



2 Cor. 4:1-6 The Cure to Spiritual Blindness

Reasons why Paul's ministry does not seem very successful:

First: V.1 Paul recognizes that it's mercy that anyone has a ministry. Not competence.

Second, V.2 Paul took an unpopular approach to ministry. Not distorting or watering down the word.

Third: V.3-4 It is a spiritual war not a physical one: Eph. 6

Art of spiritual war:

1. **Know your enemy** (We have 2 spiritual enemies that cause spiritual blindness):
 - a. **Internal:** Sin dwells within us, it is an independent power source for sin. John 3:19 *people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.*
 - b. **External:** 2 Cor 11 says Satan masquerades as an angel of light; he is the father of lies and only speaks lies. He's deceptive; and is the source of temptation.
2. **Have a strategy and know your enemy's strategy.**
 - a. **Spiritual Blindness.** To deceive them into not even recognizing there is a battle. V.3 **To veil** so that V.4 they don't see. (1 Corinthians 2:14)...*he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned*".
 - b. **Be on your own throne:** Make everything an idol and a savior so you are deceived into thinking you already have one. If you refuse to consider Jesus, it's a spiritual principle that you won't hear. 2 reasons why Jesus does that is 1. Faith is the attitude of the heart we are made right 2. because great revelation means great condemnation if rejected.
 - c. **Love the world:** a direct correlation to a life progressively submerged in the things of the world and a progressive blinding to the Spirit of God. (1 John 2:15-16), *"If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him" but that person's love "is from the world"*.

Cure to Spiritual Blindness- V.5-6 is the light of the knowledge of God's glory in Jesus.

3 types of people in John 8-9 and **The cure to spiritual blindness: Response to the Light.**

1. **Parents** - They purposefully shut their eyes to the apparent light because they were deceived into an inability to imagine that following God results in a life of abundant illumination.
2. **Pharisees** - Self Righteous pride prevented them from seeing the light at all. (Ephesians 4:18, NLT). *"Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him"*
3. **Blind man** - He had nothing, no ability to earn it (a picture of us in our sin). 2 major differences between him and the first two: **A willingness to stay and get messy and follow the light after an encounter instead of staying in the condition he was in.** He had spiritual ears to hear. The Holy Spirit was working in all 3, but he alone takes a small step of faith to the light he has.

Grow Group Questions:

1. What specific actions can you take in your daily life to be a light for Jesus and help others come to know Him?
2. What are some strategies the enemy uses to hinder our spiritual growth and cause spiritual blindness? How have you experienced it?
3. Scripture shows that it is possible that I'm not recognizing my deception right now. Read Psalm 139, Jeremiah 17:9; Hebrews 5:14; How do I recognize possible deception?
4. What does the Bible mean by seeking out "persons of peace" and how does that impact who I prioritize reaching out to?
5. Do an inventory of things that are important in your life. What would happen if they were removed? (It's nature to be sad or hurt, but if it crushes you, it is often something that has become an idol).
6. Why do we need constant reminders of the gospel message?