

Believing and Seeing!



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What are we seeing—is the question, because what we *see* as being true is usually what we *believe* in our heart. After praying in faith—and always based on the merit of the Blood of Christ, our answers to prayer hinge on *what we see as true*, because God through His Son has promised. John 16:23 “*Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.*”

Two spiritual powers work in the world—one wants us to see things from the *world’s* viewpoint, and the other enables us to see things from the *divine* viewpoint. One is from Satan—who seeks to get our eyes on evil things; and the other is from God—who wants us to see His good things.

Very few people, unfortunately, realize Satan’s activity in the world, so we must constantly remind ourselves that the devil is always *suggesting*; *showing* the worst side; and *presenting* discouraging things. He brings up our *past* mistakes; our *past* failures; and former things we want to *forget* because they are so discouraging.

Satan always tries to get our eyes focused on something that suits *him*. If we are in need of money, he brings up past failures when we did without. If it is a physical battle, he reminds us of the pain we experienced; or he brings up an offensive remark made to us—the devil will keep our minds filled with doubts, discouragement, and fear of what could happen, if we let him do that.

He pictures how serious the illness *could* be, then has us recall a medical commercial that mentioned the same symptoms and the dire results. He reminds us of the time we did *not* resist and *yielded* to a temptation—or will bring up some disappointment in order to dissolve our faith in God—which *can* be the result, if we allow Satan to focus our attention on past mistakes.

An analogy—if we need an item that is available only from one specific company, we do not waste time looking for it somewhere else—likewise, we should not look at *ourselves* to see any *faith* within us. It is not possible to see faith within because it is not an *amount* of something. It *is* possible, however, to look *away* from ourselves and look *to* the faithfulness of someone who *can* help us—which is always the Lord Jesus.

Self-*confidence* is the self-*sin* of Adam. He was *confident* that he could live *without* God. It was faith in his *own* ability—it was pride and self-confidence. Faith in God is opposite. It is all of *Him* and nothing of *us*. Our faith will depend on *what* we have confidence in or *who* we look to for help. If we accept the devil’s *defeat*, that is *all* we see—doubt, despair, and discouragement.

If answers to prayer are *hindered*, Satan could be doing our *thinking*. He calls our attention to the *negative* side. If we need *money*, he points out some possible *source* or some generous *person* who might help us—but never God, Satan suggests. The devil *does* this to get our eyes *away*

from God and *on to* some other source. Looking to the *wrong* source hinders *faith* in God.

The *divine* plan—and anyone can receive the benefits *of* that plan—is to trust on *God* only for what is needed. God cannot do anything for us until we *choose* His plan. If we choose *Satan’s* plan, *divine* power is hindered; but if we choose to accept *God’s* plan, *Satan’s* power is dissolved. When our faith is in God, He is ready to do things for us—*no one else* can help us in that way.

An important reminder—Jesus has all *authority* and *power*, and yet He cannot help us, if we are determined to see only what Satan presents. It is not God’s will for us to see the negative side 2 Timothy 1:7 “*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*”

Too often we allow the *devil* to do our thinking. We are to “*Resist him;*” not give *in* to him. Satan will approach us as an angel giving spiritual light—so we are warned James 4:7, “*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*”

If we need healing, Satan presents terrible results if we trust God by faith. Similar to Jonah, we see *defeat* instead of *victory*. Jonah 2:8 “*They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.*” We should think—that if a defeated devil can show us his *bad* side with *negative* results, then the great God of Heaven can enable us to see His *good* side with *positive* results. We must *refuse* to accept what Satan *suggests*, and get our eyes on the Savior. 1 John 3:8 “*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*”

Resisting the *devil* by looking to *God* is crucial. It should *not* be a mystery why our prayers are hindered, because if God is trusted in even a *small* way, He will prove faithful to His Word and will guide us through. He *has* to bring us through because Malachi 3:6 “*I am the LORD, I change not.*”

If the answer is not received, there is a *cause* that God knows.

