

TONIGHT'S READING



THE NEED OF THE BLIND (2)

Scripture Reading:

John 9:1-9

¹And as He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. ²And His disciples asked Him, saying, Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind? ³Jesus answered, Neither has this man sinned nor his parents, but he was born so, that the works of God might be manifested in him. ⁴We must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world. ⁶When He had said this, He spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed his eyes with the clay, ⁷And He said to him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam (which is interpreted, Sent). He went therefore and washed and came away seeing. ⁸The neighbors then and those who previously saw him as a beggar said, Is not this the one who used to sit and beg? ⁹Some said, This is he. Others said, No, but he is like him. He said, I am the one.

Revelation 3:17-18

¹⁷Because you say, I am wealthy and have become rich and have need of nothing, and do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, ¹⁸I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire that you may be rich, and white garments that you may be clothed and that the shame of your nakedness may not be manifested, and eyesalve to anoint your eyes that you may see.

Acts 26:18

To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.

John 8:12

Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 1:4	In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
Isaiah 9:2	The people who walked in the darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwell in the land of the shadow of death Light has shined.
Luke 1:78-79	⁷⁸ Because of the merciful compassions of our God, in which the rising sun will visit us from on high, ⁷⁹ to shine upon those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.
Ephesians 1:18	The eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.

MAN BEING BORN BLIND

The natural man does not and cannot understand the things of God, because man is blind. We should never think that being intelligent, wise, noble, or moral enables us to see the things of God. It is possible to have a thorough understanding of the world, human relationships, intellectual matters, international affairs, and the world's situation but still be blind and ignorant concerning the things of God.

Someone who is blind from birth has never seen light. A blind man, therefore, is in darkness. Likewise, the Bible, the church, many preachers, and many spiritual publications are spiritual lights that can enable people to comprehend the things of God. Many people, however, still cannot understand or see spiritual things. This proves that man, being blind from birth, is in complete darkness.

Someone who is born blind is also poor. The Gospel of John says that the blind man was a beggar (v. 8); he was very poor. Revelation 3:17 and 18 show that poverty is connected to blindness. Spiritually speaking, a blind person is poor. Someone who cannot comprehend spiritual things and who does not know God is spiritually destitute. Someone may be rich in the knowledge of the world and may have accumulated earthly riches; however, when we discuss spiritual things with him, we sense that he is a beggar who has nothing spiritually.

People are poor in spiritual things because their eyes are not open. Such people have a particular need. They need their eyes to be opened so that they can see. Spiritually speaking, nothing is more crucial than having one's eyes opened. When the Lord Jesus sent Paul, His disciple, to go forth and preach the gospel, He first charged Paul "to open their eyes," and then "to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me" (Acts 26:18). Turning from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God to receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance is based on one's eyes being opened.

The opening of man's eyes is the basis of all spiritual matters. The blind are unable to understand spiritual things, and they cannot receive them. When someone sees a spiritual matter, he has received it.

THE LORD JESUS BEING THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

The Lord Jesus must come to be man's light in order for his spiritual eyes to be opened. After saying that the man was blind from birth in order that the works of God might be manifested, the Lord Jesus said that He was sent by God to do the works of God; the Lord Jesus was sent to open people's eyes in order for them to see (John 9:3-4). Then the Lord Jesus said, "While I am in the world, I am the light of the world" (v. 5). This means that His opening of people's eyes so that they might see depended on His coming to be their light. Man's ability to see depends on the Lord Jesus being the light of the world. In order to recover the sight of man's inner eyes, the Lord Jesus must enter into man to be his light. When He, the light, enters into man, He enlightens man, and man's inner eyes are opened.

Spiritual blindness, the inability to see spiritual matters, is the issue not only of losing one's inward sight; it is also the issue of being inwardly dark. Darkness is the same as blindness. Blindness prevents people from seeing, and darkness also prevents people from seeing. Therefore, in order to restore man's sight, the Lord Jesus must come as light to enlighten man and dispel the darkness in man's heart. It is for this reason that the devil, the ruler of the world, always tries to prevent people from believing in the gospel of the Lord Jesus; the devil blinds the eyes of their heart so that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ might not shine on them (2 Cor. 4:4). The devil is clearer than man concerning the gospel. He knows that if a person believes in the gospel, the Lord Jesus as the light will enter into him to illuminate him. Therefore, the devil uses many schemes to frustrate man from believing in the gospel of the Lord Jesus and thus keeps man in darkness. The devil works in man to counter the work that the Lord Jesus desires to do in man's heart. The Lord Jesus wants to be the light of man to illuminate man inwardly so that the eyes of man's heart might be opened to see. As the light of the world, only the Lord Jesus can dispel the darkness in man and heal the blindness within man so that man may have sight. Only the Lord Jesus can solve the problems of darkness and blindness in humanity.