June 2013

Heart to Heart

Bringing our hearts to Him, Receiving His Heart for us!

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Rescued from Hell



TEVE EVANS

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Dear,

Seeing is believing in the spiritual life. This seems just the opposite of what you'd expect, since we are told in scripture to live by faith, not sight. The confusion comes from having two kinds of sight: natural and spiritual. We don't base our hope for the future and our assessment of present things on natural sight--we go to faith instead. Faith, whenever it is awakened, opens our eyes to "see" the far larger, more dynamic, Realities that surround us. Once any aspect of spiritual sight is restored, the Holy Spirit raises us in that area of our life into His higher life. May these articles open your eyes wider!

Steve

All of Us Have Been Born Blind

No wonder it takes so much to get us to see...

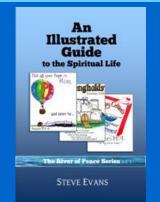
Man at the Mission this week: "Rev, I'm all stirred up-other people are getting opportunities that are passing me by. I can't help what I'm feeling. <u>It's the way I see things</u>."

This has had me thinking about **the role sight in the spiritual life** and our dependence upon revelation by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to open the eye of our heart to see what God is seeking to show us. Paul prayed fervently for the Ephesian Christians to have their spiritually awakened eyes, opened even wider so that they could "see" the vastness of God's work in them, for them and through them.

...may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe. Ephesians 1:17-19 ESV

God is not invisible! We tend to think that, but it isn't true. The problem is not that God is invisible or that His works cannot be seen--both the Father and Son are "pictured" in scripture and could be seen by the ones in their manifest presence whether in heaven or on earth. The

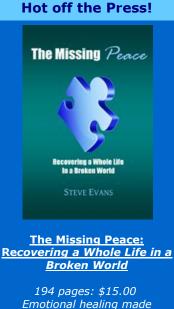
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Hot off the Press!

problem is that we have been born spiritually blind and we need to have our eyes opened by God.

First an analogy: We all believe in many things we cannot see with the naked eye from the vast expanse of galaxies to the microscopic germs to submicroscopic atomic particles. Inventions like the Hubble telescope and the electron microscope and spectrometers have shown us wonders that our unaided eyes knew nothing of. They were never invisible--just beyond our limited ability to see things with natural sight.

Now we "see" them. Now we believe in them. Now, as in the case of germs, we even orient our life around avoiding them! Before inventions assisted our sight, they were speculations guessed at by their measured effects. Likewise, until revelation by the Spirit and the Word open our spiritual eyes we are blind to the realities of the spiritual universe that surround us! The are speculations guessed at by their perceived effects.

There are three profound mysteries of the spiritual life and we need God to continually open our spiritual eyes so that we can have a hope of understanding them better and orienting our life in accordance with newly "seen" realities concerning them: *God, self and others.* Let us simply focus on the mystery of God:

The whole of Christian life depends upon the revelation of Jesus Christ! As we behold Jesus we are:

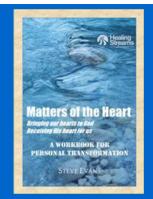
- saved
 sustained
- 3) transformed
- 4) glorified

Hurry on to the next article!

The Grace-filled Power

God is not counting on us to change us..

Consider this fourfold ascending scale of revelations designed to completely transform us. What changes us all along the way is not our work--our striving to be right or our intentions to be good--but the grace of looking to Jesus and seeing in Him the answer to everything that is



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Resources



Matters of the Heart Bringing our hearts to God Receiving His heart for us 12 CD set

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Visit Us

Our Website healingstreamsusa.org dark in us. Let these truths propel you into a lifetime adventure of "*getting the LOOK that gives the shift.*"

1) The revelation of Jesus Christ brings us into the Christian life. By the Fall we lost the capacity to behold our God. We became spiritually blind as our hearts were veiled.



Get the Look!

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 Corinthians 4:3-5

With salvation we now behold Him with eyes of faith--as Jesus our Savior is revealed to us.

But when he... was pleased to reveal his Son to me. Galatians 1:15-16

But I received it [his conversion] through a revelation of Jesus Christ. Galatians 1:12

2) The revelation of Jesus Christ saves us and

sustains us. We cannot live the Christian life in our own strength--by looking to ourselves for the righteousness, wisdom or abilities and saving power we need. We look to Jesus every step of the way; seeking to see in Him something that we need to see in each moment of need.

The Father uses our two greatest needs to train us in looking to Jesus:

- 1) Our need for His love and mercy
- 2) Our need for His saving help

Look to me, and be you saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else. Isaiah 45:22 WEB

Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. Hebrews 12:1-2

3) The revelation of Jesus Christ *transforms us in this life.* When we behold Him (even dimly) by faith, we bear His Image and begin to become like Him. The new nature which is Christ in us, or the life of the Spirit in us, comes to life whenever we look to Jesus and see something in Him that lets us surrender everything to Him.

