

Psalm 119 – Session 2

Week 5, v. 18

Last week we looked at David' s request that God deal bountifully with him, not according to David' s own merits, but according to God' s goodness. He requested this in order that he might live for God. In Psalm 119:18 David makes another request of God.

Ps 119:18 *Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Thy law.*

How would your life change if you were physically blind? What is another meaning of " being blind" ? Look at the sayings below. What do they mean?

To be " blind to someone' s faults"

To be " blind to the consequences of their actions"

To have " blind faith"

" a blind corner"

Physical blindness in the biblical period was very common. The suffering of the blind person was made worse by the common belief that the affliction was due to sin ([John 9:1-3](#))...Because of their severe handicap, blind persons had little opportunity to earn a living. A blind man was even ineligible to become a priest ([Leviticus 21:18](#)). Frequently, the blind became beggars ([Mark 10:46](#))...Ancient people used salves of various types to treat disorders of the eye. Simple surgical procedures such as the lancing of boils near the eye and the extraction of inverted eyelashes were also employed...In reality, almost no effective treatment was available to those who suffered from diseases of the eye and blindness. There were no antibiotics, no effective surgical procedures for most problems, and no eyeglasses. Miraculous healing was often sought ([John 5:2-3](#)).
StudyLight.org, Holman Bible Dictionary

Today, someone who is physically blind may carry a white cane. It is used to detect objects in front of the user. A guide dog is also a tool used by the visually impaired. Along with maneuvering around obstacles, a dog also provides a certain alertness to surrounding people.

Can blindness be healed today? If you Google " can blindness be healed" , you will get information about possible ocular implants, stem cell research and a type of injection – all with hopeful but not definitive results. Blindness can be prevented in many cases, but a completely blind person with total healing of sight seems to escape even modern medicine. There were no less than eight suggested searches to continue the search -- all had to do with Jesus healing the blind -- interesting.....

Verse 18 begins with the words, " open my eyes"

Open <galah> in this context means to denude, disclose, discover, remove, reveal, tell, uncover.

This is more than just not being able to see; there is the idea that something is in the way and needs to be removed in order to see.

The word denude is used at the beginning of this definition. It means to remove or clear everything so that nothing is left. Think of the word open as stripping away everything in order to reveal what is true. Like opening a wrapped gift. What is inside is hidden by a cover until you tear it off. David' s prayer is to take everything else away so that he can see only God.

Take a moment to think: What things can get in our way that blind us from clearly seeing truth?

The word " eyes" carries the idea of not just the physical eye but of seeing with knowledge (i. e. understanding), of recognizing.

Can we see and yet not really see?

Isa 32:3 Then the eyes of those who see will not be blinded, and the ears of those who hear will listen.

Mt 13:13 "Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

Mt 16:16-17 And Simon Peter answered and said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal [this] to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Joh 9:39 And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see; and that those who see may become blind."

Ac 26:16-18 'But arise, and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; delivering

you from the [Jewish] people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

2Co 3:14 But their minds were hardened [blinded – KJV]; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ.

2Co 4:3-6 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

According to the scriptures above, who allows us to ' see' Truth? Are we able to see truth without Christ? Why is it important to remember that God is the one who gives understanding?

In order to open something, the assumption is that it is closed to begin with. Think of the people in your life who are unsaved. Do they have understanding of their need of salvation? Pray that God opens the eyes of their heart.

The next part of Psalm 119:18 answers the question ' why does David want God to open his eyes' . The answer: [that I may behold Wonderful things from Thy Law.](#)

Behold <nabat> to look intently at; to regard with pleasure, favor or care; consider, look, regard, have respect, see

That I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. Some men can perceive no wonders in the gospel, but David felt sure that there were glorious things in the law: he had not half the Bible, but he prized it more than some men prize the whole. He felt that God had laid up great bounties in his word, and he begs for power to perceive, appreciate, and enjoy the same. We need not so much that God should give us more benefits, as the ability to see what he has given.

