The Power of Spiritual Vision

Consider *Ephesians 1:15-21*

_NLT* Ephesians 1:15 Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God’s people everywhere, 16 I have not stopped thanking God for you. _I pray for you constantly_, 17 _asking God_, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, _to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God_. 18 _I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light_ so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. 19 _I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power_ for us who believe him. 20 _This is the same mighty power_ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms. 21 _Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else_—not only in this world but also in the world to come.

_Ephesians 1:16, 18 and 19_ are three petitions embedded in Paul’s intercession for the church.

_KJV* Ephesians 1:17* eyes of our understanding being enlightened...

Sight is something that is seen.

Sight is the process, power, or function of seeing.

- Vision is _spiritual_ insight.
- Vision is romancing your future in your now.

I

There is **Sight**.

What we see can cause fear, can be disturbing and cause panic.

_KJV* 2 Kings 6:15* And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, _behold_, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?

Natural sight can warn us of impending danger.
Natural sight is a great benefit in the natural realm.

Natural sight can have its problems:

- Farsighted - able to see distant things better than near ones
- Nearsighted - able to see near things more clearly than distant ones
- Blindness - having less than $1/10$ of normal vision or lacking sight

“The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.” Helen Keller

II

There is Eyesight.

Eli in his old age began to lose his eyesight.

ESV 1 Samuel 3:2 At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. 3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

Moses in his old age maintained his eyesight.

NLT Deuteronomy 34:7 Moses was 120 years old when he died, yet his eyesight was clear, and he was as strong as ever.

Eli laid down in his own place. Vs 3:2

Moses stayed face to face with God. Vs 34:10

- Watch where you lay down in your old age and stay face to face with the Lord in your later days.
- Where we lay and where we stay impacts what we see.
- Where we lay and where we stay impacts our vision.

III

There is Oversight.
Luke 19:44 And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

Visitation 1984. ἐπισκοπή episkopē; from 1980; inspection (for relief); by implication, superintendence; specially, the Christian “episcopate”: — the office of a “bishop”, bishoprick, visitation.

- We all need management, guidance and accountability.

IV

There is Hindsight.

David after his sin with Psalm 51

Psalm 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.

Hindsight is developed through reflection and silence.

Silence helps us hear our own heartbeat.

Silence helps us process through our thoughts.

- Don’t just have a pass, learn from your past.
- Hindsight is reflecting and learning from our past.

V

There is Insight.

Elisha had discernment and spiritual vision.

2 Kings 6:17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

As spirit beings we have the capacity to see into the spirit realm.

Psalm 34:7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.
• Spiritual insight is called spiritual perception or discernment.

VI

There is Foresight.

*ESV 2 Corinthians 4:18* as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

You have the ability to see your future in your now by faith.

*Amp Hebrew 11:1* Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses].

Vision is romancing your future in your now.

VII

There is Spiritual insight.

Vision is what we see.

*Ephesians 1:17* asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God.

*Hebrews 2:9* But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Which Jesus do you see and preach?

• **God is with us,** *Matthew 1:23* Immanuel

• **God is for us,** *Jeremiah 29:11*

• **God is upon us,** *Acts 1:8*
God as us, “I was hungry, thirsty, naked, a stranger, sick and in prison.”

**NKJ Matthew 25:37** “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, **when did we see** You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’

When did we see you?

“Open our eyes, that we may see!”

- Which Jesus do you see and preach?

In *Matthew* Jesus is Messiah the anointed deliverer from oppression and sin.

In *Mark* Jesus is the servant of God, doing what the Father said exactly when and the way the father said.

- In *Luke* Jesus is the Son of Man, relating to the marginalized, the outcast, poor and women.

In *John* Jesus is the Son of God, the word made flesh.

*Ephesians 1:17* ...to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God...

*Knowledge Epignosis* A correct and precise knowledge of Him...

*KJV 2 Peter 3:18* But grow in grace, and in the **knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.

Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes *Kenneth E Bailey*