

Nearsightedness

Introduction

2 Peter 1:9 For he who lacks these things is **shortsighted**, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. (NKJ)

2 Peter 1:9 For he that lacketh these things is blind, **seeing only what is near**, having forgotten the cleansing from his old sins. (ASV)

2 Peter 1:9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and **cannot see afar off**, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. (KJV)

1. **Webster defines Nearsighted as: "seeing only near objects distinctly"**
2. **Comment on the text - If we can't see afar off ---- then we must be near sighted.**
3. **Throughout time men have always given thought of the present conditions and have neglected the future.**

Old Testament Examples of Nearsightedness

1. **Esau Selling his Birthright.**
Genesis 25:27-34

A. By being nearsighted he lost:

- 1) **Double portion of goods.**

Deuteronomy 21:17 "But he shall acknowledge the son of the unloved wife as the firstborn by **giving him a double portion of all that he has**, for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his.

- 2) **Blessing given to Jacob. (Gen. 27:1-40.)**
- 3) **The right to be the ancestor of Christ (Gen 26:4).**

2. **The trespass of Achan**

Joshua 6:17-18 "Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. "And you, by all means ***abstain from the accursed things***, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.

A. **Relate the story of Achan (Josh 7:1-26).**

- 1) **By being nearsighted Achan caused Israel to lose the battle (V1-5).**
- 2) **He also lost his own life sooner than he had to (V25).**

3. **The disobedience of Saul.**

A. **Relate the story of Saul's Disobedience (1 Sam. 15:1-21).**

- 1) **By being nearsighted, God rejected him as king.**
1 Samuel 15:22-28
 - a) **"To obey is better than sacrifice"**

--- Sometimes we lose sight of God's commands that lead us toward everlasting life, become nearsighted, and fall.

New Testament Examples of Nearsightedness

1. **Ananias and Sapphira.**

- A. In Acts 4:34-37, People were giving of their possessions.
- B. However, these two kept back part, saying they had sold the land for the price they gave (Acts 5:1-10).
- C. Nearsightedness caused them to lose their life.

2. **Simon the Sorcerer.**

- A. He obeyed the gospel. Acts 8:9-13
- B. But then he became nearsighted when he tried to purchase the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-19).
- C. As a result he was told to repent (Acts 8:22).

Nearsighted Examples of Today

1. **By failing to study the Bible.**

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to **present yourself approved** to God, **a worker** who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word** of truth.

Hebrews 5:12-14 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, **those who by reason of use** have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

2. **By neglecting the Assembly.**

Hebrews 10:25-29 **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as is the **manner of some**, but *exhorting one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. For **if we sin willfully** after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and **insulted the Spirit of grace?**

- A. **The neglect or forsaking of the assembly is the direct cause of a deeper problem: A lack of faith and love for the Lord!**

3. **By failing to contribute.**

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week **let each one of you lay something aside**, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 But this I say: **He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly**, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one **give as he purposes in his heart**, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

4. **By seeing the fault in others instead of our own.**

Matthew 7:1-5 "Judge not, that you be not judged. "For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, **but do not consider the plank in your own eye?** "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? "**Hypocrite!** First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye.

5. **By returning evil for evil.**

Romans 12:17-21 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." ***Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.***

Matthew 6:14-15 "For ***if you forgive men their trespasses***, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

6. **By thinking too much of ourselves.**

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to ***think of himself more highly*** than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

7. **By having our interests CENTERED on worldly things.**

1 John 2:15-17 ***Do not love the world or the things in the world.*** If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

8. **By backsliding.**

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times ***some will depart from the faith***, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

2 Peter 2:20-21 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they ***are again entangled in them and overcome***, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

Conclusion

1. The Remedy for nearsightedness? (EAT CARROTS?) No, the remedy is found in scripture:
2 Peter 1:5-10
 - A. VIRTUE = “moral excellence; goodness of character”
 - B. KNOWLEDGE = “state of knowing; awareness”
 - C. SELF-CONTROL = “control of our emotions, desires”
 - D. PERSEVERANCE = “persistence; steadfastness”
 - E. GODLINESS = “devoted to God; devout”
 - F. BROTHERLY KINDNESS = “friendly; kind; loyal”
 - G. LOVE = “strong affection or attachment to someone”
2. **When these Christian Characteristics are applied in our life, then the nearsightedness disappears.**