Satan still uses his century-old game strategy on everyone—and one of his strategies is to have people be *fearful* about something—making them see the worst results. We *can* have, and *must* have that spirit of fear *rebuked*—as did many believers in the Bible had fear rebuked! Fear does *not* have to be tolerated—we permit it by allowing it to control us.

God can take this fear *out* of our heart—through His love, mercy, and power—enabling us to see through the lens of the Word. John 6:63 “*The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*” Jesus came to give an *abundant* life—not a fearful life.

His disciples asked Jesus if they should call fire down to consume some unbelieving Samaritans Luke 9:55-56 “*But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.*”

The devil, we know, is a *soul-slayer*—but Jesus is a *soul-saver*. When we listen to Satan, we play into the hands of a dangerous enemy—and He can *slay* us if we keep *listening* to him. God can reveal this to us, so when we *see* our mistake and *ask* Him for mercy, He will rebuke that fear, and empower us to do the right thing—trusting Him in faith—not fear. We are to be *God-confident*; not *self-confident*.

Satan has evil intentions and shows us our weaknesses; our unbelief; our lack of faith; the number of our sins; or the seriousness of our illness. Our answer to all he suggests is Romans 8:31 “*If God be for us, who can be against us?*” *Nothing* could be against us—no sorrow nor disease; no grief or trouble. Romans 8:32 “*He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*”

Satan wants us to look at our *troubles*—not at the victories! The devil *hides* God from us—because he knows that when our eyes *on* God—on everything He *is*, and *has*, and will *do*—our difficulties diminish. Satan may come against us one way, but the Lord will have him to Deuteronomy 28:7 “*Flee before thee seven ways.*”

The answer to prayer is *important*, but the *cause* of the trouble is even *more* important. Once it is *known*, it can be *corrected*. When Satan is *rebuked*, and we *refuse* to listen to his lies, the victory is right around the corner—it is at the door ready to be received. We are *not* to give any attention to the devil’s lies nor be affected by anything he suggests.

God *values* every individual soul, and He wants us to value them also. He values our *life* so much that He sent His Son to die on the cross to *save* our soul. We should *appreciate* the people God brings into our life; to *remember* them in prayer—asking Him to give *them* the gift of His Spirit so He can guide them John 16:13 “*Into all truth.*”

Everyone has their own individual trials, temptations, and battles with the devil, so we should *pray* for them as we want *them* to do for *us* Matthew 7:12.

We are to see *victory* through Jesus and *refuse* to see Satan’s side. Philippians 4:6 “*Be careful for [or anxious about] nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*”

If we need healing; finances; or a change of attitude in us or a loved one, God is ready to *give* it, when we are willing to *believe* it. John 16:23 “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.*” John 16:24 “*As yet you have not asked for anything in my name.*”

Those two are a great combination—God gives the power to believe *first*; then He gives

the promise *second*. With anything Satan would *say, do, or advise*, we have God right with us—in the presence of His Holy Spirit, to see it to completion.

An analogy; we may have wanted to buy something, but forgot that we already had the money at home put aside for it—today we have the presence and power of God ready to *fulfill* every promise, but often *forget* that we have *access* to that power source. When we look to *God* for the answer, we have *confidence* to receive it.

The widow of Zarephath had a meager amount of oil and flour for one last meal—Satan had her seeing his side. Elijah told her to make the bread for *him*, because God had something better for *her*.

1 Kings 17:14-15 “*For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah.*”

The marvelous *result* of taking that *step of faith*: “*And she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.*” All this good resulted from changing her attitude. Instead of seeing *Satan’s* side, she chose to see *God’s* promise.

There is not an illness; a lack; not a weakness nor an infirmity; not a heartache or loss—if we will look to *God* alone, listen to what *He* says and *believe*, change will come; *blessings* be received; and His promises fulfilled.

It *has* to be that way because He can only tell the truth John 6:63 “*The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life*”—just as they were for the widow. Without Him where would we be!



www.fcgchurch.org

PO Box 24283

Philadelphia, PA 19120 info@fcgchurch.org

#2975 1031 21A