

# NO EYE HAS SEEN

fall life group curriculum





## **“OH THE PLACES WE WILL GO!”**

1 CORINTHIANS 2:19, “BUT AS IT IS WRITTEN, EYE HATH NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NEITHER HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN, THE THINGS WHICH GOD HATH PREPARED FOR THEM THAT LOVE HIM”

Years ago when our first child was graduating high school and on the way to college; Frank’s sister gave our son the Dr. Seuss book entitled “**OH THE PLACES YOU WILL GO!**” I believe he still has that book because his aunt passed away not many years later.

One of the quotes is:

**“You’re off to Great Places!  
Today is your day!  
Your mountain is waiting,  
So... get on your way!”  
Dr. Seuss**

The Christian journey is the best journey one could ever embark on which will have no regrets. Gills commentary says, “that no one had ever fully perceived and understood the value and beauty of those things which God has prepared for His people. All the world had been strangers to this until God made a revelation to His people by His Spirit. To say that the eye had not seen, nor the ear heard, was, therefore, the same as saying that it was not known at all. All people had been ignorant of it. Neither have entered into the heart of man – No man has conceived it; or understood it. It is new; and is above all that man has seen, and felt, and known.”

The Christian journey of redemption is such a mystery that man simply cannot comprehend it. Gill again says, “God has held in reserve” the wisdom that is revealed in the gospel. He gives us eyes to see and ears to hear but we have to remain open to His love of redemption and the plan of God. I mean, every part of your life will change. The way you look at yourself, the way you look at other people, the way you look at the church, the way you look at life, the way you look at the lost, the way you look at everything will change because you’ll have a new sense of the greatness of our God.

Oh the places **WE** will go! God has so much in store right now! This voice of the Lord opens the hearts of the hungry and calls them to a place of restoration and healing in God’s glorious dance. You are not forgotten. You too are a part of His plan. It’s not accidental! Nothing about your life is an accident.

**“So be sure when you step, step with care and great tact. And remember that life’s A Great Balancing Act. And will you succeed? Yes! You will, indeed! (98 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  percent guaranteed) Kid, you’ll move mountains.” Dr. Seuss**

We are so glad you have chosen to take part in a life group to study our new fall curriculum called “No Eye Has Seen”. We pray the eyes of your heart are enlightened to see Him in all His beauty.

*Pastor’s Frank and Parris Bailey*

BUT AS IT IS WRITTEN:

“EYE HAS NOT SEEN,  
NOR EAR HEARD,  
NOR HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN  
THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAS PREPARED  
FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.

BUT GOD HAS REVEALED  
THEM TO US THROUGH  
HIS SPIRIT.  
FOR THE SPIRIT SEARCHES ALL THINGS,  
YES, THE DEEP THINGS OF GOD.”

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9, 10

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*“The notes in this Bible Study are a compilation of the works of  
Pastors Frank and Parris Bailey unless noted otherwise.”*



WEEK ONE  
OPEN MY EYES TO SEE! CALLING OUT TO GOD

JEREMIAH 33:3, "CALL TO ME, AND I WILL ANSWER YOU,  
AND SHOW YOU GREAT AND MIGHTY THINGS,  
WHICH YOU DO NOT KNOW."

## 1. WHAT TYPE OF WORLD DO MOST PEOPLE LIVE IN?

### **The Story of Blind Bartimaeus:**

Mark 10:46-52, "Then they came to Jericho. And as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the road.<sup>47</sup> When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"<sup>48</sup> Many were sternly telling him to be quiet, but he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"<sup>49</sup> And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him here." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you."<sup>50</sup> Throwing aside his cloak, he jumped up and came to Jesus.<sup>51</sup> And answering him, Jesus said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And the blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, I want to regain my sight!" **(I WANT TO SEE)**<sup>52</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him on the road.

Blind Bartimaeus was a beggar. His quality of life was determined by what other people would do for him. His circumstances would never change. He lived in a world of darkness, all alone with no way to change his life. If people were generous, he had food for the day, if not, he had learned to do without.

Many people live in a world of \_\_\_\_\_, don't get me wrong, their eyes may work, but they live in a different kind of darkness. A darkness that steals the ability to really enjoy their lives. These people can never see the hand of God, His beauty and works are everywhere, but having eyes to see, they cannot see.

