

The Eye of the Heart: Clarity or Darkness

I. Review Eternal Investments

(Matthew 6:19-21 NASB) “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

- a. Earthly treasures are fleeting, vulnerable to decay, theft, and corruption (**Matthew 6:19**), and Scripture repeatedly warns that pursuing wealth as a source of identity, security, or fulfillment leads only to dissatisfaction (**Ecclesiastes 5:10**), spiritual loss (**Mark 8:36**), and misplaced priorities (**Luke 12:15–21**). Though Jesus wasn’t condemning wise stewardship or possessions themselves, He exposed the danger of allowing material things to capture our hearts. Even the finest goods like luxury clothing, precious metals, or large savings are ultimately perishable and cannot secure our souls (**James 5:1–5**).
- b. Heavenly treasure is eternal, secure, and unaffected by decay or theft (**Matthew 6:20**), and it includes both the future rewards we will receive (**2 Corinthians 5:10**) and the present fruits of a life aligned with God’s purposes, such as love, joy, peace, and righteousness (**Galatians 5:22–23; James 3:17–18**). Storing up treasure in heaven means living with eternal intentionality or being generous, serving others, and doing good works with a heart fixed on God (**1 Timothy 6:18–19; Colossians 3:23–24**). This eternal perspective reorients our lives away from temporary gains and toward lasting values like faith, hope, and love (**1 Corinthians 13:13**), anchoring us in hope through every trial, knowing that our inheritance is secure, imperishable, and hidden with Christ in God (**Colossians 3:1–4; 2 Corinthians 4:17–18; 1 Peter 1:3–4**).

(1 Peter: 1:3-4 NASB) “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.”

- c. Jesus teaches in **Matthew 6:21** that “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also,” revealing that what we value most inevitably shapes how we live. He isn’t merely concerned with our outward behavior but with our inward allegiance, inviting us to examine where our time, money, and energy go, because these reveal our true priorities. We can’t serve both God and wealth (**Matthew 6:24**); our hearts must be fully surrendered to Him. This teaching is not just about doing the right things, but desiring the right things. Our decisions flow from our desires, so Jesus calls us to orient our affections around eternal treasures, delighting in Him above all else (**Psalms 37:4**).

II. The Eye Sets Direction

(Matthew 6:22a NASB) “The eye is the lamp of the body...”

- a. Our eyes play a vital role in our daily lives. Sight is the dominant sense for most people and serves as the primary way we interpret and engage with the world. It shapes how we learn, move, and connect with others. The human eye can process around 36,000 pieces of visual information per hour and sends signals to the brain almost instantaneously. This rapid processing gives us orientation and direction, making sight essential for spatial awareness and motor coordination.
- b. Our focus affects our direction, where we set our gaze (our attention and desires), our feet will follow. What we give our attention to doesn’t just capture our thoughts, but also our desires, intentions, and eventually our actions. As we continually focus on something, it shapes our heart and will, ultimately directing the course of our lives.

(Proverbs 4:25-26 NASB) “Let your eyes look directly ahead and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you. 26 Watch the path of your feet, and all your ways will be established.”

“You are the person you are becoming, and the process of becoming is shaped by where your attention is fixed.” - Dallas Willard, Renovation of the Heart

- c. Technically, the eyes gather light, but it’s the brain that interprets what we “see.” This is crucial because, even if our eyes function properly, our perception can be accurate, distorted, or somewhere in between. The rod photoreceptor cells in the eye’s periphery (outer edges) only detect black and white, but the brain compensates by filling in the gaps, creating a complete picture—even overcoming the blind spot. Similarly, while we may notice things in the periphery of our spiritual sight, we won’t have a clear, full perspective unless we focus directly on what matters.

(Proverbs 4:25 NASB) “Let your eyes look directly ahead and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you.”

III. A Clear Eye Leads to A Life Full of Light

(Matthew 6:22b NASB) “..so then, if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.”

