

Spiritual blindness & deafness Pt 1 the extent of our blindness

This is our first study on the topic of spiritual blindness and deafness. In this teaching we will provide two points – (1) Physical blindness affects individuals that cannot see physical things, and (2) Spiritual blindness affects individuals who are lost, in part the nation of Israel, believers who lack charity and brotherly kindness.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Physical blindness affects individuals that cannot see physical things

“And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us” (Matt.9: 27). See also Acts13: 11.

2. Spiritual blindness.

i) effects individuals who are not converted.

“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” (Jn.12: 40).

ii) in part has happened to Israel.

“But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament...” (2 Cor.3: 14) – c.f. – Rom.11: 25 “For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel”.

iii) caused by lack of patience, godliness, charity & brotherly kindness.

“And to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity...he that lacketh these things is blind...” (2 Pet.1: 6–9).

iv) is the result of those who hate their brother.

“But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes” (1 Jn.2: 11).

Illustration to help apply our teaching to our life.

The Lord Jesus vehemently chastised the Pharisees for being blind guides – “Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold?” (Matt.23: 16 & 17).

Questions to think about.

What, or who is the cause of spiritual blindness and what part of man is blinded?

Our answer from the scriptures.

It is the god of this world that blinds the minds of them which believe not 2Cor 4:4 Our verse from Jn.12 suggests that “he”, the prince of this world (verse 31) blinds their eyes and hardens their heart. The level of blindness, the level of deception that a person has is dependant on whether they are ministers of Satan or one that has simply been deceived.

From our points above we see that sin is a common denominator that causes spiritual blindness. The greater our sin, the darker our darkness that we walk in (Jn. 12: 35). Think not that we are immune to spiritual blindness, for we have all sinned, we are all blind to a greater or lesser degree. Be not high-minded but seek patience, godliness, charity and brotherly kindness and be every conscious of our spiritual own blindness. Next week we will look at the remedy for our blindness.