

## The Voice – John Part 9 of 21

Let's talk about "seeing". Many people need help seeing clearly. Almost every Sunday, reading glasses are left at the church so I know for a fact that some of us see better at church than we do on the way home. Some of us just have better vision than others.

People tend to see what they want to see and we often "don't" see what we don't want to see. Vision can be selective for sure.

We see what we are most familiar with seeing. Have you ever been driving down a very familiar road only to realize you have just seen a house or a farm or a business that you have never noticed before? It is easy to look in the same direction so often to the neglect of a totally present, but never seen before reality.

Although it may not seem to be so on the surface, we each see Christ differently. We see Him through our self-regulated familiarized lenses. We each see the Bible differently. Some have seen it in its entirety, but still have a limited understanding. Others have seen a limited portion of scripture, but they possess a clear and deep trial-tested perspective.

We each wear "theological blinders." Some of us are in the dark concerning passages and truths that matter a great deal to others. *What are you in the dark about concerning the Father or the Son or the Holy Spirit?*

In order to see life and Christ differently, God took Saul's sight from him. Once the Risen Lord had taken away Saul's sight, it was then the plan to give Paul clear vision concerning Christ.

*Do you need to see things differently? Do you need to see God with a greater clarity? Do you need to see things in the scripture that you have never seen before? Ask God for new insight. Ask Him to turn on a different theological faucet to help you grow in truth. Are you seeing spiritual gifts as you should? (1 Cor 12 & 14). Are you seeing the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as you should? Are you seeing your calling as clear as you should?*

### Challenge #1

Your challenge this week is weird, unusual and sort of goofy (but also potentially effective). In an effort to accentuate the importance of seeing life, not only physically, but also spiritually-----I challenge you (with the help of another person-for safety sake) to blindfold yourself for an evening at home or for perhaps an entire day. I am serious. Families could do this together without joking around with each other. Think about how you feel or how serious sight is to you. *What did you learn from the experience? Did you learn to listen more intently? Is there a relationship between not listening well to the Word of God and not seeing God clearly? Yes, this*

challenge is different, but give it a shot. *What is it like to not be able to see? Are you willing to sacrifice spiritual vision anymore?*

## **Challenge #2**

When not blindfolded read John chapters 1-9 three times this week.

*For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. (1 Cor. 13:12)*