

Answering the Call

Student Guide — Week 3

The Eyes of the Heart Enlivened

Welcome to Week 3. We have explored the difference between knowing about God and knowing Him, and between pursuing His gifts and pursuing His face. This week we go one layer deeper—into how we see. Because the truth is, most of us are not blind. We are half-seeing. We have just enough sight to know something is there, but not enough clarity to live as though it is real. This week, we ask the Spirit to open the eyes of our hearts.

Core Verse

Ephesians 1:18 (NIV): "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people."

Paul does not pray for better eyes. He prays for enlightened eyes. The problem is never the amount of light around us—it is the condition of the eyes within us.

1 • Seeing vs. Seeing Clearly

In Mark 8, Jesus heals a blind man in two stages. First, the man looks up and says he sees people who look like trees walking around—blurry, distorted, incomplete. Then Jesus touches his eyes again, and he sees everything clearly. This is one of the most accurate pictures of spiritual sight in all of Scripture.

Many of us are not fully blind. We are partially sighted. We know the truth in our heads, but it still looks like trees walking—shapes we cannot quite make out, truths we cannot quite live from.

Reflection:

Take two minutes to write your answer: What truth do I know in my head that still looks distorted to my heart—where I cannot seem to see it clearly enough to live from it?

2 • What the Bible Says About Spiritual Sight

The following passages show us how God opens the eyes of the heart, what blinds us, and what true kingdom sight produces. Read each passage slowly. Underline or highlight anything that stands out. Then answer the reflection question.

Proverbs 20:27

"The human spirit is the lamp of the Lord that sheds light on one's inmost being."

Reflection: A lamp only helps if it is lit. What tends to snuff out the light in your inner man—pain, busyness, distraction, unbelief? What helps it burn brighter?

Matthew 6:22-23

"The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"

Reflection: Jesus says the greatest tragedy is not darkness around us, but darkness within that thinks it is light. Where might you be assuming you see clearly when you might be mistaken?

2 Kings 6:15-17

"When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. 'Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?'... And Elisha prayed, 'Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.' Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

Reflection: Nothing changed on the hillside—only the servant's vision changed. What 'army' are you facing right now? What might God be doing around you that you cannot yet see?

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

Reflection: Paul calls real suffering 'light and momentary' because he measures it against eternal glory. What are you measuring your current trial against?

John 9:39-41

"Jesus said, 'For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.'... Jesus said, 'If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.'"

Reflection: The Pharisees saw Jesus with their eyes but could not perceive who He was with their hearts. What could you be looking at directly but still not perceiving?

Revelation 3:17-19

"You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked... I counsel you to buy from me... salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline."

Reflection: Jesus prescribes eye salve—not out of anger, but out of love. When has God or another person corrected your self-perception? What did it cost you, and what did it open up?

Isaiah 55:8-9

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Reflection: Worldly logic is not evil—it is just too small. Where has your natural way of measuring a situation made God look late, absent, or inactive?

Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Reflection: Faith is not believing hard when nothing is there—it is the eyes of the heart working correctly. What would change if you stopped straining to believe and started simply seeing what God has already said?

3 • Worldly Logic vs. Kingdom Reality

Worldly logic is like reading a map with the lights off. You can feel the paper, find the edges, even hear other people describe the route. But you cannot move. Kingdom reality is the same map under a lamp—everything that was there all along finally becomes legible, and movement becomes possible.

Key Distinctions:

- Worldly logic says: I'll believe it when I see it. Kingdom reality says: I'll see it when I believe it—faith is the substance of things not seen.
- Worldly logic measures by what is happening. Kingdom reality measures by what has been promised.
- Worldly logic sees the army on the hills. Kingdom reality sees the chariots of fire around it.
- Worldly logic treats delay as abandonment. Kingdom reality trusts the timing of a God who is never late.

