

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

SEEING WITH GOD'S EYES

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TOUGH TIMES

Ok, you have been saved and filled with the Holy Spirit, so what's next? Just like with all newlywed couples, there is a honeymoon phase where everything is wonderful, but every marriage encounters difficult times and it is the same with the Christian life. As you begin to experience attacks and defeats, it can make you question what happened in the past and wonder whether you are really saved. What happens when you are afflicted and crying out to the Lord but it seems like your prayers aren't being heard? What is going on at that point? Has God turned His back to you? No, this is reality and part of the normal Christian life where the Lord is using adverse situations to mature and form you into the person He wants you to be. **Hebrews 5:12-14**

There comes a time when it is time to grow up and become adults in the Kingdom of God. This can be a painful process. **Psalms 120:1-7**

THE DEPRAVITY OF MAN

King David was distressed to the point that he was crying out to the Lord for relief. Can you relate to David? Does your pain seem unbearable? Jesus endured the same anguish. **Luke 22:39-44**

Sweating blood is rare medical condition known as "hematohidrosis." There are multiple blood vessels in a net-like form around the sweat glands. The vessels constrict under the pressure of great stress, and then as the anxiety passes, the blood vessels dilate to the point of rupture. The blood goes into the sweat glands and comes out on the surface of the skin mixed with the sweat.

Jesus was clearly stressed because He knew what would happen to Him. He was facing one of the most horrible forms of capital punishment and the pain would be intense; however, the great weight upon Jesus was the knowledge that He would soon take the sins of mankind and feel the wrath of God the Father.

Jesus could easily have avoided the cross and run away or commanded a legion of angels to protect Him or made His skin impenetrable or anesthetized His pain; but He chose to do none of the above. Rather, Jesus deliberately chose to be "wounded for our transgressions" and "bruised for our iniquities" so that He could pay for our sins and suffer human death. **Isaiah 53:5**

Jesus lived a sinless life, and when he saw the moral filth of humanity, it was almost more than He could bear. Even the best among us falls short and that is why the prophet Isaiah likened our righteousness to that of filthy rags. **Isaiah 64:6; Matthew 17:14-18**

Nevertheless, it was Jesus' unconditional love that gave Him the power to endure the filth of mankind and to minister to our needs. **Hebrews 4:15-16**



SEEING WITH SPIRITUAL EYES

King David had his spiritual eyes opened and observed that people were not living the way they should. It grieved him to see mankind from God's perspective. Jesus was aware of the depravity of mankind and went after the source of evil – the devil. **1 John 3:8**

Your life prior to Christ was comfortable because you did not see sin and were only concerned with your well-being and happiness. Then you were born again and filled with the Holy Spirit and you began to hunger and thirst for righteousness. The world began to look a lot uglier and your viewpoint changed; but the world had not changed, you were beginning to see moral depravity the way God sees it.

People take drugs, drink alcohol and amuse themselves with sinful pleasures in order to mask the pain and fill the void in their lives. Having your spiritual eyes opened can be difficult because you don't understand what is going on. It may feel like you're losing control of your life; so you ask God to change the circumstances but nothing happens. What is going on?

King David cried out to the Lord to be delivered from the lying lips and deceitful tongues that surrounded him. He was tortured by the lies around him. **Psalms 35:11-16**

RISING AND FALLING

David knew what it was like to be on top of a mountain and descend into the valley of despair. He had been anointed by the prophet Samuel and received favor with both God and men and yet the Lord allowed people to rise up against him. **Psalms 109:1-5**

Every child wants to grow up but they don't like to face the associated challenges that come with the growing process. I have looked upon my children and thought how easy they have it, but no matter what their age, they still face tasks which seem insurmountable to them, yet they are easy for me. It is the same with Christianity. God wants us to grow in the Kingdom of God but our knowledge doesn't become true faith until we are in the fiery crucible. **Daniel 3:1-30**

God created this planet and placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden. It wasn't long before Satan was able to convince them to disobey God's explicit instructions and sin has been with the human race ever since. **Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:23**

King David looked around and saw the moral decay of mankind. It wasn't until after God used the prophet Nathan to publicly expose his sins that David saw the same ugliness in himself. **2 Samuel 11:1-27; 12:1-25**

David could not see his own problems until God opened his spiritual eyes. It turns out he wasn't much different than the people who had been oppressing him. **Matthew 7:3-5**

Don't compare yourself to other people; keep your eyes upon Jesus and you will find an accurate way to measure yourself. **Hebrews 12:1-2**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!