

Do You See What I See?

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Do you recall your last vision test? You try to read as many rows of letters as you can on the chart. Exams check for astigmatism, glaucoma, color blindness, etc.

What if we could test our “spiritual vision?” How well we see God at work in our lives, the world and our church. Our Scripture is about improved spiritual vision.

It says “keep your eye” on the Holy Spirit! Stay focused on God. Look what Jesus Christ left for us.

When Jesus ascended into heaven, the angels chastised disciples for being focused on the wrong thing! “Men of Galilee, why do you stand there staring up toward heaven?” Message: Look to the future and not the past!

And what was Paul’s wish for church in Ephesia? *“I pray that the eyes of your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given...”*

So, I ask: How’s your spiritual vision? Are you “spiritually near-sighted?” Must God be in your face before you see the divine at work? Can you envision how to connect with folks whose politics you loathe? And what do YOU focus on? The problems, slights and hurts in life or the solutions, healing and graces?

Do you see a world of scarcity or abundance? Do you see co-workers as colleagues or competitors? Is an obstacle a stumbling block or a stepping-stone?

Do you have “spiritual astigmatism:” A distorted image of God in your life? I saw that in 2012 on a men’s retreat with a 21-year-old named Kyle.

I was impressed with his kindness, generosity and patience. So, I asked: *“Ever think of attending church?”*

“Oh” he said. *“I could never go to a place where I was made to feel inferior!”* *“Oh, folks putting you down?”* I queried.

“No, where I was told I was inferior to God!” he responded. Wow!

I suspect he feared trusting a higher power. The disciples had the same worries before Jesus ascended. They asked anxiously: “What are the signs, timing and nature of the 2nd Coming?” He had a simple answer: That’s for God to foresee.

How fitting to hear that as Redeemer moves ahead. We must trust because we cannot see all God has in store. But we need guidance from God. What did the disciples do after Jesus ascended? They gathered together to pray for spiritual vision.

“All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women,” Acts 1:12.

Can we trust God? Will we see the path clearly? Will Redeemer focus on the right things? Like the disciples, we can't see where God is leading us. But we can trust in God's vision.

Habakkuk 2:3 says that.

“For the vision is set for an appointed time and it hastens to its fulfilment; it will neither disappoint nor deceive. Though it seems to tarry, wait earnestly for it, because it will surely come; it will not miss its appointed day.