

“What Do You See?”

Pastor Al Brice | Sunday, February 24, 2019

The way you see things such as trials, difficulties, obstacles, circumstances, financial resources, relationships, and health issues will determine and develop your future life conclusions and results. If you only see things from the natural side of life, you will never be fulfilled or conquer those life-altering and threatening situations that come unexpectedly.

As a Christian, the way you see will greatly influence the way you believe, the way you approach God in prayer, the way you address every situation, what words you will speak and declare, how you will make a stand, and how long you will stand, persevere, and endure without wavering or giving up.

If you don't see correctly, you will not pray, believe, or stand with confidence.

2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJV: “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

(The definition of “**sight**”: it ‘refers to the visible appearance of things which are set in contrast to that which directs faith, which is the Word of God.’)

Joshua 6:1-2 NKJV: “Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. ² And the LORD said to Joshua: “See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, *and* the mighty men of valor.”

The conquest of a walled city was a major challenge, but they had God’s Word as a guarantee of victory. The first thing Joshua had to do was SEE that it was his, that this was a part of his and Israel’s inheritance from God.

Joshua 1:6: “Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.”

All through the Bible, God is constantly telling His people to SEE!! The word “**see**” means ‘to look at something with hope and expectation, to focus on what God is seeing by focusing on what God is saying or has already said, regardless of the existing circumstances; to construct a mental image of; to have prophetic vision to see what will be and to see what is to come in accordance to what God has spoken.’

This is called, seeing with the “Eyes of Faith” and having a “Vision of Victory.”

1. Why are seeing and vision so important?

Proverbs 29:18a: “Where there is no (prophetic) vision, the people perish.”

Prophetic vision is seeing by faith what will be done because of God’s Word, His promise. That’s why the Apostle Paul prayed in **Ephesians 1:18-19 NKJV** that “the eyes of your (spiritual) understanding being enlightened; that you may 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 exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.”

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. He opens our spiritual eyes so that we can know the truth of God’s Word which gives us eyes of faith, so we can see beyond the natural realm of circumstances into the supernatural realm of blessing and victory.

“That which is true in the natural dimension, can be overcome and changed by the application of Truth, God’s Word, which belongs to the supernatural dimension.”

Psalms 119:89 NKJV:

“Forever, O LORD,
Your word is settled in heaven.”

Psalms 119:160a NKJV: “The entirety of Your word *is* truth...”

2 Corinthians 4:18 NKJV: “while we do not look (*fix our eyes upon*) 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.”

2. How can we see what is not seen? We need spiritual light!!

Proverbs 20:27a: “The spirit of a man *is* the lamp of the LORD.”

Psalms 18:28:

“For You will light my lamp;
The LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.”

• How does He enlighten us?

Psalms 119:105:

“Your word *is* a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.”

Jeremiah 23:29a: “*Is* not My word like a fire?” says the LORD...”

The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, uses the Word of God and lights up my spiritual eyes so that I can see by faith that which is unseen!! **Hebrews 11:1**: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

God said to Joshua, “See, I have given Jericho into your hand”!!! Joshua’s starting point and position was one of victory because he was in covenant with God. God didn’t say “**I will give**” (future tense), He said, “**I have already given**” that city to you!!!

Through Jesus, God has freely given us all things!!

1 Corinthians 2:12 NKJV: “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.”

2 Peter 1:3-4a NKJV: “as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises...”

2 Corinthians 1:20 NKJV: “For all the promises of God in Him *are* Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.”

3. God has already given!! Given us salvation, redemption, power over sin and the kingdom of darkness, healing, deliverance and prosperity!! For Joshua, and for you and I, our starting point will determine our outcome. If we start in faith, then God has already determined and purposed our outcome!! If we start in faith, it means we begin with what God has promised, not with what I see or feel in the natural realm of my circumstances.

We must see ourselves victorious and triumphant!! Once we see the promises, our inheritance, we must act. Faith is an act. “God had given”, but Joshua and the children of Israel must march and fight the good fight of faith!! God’s promise does not discharge us from our responsibility to act, speak, or pray. Faith without works is dead. They had to act on what God had said and given!! Faith and obedience **with action** brought the victory!!!

- The woman with the issue of blood. (**Mark 5:25-34**)
- Peter walking on the water. (**Matthew 14:25-31**)
- The blind man (**Luke 18:35-43**)
- The water was not turned into wine until the servants obeyed Jesus and went to do what He told them to do!!! (**John 2:5-10**)
- Elijah, when told by God that it was going to rain, had to climb Mt. Hermon and pray. (**1 Kings 18:41-45**)

4. Seeing wrongly will end with negative and costly results.

(In **Numbers 13:31-33** the way they saw themselves as grasshoppers and victims, instead of seeing themselves as conquerors and possessors, kept them from receiving what God had promised.)

We're not trying to get a victory; we begin with victory!!!

1 Corinthians 15:57-58 NKJV: “⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

We're not trying to be triumphant; we already are triumphant!!!

2 Corinthians 2:14 NKJV: “Now thanks *be* to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.”

Psalms 47:1-2 NKJV:

“Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!
Shout to God with the voice of triumph!
² For the LORD Most High *is* awesome;
He is a great King over all the earth.”

(The commission of the Church of Jesus Christ: **Acts 26:18 NKJV**)