

Unfiltered: Seeing God Clearly In A World Of Distortion

Part 5 ⇨ Seeing What You Can Do



*Much of the time, our problem is not the problem. Our perspective is often the real problem: **What We See.***

2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 16-18:

“8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed — 16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

What You See Determines...

- ☑ **Your Self-Confidence** – Numbers 13,14 - **Caleb saw God** and it resulted in self-confidence.
- ☑ **Your God-Confidence** - 1 Samuel 17 - **David saw God** and killed Goliath.
- ☑ **Your Fear Factor** - 2 Kings 6:14-18; Matthew 14:22-33 - **Elisha saw God’s angels** and had no fear.
- ☑ **Your Feelings** – 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 - **Paul saw the eternal promise and so his feelings remained stable and positive.** We also maintain emotional stability if our perspective is right ⇨ Romans 8:28-29; Philippians 1:6!
- ☑ **Everything** – Matthew 9:29 - According to what you see, it will be done to you!

Our Problem Is Not The Problem. Our Problem Is Our Perspective On The Problem:

- 👉 **Neuroscience Says That At The Moment We Begin To Change Our Perspective, Our Emotional Response Changes.** Kevin Ochsner (Columbia University): “Our emotional responses ultimately flow out of our perspectives of the world, and if we can shift those perspectives, we shift our emotional responses.”
- 👉 **Where Your Look Goes, Your Limbic System Flows.** You can control your [limbic system](#), not by suppressing feelings, but by changing the interpretation that creates the feeling in the first place. Our emotional responses fundamentally flow from our interpretation of the world. Your emotional state is both created and shaped by what we choose to see.
- 👉 **Your Limitations Are Actually About Where You Look, and So The Limited Life Breaks When We Begin To See What God Has Given Us!**

That is why Paul prayed that we would **SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY** in [Ephesians 1:15-23](#):

“15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know (1) **the hope to which he has called you**, (2) **the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people**, 19 and (3) **his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same** as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.”

Paul Prayed For Us To See 3 Things...

1) Our Calling ⇒ To See Who You Are In Christ!

If you know who you are, you will never again be someone else!

- 1) The Righteousness Of God In Christ, Not A Failing Sinner!
- 2) A Child Of God, Not A Fearful, Cowering Slave!
- 3) Wonderfully Made, Destined For Greatness, Not Feeble & Small!

2) Our Inheritance ⇒ To See What You Have In Christ!

If you know what you have, you will never again settle for what you got!

- 1) You Have Forgiveness! So, Walk In It! Don't Settle For Shame or Condemnation!
- 2) You Have A Sound Mind! So, Use It! Don't Settle For Fear or Anxiety!
- 3) You Have Wealth! So, Grow It!! Don't Settle For Poverty or Lack!
- 4) You Have Healing! So, Receive It! Don't Settle For Sickness or Disease!

3) Our Power ⇒ To See What You Can Do In Christ!

If you know what you can do, you will never again settle for limitations!

Seeing What You Can Do...

If you know what you can do, you won't settle for limitations! So then, WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The Same Power That Raised Christ Flows Through You ⇒ Ephesians 1:15-23:

BUT THIS POWER IS ONLY AVAILABLE TOWARD THOSE WHO SEE IT AND BELIEVE IT!

Ephesians 1:19 ⇒ "...and his incomparably great power for us who believe." Faith is the key that unlocks the power of God! Without faith, this power sits idly: *available but not used, ready but not activated, accessible but not tapped!*

Faith Enables You To Tap Into What You Already Have. It is always a "YES" in Christ, but our "AMEN" is needed...

2 Corinthians 1:19-20:

"For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silas and Timothy—was not "Yes" and "No," but in Him it has always been "Yes." For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God."

Faith Is Important...

- ☺ Faith Pleases God and Gets Results – Hebrews 11:6; Matthew 9:29
- ☺ Faith Moves Mountain, Obstacles, Barriers – Mark 11:22-24
- ☺ Faith Unlocks Resurrection Power – Ephesians 1:19

The Early Church Moved In Such Power Because They Saw The Resurrection Power Available To Them, And Believed It!

Your Power: What You Can Do...

1) You Can Do All Things Through Christ...

This Chips Away At The Disempowered Mindset

Philippians 4:13 ⇒ **"For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength."**

You Can Do All Things Through Christ! You Can:

- 🔑 *Connect With The Same Father Jesus Did* ⇒ Matthew 6:9-13,
- 🔑 *Tap Into The Same Provision Jesus Received* ⇒ Romans 8:14-17; Philippians 4:19,
- 🔑 *Walk In The Same Power Jesus Experienced* ⇒ Acts 1:8,
- 🔑 *Do The Same Miracles Jesus Performed* ⇒ John 14:12,
- 🔑 *Flow In The Same Authority Jesus Operated In* ⇒ Luke 10:17-19
- 🔑 *Move The Same Mountains Jesus Moved* ⇒ Mark 11:22-24

2) You Can Change Any Environment...