The Condition of the Heart

The eyes of the heart can be darkened by many things: unprocessed pain, unconfessed sin, lies about God's character, distraction, and hurry. None of these are beyond healing—but none of them heal by accident. Illumination comes through pursuit, repentance, and stillness before God.

Reflection: Which of those—unprocessed pain, distraction, hurry, a lie about God—most dulls your spiritual sight? What would repentance or stillness look like for you this week?

4 • Small Group Discussion Questions

Use these questions in your small group. You do not need to answer all of them. Let the conversation go where the Spirit leads.

1. The two-part healing. Like the blind man of Bethsaida, most of us see partially before we see clearly. In what area of your life is your vision still 'trees walking'—where you know the truth but it still looks distorted? What would seeing clearly in that area change for you?
2. Elisha's prayer. The servant was surrounded by an army and saw only the army. Elisha prayed for his eyes to open, and nothing changed except what he could see. What 'army' are you facing right now? What might God be doing around you that you cannot yet see?
3. Darkness that thinks it is light. Jesus said the greatest darkness is light within us that is actually darkness. Where might you be confident you see clearly—about God, about yourself, about a situation—when you could be mistaken? Who do you allow to tell you the truth about your own blind spots?
4. The Laodicean inversion. That church believed they were rich and saw clearly; Jesus said they were poor and blind. Have you ever had your self-perception corrected by God or by another person? What did that correction cost you, and what did it open up?
5. Kingdom math. Paul called real suffering 'light and momentary' because he measured it against eternal glory. Where do you most struggle to believe kingdom math—health, finances, relationships, unanswered prayer? What would it look like to see that situation through eternal eyes?

5 • This Week's Assignment

6. Name the Blindness — Finish this sentence honestly: 'I have been seeing _____ as _____, when God says it is _____.' Read John 9:39-41 and ask the Spirit to show you where certainty has become blindness.
7. Pray Elisha's Prayer — For three days, pray only this: 'Lord, open my eyes to see what You are doing.' Do not ask for a change in circumstance. Ask for sight. Read 2 Kings 6:15-17 each day and record what you notice.
8. Sit With the Storm — Choose one current difficulty. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 over it. Write two lists: what is seen (the facts of the situation) and what is unseen (what God has promised). Let the second list be longer than the first.
9. Invite Correction — Ask one trusted person: 'Where do you think I might be blind?' Do not defend. Do not explain. Write down what they say, and bring it to God in prayer before you decide whether it is true. Read Revelation 3:17-19 first, and remember that correction is an act of love.

10. Practice Kingdom Arithmetic — Once this week, respond to a difficult situation out of eternal reality rather than visible circumstance. Pray about a problem instead of rehearsing it. Bless someone you feel justified in resenting. Read Hebrews 11:1 daily and let it reshape what you expect to see.

6 • Weekly Challenge: The 7-Day Deepening

- Morning: Read a passage aloud, twice. Pause on a word that stands out. Carry it with you.
 - Day 1: Psalm 119:18 — Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things
 - Day 2: 2 Kings 6:15-17 — Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see
 - Day 3: Matthew 6:22-23 — The eye is the lamp of the body
 - Day 4: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 — We fix our eyes on what is unseen
 - Day 5: Hebrews 11:1-3 — Faith is confidence in what we hope for
 - Day 6: Isaiah 55:6-11 — My ways are higher than your ways
 - Day 7: Revelation 3:17-20 — Salve to put on your eyes, so you can see
- Midday: The Two-Minute Reset — Whisper the morning's word. Ask: What am I seeing right now—circumstance or promise?
- Evening: The Examen — Three questions: Where did I see God today? Where did I only see my circumstances? What do I want to see more clearly tomorrow?

A Final Word

You are not being asked to pretend the storm is not real. You are being invited to see the One who stands in it with you. The eyes of the heart do not make trouble disappear—they make God appear. And when He appears, everything else takes its proper size.

"Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law." — Psalm 119:18