

Cheltenham  
Ps Rob Buckingham  
1 & 2 Aug 2015

## Sight (1)

### **Exercising your Spiritual Senses**

#### Message Notes

For the next five weeks we will explore what the Bible has to say about how we exercise and develop our five spiritual senses. The series is based on Hebrews 5:14:

*"But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."*

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Text: Ephesians 1:15-19a

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Paul's prayer was a standard Jewish prayer in Bible times for enlightened eyes to understand more of God, His Word & other spiritual things...

Psalm 119:18, *"Open my eyes to see wonderful things in your Word"* (Cf. Psalm 19:8; Acts 2:17, 1 Corinthians 2:9-10; 2 Kings 6:15-17)

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*"By reason of use have their senses exercised"*

Exercised (Gk. *gumnazo*) = to train by physical exercise

What are some of the ways we can exercise our spiritual sense of sight?

**1. Eyes to see that God is real**

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*"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel..." (2 Corinthians 4:4)*

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*Acts 26:17-19, "I am sending you to the Gentiles to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God..."*

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**2. Eyes to see your true spiritual condition**

2 Corinthians 13:5, *"Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?"*

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Read: Matthew 13:14-16

*"In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: 'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's heart has become **calloused**; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.' But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear."*

Calloused = apathetic, unbending, stubborn, indifferent  
(Opp. Caring, compassionate, concerned, kind merciful, sensitive)

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*Revelation 3:17-18, "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 gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent."*

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Jesus is saying, "I want your spiritual eyes to clearly see your true spiritual condition so – be earnest (serious) and repent!

### **3. Eyes to see beyond temporary troubles**

2 Corinthians 4:17-18, "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."

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(Cf. Hebrews 12:1-3; Psalm 16:8; 25:15)

**4. Eyes to see people as God sees them**

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See John 4:35

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