This Chips Away At The Victim Mindset

Matthew 5:13-14 ⇒ **"You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden."**

Luke 4:18-21:

"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD." Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

You Can Change Any Environment:

- 👏 *Spiritual Poverty,*
- 👏 *Broken Hearts,*
- 👏 *Captivity & Oppression,*
- 👏 *Blindness and Lack Of Vision,*
- 👏 *Oppression and Fear,*
- 👏 *Debt, Dysfunction, and Despair* ⇒ Jubilee!

3) You Can Turn Death Into Life...

This Chips Away At The Self-Pity Mindset

Ephesians 1:18-22 ⇒ "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know...his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church..."

Dr. Viktor Frankl was an Austrian psychologist who survived the death camps of the Nazis. Frankl made a startling discovery about why some survived the horror, and some didn't:

"He looked at several factors - health, vitality, family structure, intelligence, survival skills. Finally he concluded that none of these factors was primarily responsible. The single most significant factor, he realized, was a sense of future vision - the impelling conviction of those who were to survive that they had a mission to perform, some important work left to do. Survivors of POW camps in Vietnam and elsewhere have reported similar experiences: a compelling, future-oriented vision is the primary force that kept many of them alive."

Viktor Frankl found that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: To choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's way. You can choose to turn death into life! You Have **AGENCY!**

Look At The "Death" Joseph Rose From:

- ☺ *He Rose From The Death Of Rejection and Betrayal By His Brothers,*
- ☺ *He Rose From The Death Of Unfair Treatment (Potiphar's Wife),*
- ☺ *He Rose From The Death Of Prison and Abandonment (The Butler),*
- ☺ *He Rose From The Death Of Worldwide Famine .*

He Rose As He Saw The Truth Of Genesis 50:20 & Romans 8:28!

Example of Turning Death Into Life: ["Suffering and Faith", Martin Luther King Jr.](#)

Date: April 27, 1960 (He was assassinated on April 4, 1968)

In Honor Of Black History Month, February 2024

"Some of my personal sufferings over the last few years have also served to shape my thinking. I always hesitate to mention these experiences for fear of conveying the wrong impression. A person who constantly calls attention to his trials and sufferings is in danger of developing a martyr complex and of making others feel that he is consciously seeking sympathy. It is possible for one to be self-centered in his self-denial and self-righteous in his self-sacrifice. So I am always reluctant to refer to my personal sacrifices. But I feel somewhat justified in mentioning them in this article because of the influence they have had in shaping my thinking.

Due to my involvement in the struggle for the freedom of my people, I have known very few quiet days in the last few years. I have been arrested five times and put in Alabama jails. My home has been bombed twice. A day seldom passes that my family and I are not the recipients of threats of death. I have been the victim of a near fatal stabbing. So in a real sense I have been battered by the storms of persecution. I must admit that at times I have felt that I could no longer bear such a heavy burden, and have been tempted to retreat to a more quiet and serene life. But every time such a temptation appeared, something came to strengthen and sustain my determination. I have learned now that the Master's burden is light precisely when we take his yoke upon us.

My personal trials have also taught me the value of unmerited suffering. As my sufferings mounted I soon realized that there were two ways that I could respond to my situation: either to react with bitterness or seek to transform the suffering into a creative force. I decided to follow the latter course. Recognizing the necessity for suffering I have tried to make of it a virtue. If only to save myself from bitterness, I have attempted to see my personal ordeals as an opportunity to transform myself and heal the people involved in the tragic situation... I have lived these last few years with the conviction that unearned suffering is redemptive.

There are some who still find the cross a stumbling block, and others consider it foolishness, but I am more convinced than ever before that it is the power of God unto social and individual salvation. So like the Apostle Paul I can now humbly yet proudly say, "I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus." The suffering and agonizing moments through which I have passed over the last few years have also drawn me closer to God. More than ever before I am convinced of the reality of a personal God."

How Can We Grow In Our Faith?

 **Get Into God's Word** ⇒ [Romans 10:17](#),

 **Mind Your Mouth:**

⇒ **Speak God's Word** ⇒ [Proverbs 18:21](#); [Psalm 1](#),

⇒ **Prayer and Praise Without Ceasing** ⇒ [Romans 4:20](#); [Jude 20](#); [I Thessalonians 5:16-19](#),

 **Get Closely Connected To A Church Community and Connect Group** ⇒ [Proverbs 27:17](#); [Acts 2:40-47](#).