

## **What Do You See?** *“For The Win” Series – Part 02*

**Connect:** In the remaining years of your life, what would you, just once, want to observe with your eyes? Why?

**Hook:** A couple of years ago my vision began to change dramatically. I could not get words to focus and driving at night was difficult due to impaired vision caused by the least little bit of light from oncoming headlights. Everything in my sight was a dull dingy gray. I had cataracts! A cloudy growth in the natural lenses of my eyes prevented me from seeing clearly. With cataract surgery (my cloudy lenses were replaced with clear man-made lenses) my vision was restored to usefulness.

There are others ways in which our vision or “perspective” can be faulty or redirected from the important to the mundane. List some of them:

Now, let’s consider for a moment, a different kind of vision...SPIRITUAL. Paul wrote the following:

*Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. 2 Corinthians 4:4*

What does this say about the spiritual vision for unbelievers? What is implied for those who are believers?

Let’s look at one of the Psalms, in which Asaph speaks about what his physical eyes saw, how it spoke to his heart, and then how his “spiritual eyes” gave him a change of heart.

### **Book:**

Psa 73:1 A psalm of Asaph. Truly God is good to Israel, to those whose hearts are pure.

Psa 73:2 But as for me, I almost lost my footing. My feet were slipping, and I was almost gone.

Psa 73:3 For I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness.

Psa 73:4 They seem to live such painless lives; their bodies are so healthy and strong.

Psa 73:5 They don't have troubles like other people; they're not plagued with problems like everyone else.

Psa 73:6 They wear pride like a jeweled necklace and clothe themselves with cruelty.

Psa 73:7 These fat cats have everything their hearts could ever wish for!

Psa 73:8 They scoff and speak only evil; in their pride they seek to crush others.

Psa 73:9 They boast against the very heavens, and their words strut throughout the earth.

Psa 73:10 And so the people are dismayed and confused, drinking in all their words.

Psa 73:11 "What does God know?" they ask. "Does the Most High even know what's happening?"

Psa 73:12 Look at these wicked people—enjoying a life of ease while their riches multiply.

Psa 73:13 Did I keep my heart pure for nothing? Did I keep myself innocent for no reason?

Psa 73:14 I get nothing but trouble all day long; every morning brings me pain.

Psa 73:15 If I had really spoken this way to others, I would have been a traitor to Your people.

Psa 73:16 So I tried to understand why the wicked prosper. But what a difficult task it is!

Psa 73:17 Then I went into Your sanctuary, O God, and I finally understood the destiny of the wicked.

Psa 73:18 Truly, You put them on a slippery path and send them sliding over the cliff to destruction.

Psa 73:19 In an instant they are destroyed, completely swept away by terrors.

Psa 73:20 When You arise, O Lord, You will laugh at their silly ideas as a person laughs at dreams in the morning.

Psa 73:21 Then I realized that my heart was bitter, and I was all torn up inside.

Psa 73:22 I was so foolish and ignorant—I must have seemed like a senseless animal to You.

Psa 73:23 Yet I still belong to You; You hold my right hand.

Psa 73:24 You guide me with Your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny.

Psa 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but You? I desire You more than anything on earth.

Psa 73:26 My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; He is mine forever.

Psa 73:27 Those who desert Him will perish, for You destroy those who abandon You.

Psa 73:28 But as for me, how good it is to be near God! I have made the Sovereign LORD my shelter, and I will tell everyone about the wonderful things You do.

### **Look:**

Asaph declares that he almost “lost his footing” because of his focus. What did he see that would cause him to lose his way?

Have you ever wondered why it seems the unjust and ungodly prosper despite their actions? How do you deal with your feelings about this?

Read verses 13-14 again. Why does Asaph feel this way? Why is this kind of thinking in error?

What did Asaph decide to do to get his perspective corrected? (verse 17)

Did Asaph physically see God in the temple? How did he receive a new understanding or a new perspective?

Read verses 23-26. Make a list of the benefits that comes to one whose “spiritual sight” is set upon God:

### **Took:**

1. What aspects of life easily distract you in your walk with God?
2. What steps do you take to help you to refocus your vision/heart upon God?
3. Who do you know who is struggling with the injustices of life and how can you help them?