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Until this happens and our trust and obedience are flowing freely again, we are still caught up in trying to live our lives our way. Let go, let God and watch new Life begin to flow. Whenever this happens, we are no longer "hanging in there" trying in our own strength to live the Christian life, we have surrendered, become transformed, and the life of Christ is lifting us and carrying us. We have passed from "crucifixion" with Christ into resurrection. **Jesus begins living through us!**

This is the graceful transformation of our lives from the inside out which no work of the flesh can accomplish (Jn 6:63). Religious practices and moral striving don't accomplish this--the Spirit does it all as we behold Him!

But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord, the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18 WEB

And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Colossians 3:10

4) The revelation of Jesus Christ *will complete our transformation in heaven.* In heaven sight will replace faith. We will clearly behold Him and become just like Him. God will not use a magic wand to bring forth your new life. You will see Jesus as He really is and that will bring the new life in you fully into being.

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 1 John 3:2

Seeing Him as you need to be seeing Him is the key to transformation. *Do you see?*

Preach the Gospel to Yourself! Try it--you'll never get tired of it..

The gospel of grace! How I love those words! The truth they carry home to my heart produces such wonderful things in me when I fully believe it: hope, peace, confidence, trust, joy, and release from all cares... I really could go on and on. And I hope you can too!

Many years ago a very wise priest said at a conference at our church that every Christian should look into the mirror each morning and preach the gospel to himself (or herself). I knew he was right (and I am doing it merrily every day now), but I didn't do it then, not because I didn't think it was a good idea, but because I lacked **the two crucial ingredients for choosing life:** I lacked clarity of understanding and I lacked motivation.

The Lord says that He has given everyone in covenant with Him **the power to choose life** over death and blessing over cursing **in every situation we face**. But we often don't do it. Why? It is certainly NOT because we want to choose death or cursing! It is because we lack clarity about what the right choice is and/or we lack sufficient motivation to do that right thing.

The clarity I lacked (as a priest and as a Christian of 11 or so years at the time) was this: What exactly was the gospel message that I needed to be hearing each morning? I knew of course that Jesus had died for me. The message of the cross is the essence of the good news. But somehow that wasn't lifting my heart up into freedom like it should have. Later I realized that the truths flowing into and out of that work at the cross are also part of the message!

As I sought the Lord about this He began to make clear to me that the "Good News" my heart needed to hear from the Gospel of Grace is:

- 1) that I am always being perfectly and affectionately loved by the Father,
- 2) that I am utterly and completely forgiven and accepted by Him,
- 3) that He is ever eager, willing and able to save me when I call for help,
- 4) that He always has a good plan for what I need to do next and how He needs to work with me and
- 5) that He is always at work working EVERYTHING for my good and His glory.

These 5 glorious truths are what I "preach" to my heart each morning until my heart fully believes the Good News.



And it floats my heart into freedom

every time. Once the clarity came and I Base! saw and understood what I needed to be doing, I have been happily choosing life ever since. (It is a living "death" to go through your day doubting these things.)

The other thing it takes is motivation. It took time and teaching by the Lord for me to realize that **the KEY to the spiritual life and to the daily life** is to get our eyes focused on the grace that is being revealed to us through beholding the Lord (who is the "God of All Grace"). This entirely shifts our heart out of whatever is binding it to anxious, stressful or depressive thoughts.

Once I realized that my number one priority--if I want to experience His love and peace--is **to keep beholding Him**, my motivation levels went through the roof! If your main motivation is to change other people, or to change your situation and circumstances, you will have little use for hearing the Good News in every moment. But if living in His peace is your main motivation, then the Gospel becomes your best friend--you never want to part company from conversation with it. **Then watch as His peace leads you into one outward victory after another!**

No, I don't stand in front of a mirror, but I do preach the gospel to my heart every day. Truth is, I preach it all day long as needed!

From We to Thee

Preparing for the Harvest...

Check out our new site for people seeking to be saved! Appropriately, it is called **forerunners4Him.org**. We are targeting

"seekers" who don't know the Lord and "forerunners" who want to know Him so well that their lives are grace-filled and free! We want to run into His heart (our intimate devotion) and carry out what we find there to the world around us (our devoted service).

Let me know if you see things that can be improved! But keep in mind that it is still very much under construction, so a lot of the pages are far from being finished. Still, your spiritual eyes may see things I am blind to...

Steve and Eunice

Run to Home Base!

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A lifetime of learning has gone into the workbook that forms the basis of what we teach. Steve likes to say that these truths have been field tested! They are **"truths with traction,"** guaranteed to get your emotional life unstuck from those pesky



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Let's all jump in!

Sincerely,

Steve and Eunice Evans

Healing Streams Ministry A branch of Forerunner Ministries, Inc.