

Exposing Blind Spots

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is pastor of Greater Grace World Outreach located in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stevens is also chancellor of Maryland Bible College & Seminary and host of the international Christian radio program "The Grace Hour." This booklet was created from a message preached by Pastor Stevens.

Pastor Stevens can be seen weekly on cable television stations throughout the United States. Call us for information regarding programming in your area.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

GRACE PUBLICATIONS

P.O. BOX 18715

BALTIMORE, MD 21206

Printed in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

Copyright © 2001

Grace Publications is a ministry of
Greater Grace World Outreach, Inc.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction 5

Chapter 1 7

WHOSE SIDE DO YOU TAKE?

Chapter 2 11

SEEING BEYOND THE VEIL

Chapter 3 16

A VIEW TOWARD CALVARY

CONCLUSION 20

INTRODUCTION

When we say that people have a “blind spot,” it means that in a certain area of thinking, they fail to use proper judgment. Blind to the truth of God’s Word, they are easily deceived in that area. I believe that pastors should receive special training on the subject.

Many Christians do not understand spiritual warfare, and their blind spots cause serious problems. They approach an invisible enemy by substituting faith with sight, defending themselves against people and circumstances. They think they are fighting against flesh and blood, unaware of the demonic principalities and powers at work in the air (Ephesians 6:12). Usually negative or sarcastic, they say things to one another as a result of blind spots, without having a revelation of God’s love from Calvary’s throne.

Satan, the accuser of the brethren, has a plan to deceive the whole world (Revelation 12:9-10). Whenever I have to deal with something as a

pastor, I must first examine my heart through the Finished Work to make sure that I am not deceived because of a blind spot.

This booklet will show that to avoid blind spots, a believer has to let wisdom have a home in him—a habitation, a dwelling place. Where wisdom has a home, more light can come in, and the light already received will remain.

Chapter One

WHOSE SIDE DO YOU TAKE?

When a person is deceived, the first indication is that he hears the Word of God but does not practice it. This type of hearer doesn't receive the Word of God with meekness. He doesn't put away all "superfluity of naughtiness" (James 1:21). He doesn't have categories of doctrine engrafted in his soul.

Scores of Christians are deceived and do not know it. They always have something to say, but they do not listen to and apply wisdom. Wisdom is crying out in the street (Proverbs 8). Categorical doctrine is available to be applied in the Holy Spirit's power of love; it is crying out to be appropriated.

Strife comes when we take sides in the flesh and stick with it, instead of identifying with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:13). A person who takes sides is not easily entreated. The first side to be heard has the advan-

tage, and that is usually the side that wins. But the one who chooses sides is usually deceived and he doesn't even know it. He has a blind spot about relationships.

"The LORD will smite thee with the botch of Egypt, and with the emerods, and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof thou canst not be healed.

"The LORD shall smite thee with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of heart:

"And thou shalt grope at noonday, as the blind gropeth in darkness, and thou shalt not prosper in thy ways: and thou shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save thee" (Deuteronomy 28:27-29).

Here, Moses warned that disobedience to God's commands and ignorance of His Word would leave Israel groping in the darkness. "The blind" would grope in the darkness. Their light would turn into darkness—they knew not the light because they were not living with a single eye toward Truth (see Luke 11:34).

Differences That Divide

Many times, young Christians have differences with people because of blind spots. Certainly, the other people have blind spots as well,

but too often, we don't recognize our own. That is the problem with blind spots. They are so easy to find in others, and they make us angry. Yet, every one of us has blind spots and novice traits that we need to deal with. This is the only way a church can have a fruitful, worldwide ministry that reproduces itself in the principles of God's grace.

"They have wandered as blind men in the streets, they have polluted themselves with blood, so that men could not touch their garments" (Lamentations 4:14).

"But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him:

"That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?

"Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again,

"He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them" (John 12:37-40).

"...Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and

the rest were blinded” (Romans 11:7).

The Novice and Human Opinions

You have to be in a leader’s position to know why he does some of the things he does. Men and women of God who have been through battles understand angelic warfare. Without lord-ing it over people, they command respect as they take authority in situations. A leader must cover people’s failures when dealing with certain issues because his goal is restoration and reconciliation. This means he will not tell you who he is covering or why. He is dealing with people and situations before God.