## 2. WHAT DOES SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS MAKE US INTO?

This spiritual blindness **makes us into poor beggars**, like Bartimaeus. We are dependent on man for everything we receive. Some are dependent on others, always complaining that no one ever helps them. Others are dependent on themselves and their own natural resources, unaware of the nearness of Jesus, our Blessed Savior. Without the help of God, we live our whole life tossed to and fro by the circumstances of life.

### 3. WHAT DOES BARTIMAEUS DO TO GET JESUS' ATTENTION?

He begins to \_\_\_\_\_, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me."

Bartimaeus had had enough of that kind of life. He was not going to be a beggar anymore. Actually, his spiritual eyes had begun to open. "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy upon me". He had seen it in a flash. His physical eyes were still blind, but the blazing light of God's Glory begin to shine in his heart. Jesus, the creator of the eyes was passing by Bartimaeus's corner. This was his moment. As the Glory of God broke in upon him, he heard the voice of the Savior. "What do you want Me to do for you?" That was all Bartimaeus needed to hear, **"I WANT TO SEE"**, he began to cry out. The next thing he knew, He was looking into the face of Jesus. He would never need to depend on man again, he had found the true source of life.

### 4. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "CRY OUT" IN THE GREEK AND WHAT PROMISE ARE WE GIVEN WHEN WE CALL OUT TO GOD?

**CRY OUT= Strong's 2896** κράζō –cry out loudly with an urgent scream or shriek, using "inarticulate shouts that express deep emotion."

The Bible promises us that when we call out to Him, He \_\_\_\_\_. Bartimaeus didn't just call out, he cried out, Jesus, the Son of David was passing by and it was now or never. Jesus heard him and in return **"calls for him."** That day Bartimaeus received his sight. The first thing he saw was the face of Jesus looking at him. This was just the beginning of a lifetime of seeing great and mighty things.

Today, Jesus is passing by your "corner." Maybe you can't see Him, that's just because you are still blind. But like Bartimaeus, you are beginning to sense His nearness. If you listen carefully, you may even hear His voice. **"What do you want me to do for you?"** Now is your moment, call out to Him in prayer. Like Bartimaeus, He will open your eyes and you will never be a beggar again.



“HAVE YOU EVER FELT LIKE THE LORD IS CALLING YOU TO HIMSELF? THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED TO BARTIMAEUS, JESUS WAS CALLING FOR HIM AND EVERYTHING WAS ABOUT TO CHANGE. IF YOU SENSE THE LORD CALLING YOU NEAR, JUST YIELD TO HIM. YOU WILL FIND HIS “WOOINGS” ARE GUARANTEES OF HIS BLESSINGS BEING ADDED TO YOUR LIFE. RESPOND TO HIS CALL, YOUR LIFE IS ABOUT TO CHANGE.”

PASTOR FRANK BAILEY

## 5. AS A RESULT OF JESUS OPENING THE EYES OF BLIND BARTIMAEUS WHAT CHANGED?

Psalm 36:9, “For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.” As a result of salvation, I see the world differently than I used to. The light that revealed Christ to me (and Bartimaeus) has literally **changed my view of everything**. Things like marriage and money and football; my way of looking at all of those things has changed...You see when Christ turned the light on in my life He lit up the whole world. Just think about it, when blind Bartimaeus was first awakened from his sleep he not only saw Christ, he saw his whole world differently. He had never been able to see children or waterfalls, he never saw an apple or a butterfly, he had never gazed into the sky or had seen the blazing glory of the sun; now his whole world was lit up. This is a great description of what happens to all people who are born again. Their world which was once dark is now ablaze with light. Everything is different now; church is different, the Bible is beaming with light, even our every day ordinary stuff carries a new shimmer of life. Christ has lit up our world.



“I BELIEVE IN CHRISTIANITY AS I BELIEVE THAT THE SUN HAS RISEN, NOT ONLY BECAUSE I SEE IT, BUT BECAUSE BY IT I SEE EVERYTHING ELSE.”

C.S. LEWIS

## 6. WHAT DID BARTIMAEUS DO AFTER THE MIRACLE?

He threw off his coat and began \_\_\_\_\_ on the road.

That was a significant act of faith. You see, this was not just any coat, this was a mendicant coat. It was his ticket for provision. It qualified him for charitable gifts. Without it, he was on his own. Bartimaeus was taking his stand, today is my day for a miracle. And Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him on the road.

