of the promise. In the same way, beloved, we need to have our eyes opened to see that until God has dealt with our pride, until He has circumcised our heart and changed our name, we are unable to participate in bringing forth the fulfillment of the promise God has given us.

Let us, as the Church of the Laodicean age, acquire salve for our eyes, so that we may realize that all our great works for the kingdom, the things that we consider rich and wonderful and spiritual, may in fact be only our Ishmaels - borne out of intimacy with the spirit of this age. We can try to argue the merits of our ministries with God, as Abraham did in Genesis 17:18 but if we want the benefits of God's covenant manifested in our lives, then we have no option but to submit to the circumcision knife of the Word and turn from our Ishmaels towards God's blueprint for true fruitfulness. It is not that God wants to destroy Ishmael, but we have yet to experience what He has promised to do through us. What we have seen up to this point in the Church is not the Land of Promise.

Abram was 99 when he had a name change and was circumcised. 99 is a picture of a double measure of fruitfulness. This is what awaits us if we allow our spiritual pride to be dealt with. The tricky thing with pride is we don't know we have it. Abram did not know he was not seeing clearly. He

needed a fresh encounter face to face with God. He needed the pure light of the Living Word to illuminate his blind spot and re-align his path to God's blueprint.

In the year following this life-changing encounter, Isaac was born - Abraham got to touch and embrace the manifestation of his promise. The church stands at the brink of the Land of Promise. If we are to truly experience that which we have beheld with the eye of faith, then we too need to surrender to a life-changing name-changing encounter with the Living Word at this time. He comes to circumcise our hearts afresh; to enlighten the eyes of our hearts (and reveal those blind spots) that we may clearly understand the parameters of the hope to which we have been called.

My brothers and sisters, its time to line up for the eye-salve so that we do not spend the rest of our lives being tour-guides for a country we have never even been to ourselves, like the blind guides of Matthew 23. As God begins to apply the Word that divides between soulish Christianity and true spirituality, let us have the courage to cooperate:

1Jo 1:8 If we claim that we're free of sin, we're only fooling ourselves. A claim like that is errant nonsense. On the other hand, if we admit our sins--make a clean breast of them--he won't let us down; he'll be true to himself. He'll forgive our sins and purge us of all wrongdoing.