

# LOOK AGAIN

## CENTRAL THEME

This message encourages us to "look again" at our situations, not with our natural eyes which can be deceived or limited by past experiences, but with spiritual vision. It emphasizes that by seeking God's perspective, we can perceive His presence, power, and purpose even in the most challenging circumstances.

## I. THE PROBLEM WITH OUR INITIAL PERCEPTION

### CONDITIONED SIGHT

Our eyes can deceive us based on past experiences and expectations (e.g., The Strawberry Illusion – seeing red pixels where there are none). We see what we \*expect\* to see.

### THE DANGER OF YESTERDAY

If we let yesterday's experiences define what we see today, we risk missing what God is currently doing.

### SIGHT VS. VISION

There's a difference between physical sight (what hits your eyes) and spiritual vision (what comes from your spirit, seeing what's not yet visible).

## II. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF "LOOKING AGAIN"

### ELISHA AND THE OVERWHELMED SERVANT (2 KINGS 6:14-19)

- The servant sees the enemy army and panics: "Alas, my master, what shall we do?"
- Elisha, with spiritual vision, is calm: "Fear not, for they that be with us are more than they that be with them."
- Elisha's prayer: "Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes that he may see."
- The Revelation: The servant then sees the mountains full of horses and chariots of fire.

### STEPHEN FACING MARTYRDOM (REFERENCING ACTS 7)

- His physical sight: Hostile crowd, deadly stones.
- He "looked again" (spiritually): Saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
- Lesson: Don't get consumed by the "stones" (problems); look higher to God.

### III. HOW TO CULTIVATE SPIRITUAL VISION – HOW TO "LOOK AGAIN"

#### "SQUINTING" IN FAITH

- When circumstances are confusing, or it feels like God is saying "no," we need to "squint" – intentionally seek a deeper understanding.
- Trust that if God says "no," He has a better "yes."
- Vision may not change the \*situation\*, but it changes your \*sight\* (perspective and confidence) of the situation.

#### REALIZING GOD IS "ALWAYS THERE" (THE HIDDEN "JESUS" IMAGE ILLUSION)

- Spiritual vision doesn't make God appear; it \*reveals\* that He was present all along.
- Often, the miracle isn't what God \*does\*, but what He \*lets you see\*.

#### THE POSTURE OF PRAYER

Shift from telling God how you see things to asking, "God, tell me how I \*should\* see this."

#### THE POWER OF A PURE HEART (MATTHEW 5:8)

"The pure in heart...shall see God." This involves:

- Pausing, standing still, and slowing down to truly perceive God's work.

### IV. LIVING WITH TRANSFORMED VISION

#### FROM PROBLEM TO POTENTIAL (HOW VISION CHANGES WHAT WE SEE)

- Brokenness → Blessings
- Failure → Future
- Problem → Potential
- Diagnosis → Destiny
- Not Enough → Overflow
- A Mess → A Ministry

#### PAUL AND SILAS IN PRISON (ACTS 16)

- Their dire reality: Beaten, imprisoned, facing a potential death sentence.
- Paul "looked again" and chose to praise God.
- The Outcome: An earthquake, open doors, and the salvation of the jailer and his household. Paul saw God's opportunity for ministry, not just escape.

#### THE CALL TO ACTION

- Don't just \*clap\* for the vision (appreciate it).
- \*Carry\* the vision (live it out, continue to "squint" and seek God's perspective).

## V. CONCLUDING CHALLENGE: LOOK AGAIN!

The next time you face a difficult situation or feel stuck looking at the "photograph of what was," pause, look up to the Father, and ask Him to show you how you're supposed to see it.

He was there all along; ask for eyes to see Him.

### KEY TAKEAWAY

True spiritual vision comes from intentionally looking beyond our initial perceptions and seeking God's perspective. When we "look again" with faith, He reveals His presence, power, and purpose, transforming our fear into confidence and our challenges into opportunities for His glory.