

Bay City Wesleyan Church
September 25, 2016

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Sunday Morning 09-25-2106

The Holy Spirit reveals our progress on our spiritual journey. He sets us free from slavery to sin and fear. He assures of our adoption into God's family. And he opens our eyes to the reality around us.

<http://bible.com/events/101290>

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Mile Markers on Your Spiritual Journey

Are you making progress on your spiritual journey? Are you headed the right direction? How do you know?

Starting today, September 18th, we will look for a few of the "Mile Markers on Your Spiritual Journey." There are several shifts in our souls that develop on our spiritual journeys. Bring a friend next week so he or she can discover the mile markers too.

All of us are on a spiritual journey in this life. You are all headed somewhere; but how do you know which direction you're going? How did you choose your destination? How can you tell if you're making progress? Over the next few Sundays, we will be spotting four important mile markers on the way to knowing Jesus better.

I received my first glasses when I was in fifth grade.

Seeing clearly for the first time created such an amazing memory that I can still see it in my mind today.

Colorblind Brothers See Colors for the First Time

My experience with my first glasses is not as dramatic as these 8 brothers seeing colors for the first time.

https://www.youtube.com/shared?ci=3e_xJ07OWi4

Insect Vision

Butterflies and honey bees see things in flowers we don't see.

<https://www.youtube.com/shared?ci=04DYuVucRj4>

2 Corinthians 4:3-18 NLT

If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. You see, we don't go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves. We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies. So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you. But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, "I believed in God, so I spoke." We know that

God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you. All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory. That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

We are spiritually blinded. God's enemy will do all he can to keep us from seeing the truth of Jesus. (God loves you. God forgives you. Dinner is ready.) The same God who created light can give us sight in spite of Satan's efforts to blind us.

When our eyes are opened spiritually, the light of God's love shines out of us. There's still plenty to be concerned about in these sentences - trouble surrounds Paul, perplexed and filled with questions, hunted down, and persecuted. Life does not get easier when we follow Jesus.

But Paul wasn't fearful. He focused on a reality that's not visible to the physical eyes. He gazed at a reality that is more real, more permanent and lasting than his painful circumstances. He declares, "I'm never abandoned by God."

Faith does not speak things into existence. It simply sees what is already in existence, though still unseen to those who live by sight alone. Faith sees a world that runs alongside this world, and it lives according to what it sees in both worlds. Faith sees through the eyes of the soul. It sees now what everyone else will acknowledge later. Only faith sees it now.

Citation: Steve DeNeff; David Drury. SoulShift: The Measure of a Life Transformed (Kindle Locations 557-559). Kindle Edition.

Sermon in a Sentence:
Faith sees the real world,
not simply the physical world.

Faith calls for a whole new way of looking at our world. It's like putting on glasses for the first time. It's like seeing color for the first time. It's like seeing more colors in the flowers. It's like having both eyes wide open. There is more going on here than meets the eye. This physical world is temporary but faith sees the eternal world that's already here.

There's more than meets the eye in this journey of life. We think we're all alone in this world, but God is there, right next to us all the time.

Citation: Steve DeNeff; David Drury. SoulShift: The Measure of a Life Transformed (Kindle Locations 605-606). Kindle Edition.

Application Questions:

- How often in a day do you look for God's activity?
- What barriers keep you from seeing the unseen?
- What is one thing in your life that currently requires faith?

Mark 10:46-52 NLT

Then they reached Jericho, and as Jesus and his disciples left town, a large crowd followed him. A blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting beside the road. When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" "Be quiet!" many of the people

yelled at him. But he only shouted louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" When Jesus heard him, he stopped and said, "Tell him to come here." So they called the blind man. "Cheer up," they said. "Come on, he's calling you!" Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked. "My Rabbi, " the blind man said, "I want to see!" And Jesus said to him, "Go, for your faith has healed you." Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus down the road.

Jesus is here, now.

He is asking you, "What do you want me to do for you?"

What do you need from him?

How will you answer his question?