## 7. WHAT IS HOLDING YOU BACK?

Is something holding you back from the fullness of God’s blessing in your life? If so, cast it aside. Rather than being entangled in our sins or held back by our dependency on our own human efforts, let’s cast off our coats of human effort and run to Jesus. Before you know it you will be basking in the light of His presence, looking clearly into His eyes and following Him down the road. (fb)

PSALM 55:22,  
“CAST YOUR BURDEN  
ON THE LORD,  
AND HE SHALL SUSTAIN YOU;  
HE SHALL NEVER PERMIT  
THE RIGHTEOUS TO BE MOVED.”

**CAST** = “to throw, hurl, abandon, or toss away as no longer needed or wanted.” It also means “to dispense with something in such a way as to have nothing more to do with it.”

**SUSTAIN**= It has to do with upholding, feeding, nourishing, supporting, and taking care us. God gives us a life to live and then invites us to turn over to Him the weight of it all, so He can carry us and the load. ( Dick Mills)



## “THE SPIRIT FILLED BELIEVERS DAILY DEVOTIONAL”

DICK MILLS

ISAIAH 38:17, “YOU HAVE CAST ALL OF MY SINS BEHIND YOUR BACK.”

This verse has universal appeal to everyone who has experienced genuine sorrow for sins committed. When we confess our sins to God, not only is He faithful and just to forgive us our sins (1 John 1:9), He also removes them from us and puts them behind His back. All through Scripture we find references to the face of the Lord and the eyes of the Lord. For example, the prophet Habakkuk said of his God: “You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness.” (Habakkuk 1:13 NKJV)

So confessed sins are removed from us and also from God’s gaze by a process that puts them out of sight forever. Since God puts our sins out of His mind and view, we need to learn to do the same. I continually meet people whom God has forgiven, but who have never forgiven themselves. That is not only tragic it is also unnecessary- and spiritually unproductive.

Don’t keep punishing yourself and carrying a load of self-imposed guilt when simple repentance and confession of sin removes completely and forever all condemnation and feelings of failure. Since God is omnipresent- filling all of heaven and earth with His presence (Jeremiah. 23:24)- we may ask where His “back” is? The answer is: In the opposite direction from His face and eyes. This verse lovingly assures us that the sins we have confessed to our heavenly Father are no longer visible to Him. What blessed release!



### ANSWER KEY: WEEK ONE

1. DARKNESS
3. CRY OUT
4. WILL ANSWER
6. FOLLOWING HIM

WEEK TWO  
SEEING YOUR PURPOSE  
TELESCOPES OR MICROSCOPES?

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23, "THROUGH THE LORD'S MERCIES WE ARE NOT CONSUMED, BECAUSE HIS COMPASSIONS FAIL NOT. THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING. GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS."

1. WHAT IS ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING THINGS ABOUT CONVERSION?

One of the most amazing things about conversion is **how we suddenly become aware of God**. We often think, "How could I have missed Him? His handprint is on everything and I see Him everywhere I look". That's when we realize just how lost we were. We had eyes but we couldn't see Him. We had ears but could never hear His precious voice. We had a heart but it was crusty and cold, locked up, closed off from the power of His love. When we were born again all of that changed. Then we begin to realize the greatness of this gift of salvation by grace through faith.

2. LIKE BARTIMAEUS WHEN OUR EYES ARE OPENED WHO DO WE SEE?

**We see \_\_\_\_\_!**

Charles Spurgeon writes, "He is a sun ever-shining; He is manna always falling round the camp; He is a rock in the desert, ever sending out streams of life from His smitten side; the rain of His grace is always dropping; the river of His bounty is ever-flowing, and the well-spring of His love is constantly overflowing. As the King can never die, so His grace can never fail. Daily we pluck His fruit, and daily His branches bend down to our hand with a fresh store of mercy. Who has ever returned from His door unblessed? Who has ever risen from His table unsatisfied, or from His bosom un-emparedised? His mercies are new every morning and fresh every evening....How shall my soul extol Him who **daily loadeth us with benefits**, and who crowneth us with loving-kindness? O that my praise could be as ceaseless as His bounty! O miserable tongue, how canst thou be silent?"

