

INSIGHTS

DEVELOP YOUR INNER EYE

BY DR. DENNIS BURKE

Since I was a young boy, I've had a fascination with the solar system and the night sky.

We have known for a long time that the twinkle of the stars on a clear night, which can be mesmerizing, is the result of turbulence and particles in the atmosphere. The clutter and debris in our atmosphere interfere with the light of a star for a brief moment to make it twinkle.

If only there was a way to observe space from beyond the clutter in earth's atmosphere the details and discoveries would be dramatic.

With that in mind, beginning in 1962 NASA developed the Orbiting Solar Observatory Program launching eight space telescopes primarily intended to study the sun.

By 1990 the Hubble Telescope was launched into a low orbit about 375 miles above the earth. The idea was to view space from beyond the atmosphere. The clarity and unobstructed light from deep space expanded our understanding of the universe.

Then, in 2021 the Webb Telescope was launched as the successor to the Hubble and has taken scientific discoveries in space into vast new areas. The images and information it provided from over

900,000 miles from earth has given us a new understanding into great scientific discoveries.

The point is to realize that spiritually we deal with conditions, clutter, and debris in the natural "atmosphere" of our lives that can obscure our view as well.

In Christ we have been equipped with a divine capacity that enables us to see into scriptural truths and perceive beyond the clutter of life.

For instance, Peter understood something about Jesus that was beyond the natural information he had at the time.

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Notice this in Matthew's Gospel:

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus

Jesus said Peter had received revelation. Revelation is seeing with the eyes of our inner man. The Holy Spirit helps us to see beyond the debris and limits in our minds thereby giving us insight and revelation.

In Ephesians the apostle Paul prayed for believers to receive wisdom and revelation from the Holy Spirit within.

“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people” (Ephesians 1:17–18 NIV).

Paul describes the spirit of wisdom and understanding as the “eyes of your heart” being enlightened.

By His Spirit, we can see ourselves and the issues we face from the perspective of what has been done for us in Christ. We have been given a heavenly perspective.

Ephesians 2:6 tells us, “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus” (NIV).

And 2 Corinthians 4:18 says, “Since we consider and look not to the things that are

seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are visible are temporal (brief and fleeting), but the things that are invisible are deathless and everlasting” (AMPC).

Looking only at the things that can be seen is to live in the limitations of the clutter around us. Developing our “inner eye” is like seeing from above the turbulent atmosphere. There is greater clarity.

The idea of seeing what cannot be seen sounds very odd on the surface. Yet, we know the spirit world is very real. In fact, everything we see and feel naturally originated when God spoke creation into existence. The tangible substance of the entire creation came from the spiritual power of God's spoken Word.

God's Words have spiritual substance that we are to focus our inner eyes on.

Behind the scenes God is working. We don't always see it, but He is working.

Even when we don't feel it, He's working.

Elisha's assistant saw the danger of the army arrayed against them. The danger was real and from his point of view he had a legitimate reason to fear.

The prophet's attendant got up early in the morning. When he went outside there was an army surrounding the city, along with horses and

answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 16:13–17 NKJV).



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chariots. He said to Elisha, "Oh no, my master! What will we do?" He replied, "Don't be afraid, for our side outnumbers them. Then Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he can see." The LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he saw that the hill was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha" (2 Kings 6:15-17 NET).

Elisha prayed a simple yet very powerful prayer: "Open his eyes...."

Elisha's assistant had clouded vision. His natural and even fearful point of view left him hopeless. But when his eyes were opened, he could see the spiritual army which was present to deliver them from the threat.

What has clouded your vision? What has kept you from seeing from God's perspective? The natural point

of view can cloud the reality of the unseen world. We can rise up above the atmosphere of our past experiences, our insecurities, and uncertainties.

Jesus demonstrated this Himself. At the covenant meal with His disciples, He faced a dark cloud. Judas, the betrayer set the stage for the mob of religious zealots and Roman soldiers to arrest Jesus. No one else knew what Judas was up to, but Jesus was completely aware.

The Lord's final words to the disciples were amazing:

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33 NKJV).

At that very moment, Jesus faced His own tribulation. Satan's strategy to put Jesus to death caused Him tremendous pressure.

Yet, He announced that

He had overcome it all.

Those hearing Him would not understand the power of those words until after the resurrection. Jesus said it to the disciples, but it wasn't for them alone. It also served notice to the kingdom of darkness that He was not shaken.

The book of Hebrews gives us light on how Jesus remained unchanged,

"For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart" (Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV).

Who for the joy set before Him endured.... He kept in His sights the joy of knowing every person would be liberated from sin and Satan's grip.

We are to consider Jesus. His example will cause us to prevail as well. He said it and He saw it! We must also say it



UPCOMING MEETINGS

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Brooklyn Park, MN 55423 | 763-315-7000

LANCASTER, CA | FEBRUARY 11-12
Antelope Valley Springs of Life Ministries
456 E Avenue K4, Suite 7
Lancaster, CA 93535 | 661-945-6700

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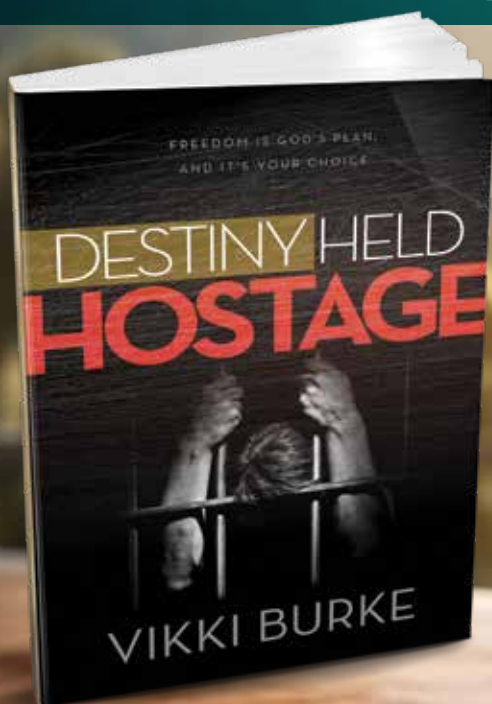
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