



The Sign of His Light

The
POINT >

Only through Jesus can we truly see.

HOW CAN WE HAVE A HEALTHY VIEW OF DISABILITY?

> JOHN 9:1-11,30-33

¹ As he was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth.

² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," Jesus answered. "This came about so that God's works might be displayed in him." ⁴ We must do the works of him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

⁶ After he said these things he spit on the ground, made some mud from the saliva, and spread the mud on his eyes. ⁷ "Go," he told him, "wash in the pool of Siloam (which means "Sent"). So he left, washed, and came back seeing. ⁸ His neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit begging?" ⁹ Some said, "He's the one." Others were saying, "No, but he looks like him." He kept saying,

"I'm the one." ¹⁰ So they asked him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So when I went and washed I received my sight."

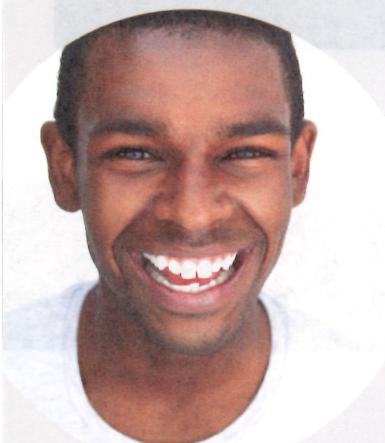
³⁰ "This is an amazing thing!" the man told them. "You don't know where he is from, and yet he opened my eyes." ³¹ We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but if anyone is God-fearing and does his will, he listens to him. ³² Throughout history no one has ever heard of someone opening the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he wouldn't be able to do anything."



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

Research shows that people who are blind experience vivid dreams. However, those who are blind, particularly those born blind, have dreams filled with sounds, smells, and tastes instead of sights.¹

**LEVELS OF
BIBLICAL
LEARNING // GOD**

God is loving and righteous, grieves the impact of sin on the world, and will one day make right all that sin has damaged.

Claude Monet was a French painter known for a style called impressionism. You may have seen some of his famous works, such as "Water Lilies" and "Houses of Parliament." In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, Monet had a powerful influence on art, but what many people don't know is that Monet had a visual impairment that would eventually lead to blindness. We don't know the exact circumstances of his condition, but we do know that he didn't let it stop him. In fact, Monet continued to paint some of his most acclaimed works after losing his vision.

We generally see disabilities as limitations that keep us from experiencing life in the ways we want. However, there are some who choose to see disabilities as a way of gaining a unique view of the world that can even provide benefits.

In today's passage, we see a blind man who struggled not only with his disability, but with the way society viewed him. Jesus used this man's disability to point to an even more serious condition, the spiritual blindness of first-century society. The worst kind of blindness isn't physical but when people are unable to see the truth about Jesus.

JOHN 9:1-5

1 What did the disciples think caused the man's blindness?

2 When have you struggled to accept that life can be unfair?

*The natural overflow of
true faith is always a life of
obedience to God. #BSFLSigns*

JOHN 9:6-11

3 Why was it important that the blind man obeyed Jesus's instructions?

4 Why did the crowd have a hard time recognizing the blind man?

5 How does your life look different after choosing to follow Jesus?

JOHN 9:30-33

6 When have you struggled to understand the ways God works?

7 Why is it important to trust God, even when you might not understand all the details?

8 How does your life show that you live by faith and not by sight?





LIVE IT OUT



GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY
& WORLD

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // GOD

God is loving and righteous, grieves the impact of sin on the world, and will one day make right all that sin has damaged.

God created people to experience His blessings and to experience a relationship with Him. Sin not only separates us from God but has also brought great brokenness into the lives of all people. Jesus restored the blind man's sight not only physically but also spiritually, and one day Jesus will restore all brokenness caused by sin's curse.

CHRIST

Sight versus blindness isn't simply a matter of seeing what's around us in the world. Ultimately, it's about seeing spiritual truth.

9 When has God opened your eyes to see a spiritual truth you didn't previously understand?

10 This week, spend time reflecting on the story from John chapter 9. Ask God to open your eyes to the truth in a way you can apply it in your life.

>COMMUNITY

Who do you know in your church who has a disability or illness? This week, serve this person in a meaningful way to reflect the kindness and compassion of Jesus.

- 11** Whom will you serve and how will you meet this individual's needs?



>CULTURE

Before coming to faith, we simply don't see or understand spiritual truth. But for followers of Jesus, He has opened our eyes and allowed us to see the truth about Him.

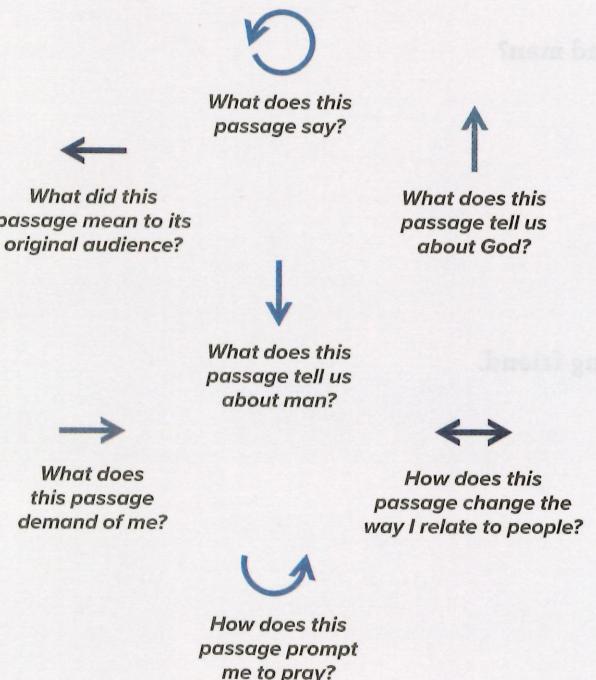
- 12** How do you relate to the experience of the blind man?