Sadly, some people develop opinions without doctrine, and they are not wise to do so. Certain things they have done in the past or the circumstances in which they were raised cause them to form strong opinions. God, however, never accepts the knowledge of opinionated people. He only accepts the wisdom of love through the application of grace in the window of mercy and the patience of forgiveness. We need to let the wisdom of experienced men of God help us out of our novice traits.

Chapter Two

SEEING BEYOND THE VEIL

I preach the Finished Work, and I counsel scores of people from a Finished Work perspective. When I am quite certain that they trust me and that they know there is no condemnation, I can tell them what their blind spots are. Yet, some of those people continue to analyze their Adam nature and rationalize their deviation from the truth.

Blind spots cause light to turn to darkness, and that person does not know it. Second Corinthians 3:14 speaks of the veil that was done away with by Christ and also the veil that is “untaken away.” When the veil of carnal thinking is not taken away, instead of having the mind of Christ, the mind is darkened. When a veil remains, that person cannot see and apply Calvary; therefore, he is not conformed to Christ’s image. He becomes established in a blind spot. But what is worse, he is not afraid to

repeat his opinions to others, which sows discord among the brethren.

Stuck with Sight Evaluations

“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

“And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

“And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

“For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins” (2 Peter 1:5-9)

“Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

“(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

“Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)” (Philippians 3:17-19).

A Christian who has blind spots gets stuck

in wrong thinking in certain areas of his life, yet he goes on as if he “knows it all.” He is neither humble nor meek, and he stands by his opinion. Though he may serve God, he has become an enemy of the Cross. He might be right-on in fifty areas, but he could still have three deadly blind spots.

The self-righteous Pharisees were filled with blind spots. Six times, Jesus called them blind (see Matthew 15:14; Matthew 23:23-26).

What the Mind Really Sees

Most people assume that what we see with our eyes is what is reported to the brain. In fact, the brain interprets and adds substantially to the reports it receives from the eyes. Much of what we see is actually interpreted by the brain in the reality of sight, through the mind. The emotions may respond short of grace in the conscience, drawing from old thought patterns and wrong belief systems. Natural thinking is the result of self-consciousness lacking God-consciousness and promoting negative volition toward Calvary.

Physically, the front of the eye operates as a camera lens, directing light from each point in a given space to create a “picture” on the retina, a sensory membrane which lines the eyeball. The

picture is transferred by photo receptors (chemical and nervous signals produced on the retina) through specialized brain cells or neurons that make up the optic nerve, to the brain. On the back of the eye, at the place where the optic nerve is attached to the retina, there are no photoreceptors; therefore, the brain receives no information from the part of the image that falls in that spot. This is called the optic disk or *blind spot*.

Spiritually, a person who has novice traits and blind spots is a person who, having perceived the truth, does not practice the Finished Work truth experientially and personally. The information is fragmented because of blind spots, and if he is not Spirit-taught, the missing information is apt to be filled in with things that seem good but are not *the* truth.

First Peter 5:8 speaks of the devil as a “roaring lion” who preys on the weak and the young—those who because of opinions take sides, instead of taking a stand with truth. They follow what they *think* they see.

Matthew 9:34 refers to “the prince of the devils”—*archon daimonion*: the one who has official authority in the life of anyone who does not go through the Cross. When I do not apply the

Cross by reckoning myself dead, buried, and risen in Christ (Romans 6:1-11), Satan has final authority over my behavior. I will take on his justifications of self-defense, and I will become impersonal toward Calvary. Therefore, it is vital that we recognize our blind spots and let the Holy Spirit reveal the whole picture to our hearts.

Chapter Three

A VIEW TOWARD CALVARY

In Matthew 4, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness, where Satan demonstrated his power. The devil had power to tempt Jesus with a three-fold temptation. In verses 8-9, Satan offered to bring Him material success.