- a. The Greek word for “clear” is *haplous*, which means healthy, single-minded, sincere, or undivided in purpose. Jesus isn’t just talking about physical eyesight here, He’s speaking about the lens (on a spiritual level) through which we perceive and interpret life. When the eyes of our heart are set on the beauty of Jesus and His ways, our entire life becomes illuminated. We begin to walk in clarity, spiritual understanding, and revelation, rather than confusion or compromise. This light brings purpose to our path and keeps us from drifting aimlessly.

(Ephesians 1:17-19 NASB) “[praying] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the boundless greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might”

- b. Having a clear eye means we are focused on God’s truth, allowing it to illuminate our choices, relationships, and thoughts. It’s not about perfection but about intentional alignment with what God values. Just as natural light brings visibility, spiritual light brings discernment and direction. We see people and situations the way God sees them. We make decisions with heaven’s perspective instead of our own. And when our hearts are sincere and undivided, our lives overflow with Christlike integrity, wisdom, and peace.

(Psalm 119:105 NASB) “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

(Philippians 4:8 NASB) “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

- c. Practically, a “clear eye” is reflected in our devotion, intentionality, and alignment to God’s priorities. It shows up in our rhythms of prayer and the choices we make that embrace and reflect Kingdom values. A clear eye means guarding what we look at, filtering our thoughts through the truth of Scripture, and regularly re-centering our hearts on Jesus when we get distracted. It’s choosing to seek God’s perspective in challenges and living to please Him rather than people. This kind of focused, undivided vision doesn’t just bring clarity and purpose to our own lives, it becomes a beacon of light that others are drawn to and inspired by.

(Psalm 101:3 NASB) “I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me.”

(2 Corinthians 10:5 NASB) “We are destroying arguments and all arrogance raised against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ”

(Psalm 119:9 NASB) *“How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word.”*

(Hebrews 12:2 NASB) *“looking only at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

(Proverbs 3:6 NASB) *“In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight”*

IV. A Corrupted Eye Leads to Deeper Darkness

(Matthew 6:23 NASB) *“But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. So if the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!”*

- a. A “bad” eye refers to a moral or spiritual corruption or a diseased or distorted lens through which we see the world. The Greek word for “bad” is *ponēros*, which signifies something that is morally evil, harmful, or corrupted. Jesus is not talking about physical blindness but about an inner condition that skews our perception. When our inner vision is tainted by sin, it distorts the way we view and interact with life, truth, and people all around us. Instead of seeing clearly, we become susceptible to misinterpreting good as evil and evil as good. This spiritual distortion clouds our judgment and leads us down a path of confusion, self-deception, and unbelief.

(Ephesians 4:17-19 NASB) *“So I say this, and affirm in the Lord, that you are to no longer walk just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their minds, 18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; 19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves up to indecent behavior for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.”*

(Isaiah 5:20-21 NASB) *“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! 21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes And clever in their own sight!”*

- b. When we allow our eye to become corrupted, we risk deceiving ourselves into thinking we are walking in the light while we are actually in deep darkness. Jesus warns that the light we think we have may actually be darkness. It is worse to live in sin-led self-deception than to be blinded altogether, for we think we are in the light when we are actually blind to the truth. This kind of inner corruption can be subtle, creeping in through worldly influences, pride, or a distorted sense of what is good and true. It blinds us to God’s will and leads us into further moral and spiritual darkness.

(1 John 1:6-8 NASB) *“If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.”*

(Romans 1:21-22 NASB) *“For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their reasonings, and their senseless hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools”*

(Proverbs 14:12 NASB) *“There is a way which seems right to a person, but its end is the way of death.”*

- c. The effects of a corrupted eye are seen in how we live. When our perspectives are shaped by darkness, it clouds our spiritual vision and leads us to justify sin and compromise. We become capable of calling darkness “light” and light “darkness” (Isaiah 5:20). To prevent this, we must examine what is shaping our perspectives. By aligning our perspectives with Scripture and setting Jesus before our eyes, we can cleanse our vision and restore the clarity that comes from living fellowship with The Holy Spirit.

(John 8:12 NASB) *“Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; the one who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.””*