

Lift Up Your Eyes

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Introduction

A. **Distracted driving** can be deadly. We know we should keep our eyes on the road.

1. AAA says that distracted driving causes 4 to 8 thousand crashes daily in the US, or roughly half of the 6 million crashes every year.

2. cell phones, radio controls, eating, putting on make-up, shaving, reading the newspaper, ...

B. **The focus of our attention** has a lot to do with where we are going and whether we will get there.

1. We tend to keep our eyes down.

2. **Hebrews 12:2** fixing our eyes on Jesus, we must look up.

3. Lifting up our eyes changes our focus and perspective

C. Many things are seen in a different light, when we lift up our eyes.

I. When we lift up our eyes, we can see the reality of our condition.

A. Lift up your eyes and see the enormity of your immoral past.

1. **Jeremiah 3:2** How many lovers have you shamed yourself with?

2. Fidel Castro says that he has had more lovers than Wilt Chamberlain (10,000)

3. God intends that men and women marry as virgins and to never have betrayed that marriage covenant "till death do us part". That is normal, praise-worthy, good, right, wholesome, and responsible for the future of the home and family and to glorify God's name.

4. **Matthew 3:5-6** Jews responded to John the Baptist by being baptized in the Jordan confessing their sins. There is no repentance without recognizing the reality of our past sins and our continuing weaknesses.

-- Pharisees were rebuked and admonished to bring forth fruits that reflect repentance.

B. Lord opens our eyes to this reality.

1. **Psalms 146:8** promise of giving sight to the blind

2. **Isaiah 29:18** the prophesied day **refers back to verses 13-14**: the marvelous day when the Lord would cause the deaf who cannot hear the righteous teaching of God to begin hearing and the blind to begin seeing and understanding

-- **32:1-6** true nature of the vile will be obvious

-- **35:1-10** the true joy of perceiving the truth and righteousness

-- **42:6-10** the Messiah Servant will cause men to sing a new song, since He will bring sight to the blind, light to the Gentiles, and the former things will be replaced by new.

II. When we lift up our eyes, we can see God's help

A. By faith we can see the Invisible God who brings help

1. **Psalms 121:1-2** unto the hills, from whence cometh my help

2. **Psalms 123:1-2** as the eyes of the servants look to their Master

B. By faith we open our eyes to see the angels of God who bring God's help.

1. **2 Kings 6:17-20** Elisha and the army of Syria surrounded by God's angelic host.

2. **Numbers 22:31** God opened Balaam's eyes to see a destroying angel seen only by his donkey. God also opened the donkey's mouth to rebuke him first.

C. **Genesis 21:19** God opened the **eyes of Hagar to see a well of water** when she was dying of thirst.

D. Jesus likewise lifts up our eyes to see God's care for his children in Matthew 6:22-33. The light of the body is the eye: if the eye be single, the whole body is full of light!

1. He explains that this has to do with seeking the kingdom of God first and trusting God to provide for us.

2. He turns our eyes to the birds of the air and the lilies of the field. God cares more for us than He does for them, yet look how He cares for them!

III. Lift up your eyes to see "the fields ready for harvest".

A. **John 4:35** Jesus saw much fruit to be harvested, that is, lost Samaritans to be saved and turned to righteous service to the Lord.... lost Israelites to be made fruitful, righteous and faithful servants of God.

B. **Isaiah 49:18-23** Prophecy of the Christ: to lift up eyes and see the future prosperity, fruitfulness of the family or nation of God

1. So many children that the place would be crowded and begging for my land to sustain them. Gentiles bringing their sons, Kings and queens nursing fathers and mothers.

2. **Isaiah 60:4** the future with Gentiles coming, sons being brought from afar.

3. Jesus saw His work as gathering (Matthew 12:30) and challenges all men to take sides joining Him in gathering the prisoners of Satan, setting them free from that bondage.

-- **Colossians 1:13** delivered from the power of darkness and translated to the kingdom of his dear Son

-- **1 Peter 2:9** called out of darkness into his marvelous light

IV. Lift up your eyes and see the future that God promises.

A. **Genesis 13:14-17** God wanted Abram to see **the extent that He would bless him.** This did not happen in his lifetime. It would be a blessing on his heritage, his sons, both physical and spiritual. It was the unseen, invisible future.

B. God wants us to lift up our eyes and see the future.

1. The vision of Jesus in **Acts 1:8**: "ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

2. **Hebrews 12:1-2** Run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the Author and finisher of our faith...

3. **Vision of success and vindication in Revelation 7:9-10** "Salvation to our God!"; **Revelation 19:1-2**, "Alleluia, Salvation and glory, and honor, and power, unto the Lord our God: "For true and righteous are his judgments ..."

4. **Stephen, as he was stoned to death**, said, "I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God." **Acts 7:55**

5. **Psalm 73:16-17** The injustice of this life was too painful until Asaph went into the sanctuary of God and understood their end....

-- as in **Habakkuk 2:20** "But the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him."

-- **Revelation 20:11-15** See the last great judgment day, **the Great White Throne**