Satan also has the power to steal the Word of God from a heart that is not guarded with doctrine (Luke 8:12). We can hear Finished Work messages and enjoy them when certain points apply to us, but then the devil comes in and steals that doctrine. The empty place creates blind spots and self-deception. Negative reactions, self-defense mechanisms, unforgiving spirits—all these things are the result of novice traits and the deception of blind spots.

The devil has the power to drive a man (Luke 8:29). Demons have the power to give a person a driving spirit. Demons have the power to influence a man to betray God (John 13:2) and

then to blind him to that fact. They also have the power to oppress (Acts 10:38), to pervert God's ways (Acts 13:10), and to take men captive at their will (2 Timothy 2:26).

Wisdom from Below

Satan has the power to devour the inattentive believer (1 Peter 5:8) and to cast him into prison—both literally (Revelation 2:10) and spiritually (Psalm 141), using wisdom from below (James 3:13-15). The application of Bible doctrine without the Holy Spirit is wisdom from below. The application of knowledge without the power of the Spirit leaves us with human wisdom—acting like “wise” people who know it all.

Methodeia is the Greek term for Satan's “wiles.” This refers to the power he has to practice deceitful scheming with the intent of leading people astray through his demon armies (Ephesians 6:11). Snares, in 1 Timothy 3:7, are set-up traps. Once a man establishes a communion table with demons (1 Corinthians 10:21), he spreads carefully organized doctrines of demons (1 Timothy 4:1) promoted by seducing spirits. A man can use his personality to seduce people. His belief system doesn't have Calvary at its center (James 2:19).

Phronimotatos is the Greek word for “serpent” in Genesis 3:1. It describes the subtle way Satan can convey an understanding in supernatural wisdom that rationalizes the world system without the Cross. This kind of thinking infects a person with a capacity for supernatural light that is really darkness toward the love of God.

Demons cause confusion. They try to give a believer a poor self-image and to bring in depression through projections. Satan has a powerhouse of supernatural attacks designed to make people depressed and then to lead them into receiving wounds and bruises. Remember, we are not battling against flesh and blood alone, but against principalities and powers of darkness. Therefore, when our blind spots are exposed, we will see that the wounds and bruises do not come from people.

These attacks affect us when we don’t have on the whole armor of God and when we confess how we feel in Adam. As believers, and according to the divine ability that is in us, we need to live in the victory by faith and communicate the truth that Christ is on the throne.

Stay in the Love of God

The Word of God makes it clear that we are

to build ourselves up in the most holy faith. We are to think, meditate, ponder, preach, teach, communicate, counsel, respond, and initiate in the Word. Let's keep ourselves in the love of God. Only respond in the love of God. Do not step outside of God's love or confess anything outside of it. Pray in the Holy Spirit and look for the mercy of God. Friends, thinking with the Word of God is how we confront blind spots.

The Word of God tells us that the victory has been won and the penalty for sin has been paid. Iniquity and sin can never be charged to us again. The Word tells us that we are hid with Christ in God in the heavenlies. No matter what sight dictates, the truth is that we cannot be moved out of that position.

I love to hear Christians say, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" and, "Thanks be unto God who always gives us the victory in our Lord Jesus Christ." It is fun to serve beside them and to minister with them in this world where so much that appears to be light is really darkness. These are Christians who have the Light of God shining through them. Their blind spots have been revealed and overcome by the Truth.

CONCLUSION

This message is the product of some forty years of pastoral experience. The lessons communicated here have been tested in battles.

In Matthew 6:12, Jesus Christ taught the disciples to pray, “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” A thorough study of that verse reveals that we are to automatically forgive and forget whenever something is done against us—the moment we hear of it. We do not react. We don’t even have to confront the person. Instead, we return good for evil, forgiving and erasing the offense from the memory, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Everything in our lives must go through Calvary so that our hearts will be established in wisdom for the situations we face. This is the way to overcome blind spots. A Spirit-filled Christian doesn’t take sides; he stands or falls before God. He privately studies the Bible as a believer-priest. He doesn’t say negative things.

He listens carefully, ponders over truth, and prays on his knees. God will always reveal that the only side that matters in any issue is *His* side—and He *always* causes us to triumph over the devil.