Treasury of David.

Wondrous things <pala' > perhaps to separate, i.e. distinguish (literally or figuratively); by implication, to be (causatively, make) great, difficult, wonderful:--accomplish, (arise...too, be too) hard, hidden, things too high, (be, do, do a, shew) marvelous(-ly, -els, things, work), miracles, perform, separate, make singular

How can we separate Truth from the lies of this world? Do you ask God to help you see His hand in all circumstances? What 'wondrous' things has God shown you through His word? Do you ask God to clearly reveal Himself to you? Will He? How do you know?

Joh 10:14 "I am the good shepherd; and I know My own, and My own know Me,

Mt 13:11 And He answered and said to them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted

Joh 7:17 "If any man is willing to do His will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or [whether] I speak from Myself.

What perfect precepts, what precious promises, what priceless privileges are neglected by us because we wander among them like blind men among the beauties of nature ... A man will never grow into the knowledge of God's word by idly waiting for some new gift of discernment, but by diligently using that which God has already bestowed upon him, and using at the same time all other helps that lie within his reach. TOD

Think of the stars in the sky. If we went outside right now, would you see them? If not, does it mean they are not there? Just because we are unable to see the stars right now does not mean they do not exist. They are there just as they have always been since their creation. We need to have the right tools to see. If we wait until dark we might see some dimly light stars. If we use a telescope, we will see them more clearly. The Word contains truth that is revealed to us through the Spirit as God sees fit. As we pray for understanding and knowledge, it will be given to us. Our own human reasoning cannot unlock the mysteries of the Gospel. The 'wonderful' things in the Bible are too great for us to understand by our own efforts. We need Jesus!

Ver. 18. Wondrous things. There are promises in God's word that no man has ever tried to find. There are treasures of gold and silver in it that no man has taken the pains to dig for. There are medicines in it for the want of a knowledge of which hundreds have died. It seems to me like some old baronial estate that has descended to a man (who lives in a modern house) and thinks it scarcely worthwhile to go and look into the venerable mansion. Year after year passes away and he pays no attention to it, since he has no suspicion of the valuable treasures it contains, till, at last, some man says to him, "Have you been up in the country to look at that estate?" He makes up his mind that he will take a look at it. As he goes through the porch he is surprised to see the skill that has been displayed in its construction: he is more and more surprised as he goes through the halls. He enters a large room, and is astonished as he

beholds the wealth of pictures on the walls, among which are portraits of many of his revered ancestors. He stands in amazement before them. There is a Titian, there a Raphael, there is a Correggio, and there is a Giorgione. He says, "I never had any idea of these before." "Ah," says the steward, "there is many another thing that you know nothing about in the castle," and he takes him from room to room and shows carved plate, and wonderful statues, and the man exclaims, "Here I have been for a score of years the owner of this estate, and have never before known what things were in it." But no architect ever conceived of such an estate as God's word, and no artist, or carver, or sculptor, ever conceived of such pictures, and carved dishes, and statues as adorn its apartments. It contains treasures that silver, and gold, and precious stones are not to be mentioned with. Henry Ward Beecher, 1872.

Application Questions

Read Psalm 119:1-18. Take the time to consider what God has placed in your heart the last few weeks through this study.

Why did David pray that God would open his eyes when David could already ' see ' ?

Have you prayed that God would open your eyes? Do you recall times when God has given you understanding beyond your own ability? Read Proverbs 3:1-6; 4:25.

How do you see God' s word guiding you? What happens when we are blinded by our own desires? Read this comment from Adam Clarke' s Commentary: " The Holy Scriptures are plain enough; but the heart of man is darkened by sin. The Bible does not so much need a comment, as the soul does the light of the Holy Spirit " . What is your response?

What is the difference between reading something and understanding something?

Let us pray together that God would drive away the misconceptions we have of His word and that He would replace our error with His perfect understanding so that we might fully honor His name in our thought and action.