- 13** Share your story this week with a non-believing friend.

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One 2 CORINTHIANS 5:6

When Paul said that we are away from the Lord, he meant that while we are alive in this physical body on earth, we don't experience the manifest presence of God as we will when we're in heaven. This doesn't mean, however, that we don't experience God's presence at all. In verse 5, Paul pointed out that God has sent the Holy Spirit to minister to God's people while we're in this life. The Spirit gives us strength and comfort, intercedes for us, and unites believers. Further, Jesus serves as our great High Priest, and we engage meaningfully with God through worship and prayer. And we have the Word of God through which God speaks into our lives. Still, the ways we experience these things while in this life don't compare with the fullness of God's presence we'll experience in eternity. Our relationship with God is the greatest blessing we've been given. Today, let's pursue intimacy with God in every way possible, and let's look forward to an even deeper relationship in heaven!

- In your own words, why is a relationship with God the greatest blessing we've been given?
- What do you look forward to most about heaven?

Day Two
2 CORINTHIANS 5:7



Hebrews 11:1 teaches that faith is being confident and sure in something we can't see. In a practical sense, faith consists of three parts: believing the truth about Jesus, trusting Him, and living in ways that reflect His nature and character. Faith in Jesus means that although we've never seen Jesus with our eyes, we believe in Him and are confident that His death and resurrection guarantees eternity in heaven for those who trust in Him. It's easy and natural to live in ways that are based on the things we see, hear, touch, and smell. However, faith means our lives are ultimately defined not by what we perceive with our senses but by what we believe about Jesus.

➤ **In your own words, how would you describe or define faith?**

When we have faith in God, we trust in His promises and believe that He will keep them. We also trust in His love for us and His desire to bring us closer to Him. This trust is rooted in the knowledge that God is good and faithful.

➤ **How does your faith define your life more than your senses?**

My faith defines my life more than my senses because it gives me hope and purpose. It helps me to see beyond the temporary things in this world and focus on the eternal things that matter most.

Day Three
2 CORINTHIANS 5:8

At times, life can be hard. But the truth is that for those of us who know God, we are blessed in more ways than we can count. And if we'll slow down and choose in gratitude to focus on the goodness of God, we'll recognize God's blessings in our lives. Even with all these things in view, Paul understood clearly that the greatest blessing we have is a relationship with God. Given the choice, he'd rather be in heaven in the presence of God than continue with life on this earth. Let's be clear—this doesn't mean that Paul wanted to end his life. However, because of his genuine love for God, Paul knew that even the best things on earth could never truly satisfy him. As long as we're in this life, it's healthy to enjoy the blessings God provides. At the same time, we should not be satisfied with what the world offers and long desperately for Jesus.

➤ **How do we find balance between enjoying God's blessings in this life and longing for heaven?**

To find balance between enjoying God's blessings in this life and longing for heaven, we need to remember that both are important. We should珍惜 the good things God gives us here on earth, but also remain focused on our ultimate goal of being with Him in heaven. This requires a daily commitment to trust in God and depend on His strength and guidance.

Day Four

2 CORINTHIANS 5:9

Aim is important. If we have no direction and simply let life happen to us, we'll end up nowhere good. On the other hand, if we want the best things in life, we have to set our sights on what we desire and what we believe God has called us to and pursue that direction every day. Because Paul wanted to know God and experience His presence, and because Paul knew obedience to God's commands is an essential part of intimacy with God, Paul made pleasing God his central aim. If we walk aimlessly, then we'll have no idea where we might end up. But if our aim is Jesus and we pursue Him every day, then we can know we'll be with Him for eternity. Let's set our sights on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

➤ Why is it so important that we have aim and direction in life?

➤ In your own words, what are you aiming for?

Day Five

2 CORINTHIANS 5:10



When God made people, He created us as moral beings who are responsible for the choices we make. In Matthew 16:27, Jesus taught that when He returns, He will reward (or judge) all people according to their works. Further, in Matthew 12:36, Jesus said that we will even have to answer for every careless word we've ever spoken. It can be easy to simply go through life at a feverish pace, worrying about the things that are right before us with no thought of events that will happen at the end of our lives. But the truth is that the things we do from day to day have a heavy impact on what we'll experience in eternity. Very soon, Jesus will return, we'll stand before Him, and we'll be required to give an answer for the choices we've made in this life. Let's choose the right thing every day, every choice.

➤ How does it make you feel to know you'll have to answer for every word, every action, and every choice?

➤ What changes do you need to make to live in light of eternity and not just the here-and-now?