NO ONE'S EVER SEEN  
OR HEARD  
ANYTHING LIKE THIS,  
NEVER SO MUCH AS IMAGINED  
ANYTHING QUITE LIKE IT—  
WHAT GOD HAS ARRANGED  
FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9  
THE MESSAGE BIBLE

### 3. HOW OFTEN DO WE RECEIVE HIS BENEFITS?

**The Christian receives \_\_\_\_\_benefits!!** The Lord had \_\_\_\_\_ mercies, \_\_\_\_\_ gifts pouring down on me. That is true about all His sons and daughters. I guess many times we are clueless. We tend to live below our privileges and act like the deaf and blind people we used to be. So open up your senses to the Lord today, streams of mercies are flowing down. As we open our hearts up to Him we begin to see Him everywhere. He is nearer than you can imagine.

### 4. WHAT IS ONE OF THE BENEFITS WE RECEIVE FROM GOD?

We begin to understand **“WHY I AM ALIVE”!** We begin to see our \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 1:20, “For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”

When I think of my college years and the search I was on I always come to the same conclusion, I was searching for a purpose. I knew I was not an accident and there was some kind of plan for my life, I needed to find it. My purpose became clear when I stepped into the light of the Son of God. Like Blind Bartimaeus, the first thing I saw when the lights turned on was the beautiful, smiling face of Jesus. As I began to look around the landscape of my life over the next few days I saw my world differently. I finally saw it! Maybe I could not have articulated it at first, but I was born to glorify God with all my life and to enjoy Him forever.

## 5. WHAT IS OUR REASON TO LIVE?

Jonathan Edward taught that our reason to live was to glorify God by pursuing and living for His glory.

John Piper writes, “All of this amounts to the deep and inescapable realization that God made the world to communicate His glory—that is, the greatness and beauty of His manifold perfections. And He made me to experience His glory, and through this experience to glorify and thank Him. **I am created to magnify the glory of God—not the way a MICROSCOPE magnifies (making small things look bigger than they are), but the way a TELESCOPE magnifies (making things that appear small to the world look as gigantic as they really are).** And I know intuitively that thanking God is a way of glorifying Him. God’s glorious beneficence is magnified in my humble, dependent, thankful witness to his goodness to me. This is confirmed in Psalm 50:23: “The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies Me.”

## 6. WHAT DO I GAIN WHEN I LOSE MY LIFE?

So, have you tasted this goodness for yourself? It is way different than I ever expected. It is in losing my life and identity in Christ that I gain my life and true identity. I am so grateful for that day that the Lord switched on the lights in my life, it is so good to be able to see through the fog of this world.

## 7. SO HOW DO WE GLORIFY GOD IN OUR DAILY PRACTICAL LIVES?

Job 42:5 “I have heard thee by the hearing of the ear; but now mine eye sees thee”.

**By having a \_\_\_\_\_ !**

Pastor Parris Bailey writes, “Early every morning I take my dog “Renny” out for his walk. He is a 7 lb. mutt, so ugly he is adorable if that makes sense. This is my time to recapture, adjust, and repair my perspective of God and my life. The other day I heard something behind me and caught a glimpse of a deer running across the driveway. I will say that those many walks bring me to a fresh place with my Father. I usually raise my hands up and begin to worship whether in song, prayer, a new song or just silent meditation. John Piper called it “having a God entranced Vision”.

THE LORD CREATED ALL THINGS, HE SUSTAINS ALL THINGS, AND NOTHING CAN BE UNDERSTOOD APART FROM HIM!!!

#### 8. WHAT LENS ARE YOU LOOKING AT GOD THROUGH?

In those daily walks I pray that my vision would be seeing “out of the God lens” and not my lens of unbelief, anger, self or anything that doesn’t bring Him glory. Am I passionate? Do I hunger and thirst after Him? When I become silent I realize that He is all sufficient, perfectly glorious and infinitely beautiful. He bids me “come and dine” to “sit under the apple tree” and to “enter into His rest”. And yes, worshipping the creation is not what He is desiring. My duty and privilege is all for the glory of God, to be satisfied in Him alone. Job had everything taken away from Him and yet he kept his eyes upon God Himself. What is getting you off balance today? It’s might be a Monday and you might find yourself overwhelmed with the idea of going to work, college, car pool and the huge load that we have managed yet again to put on ourselves. (pb)



“THE ENJOYMENT OF GOD IS THE ONLY HAPPINESS WITH WHICH OUR SOULS CAN BE SATISFIED. TO GO TO HEAVEN, FULLY TO ENJOY GOD, IS INFINITELY BETTER THAN THE MOST PLEASANT ACCOMMODATIONS HERE. FATHERS, MOTHERS, HUSBANDS, WIVES, OR CHILDREN, OR THE COMPANY OF EARTHLY FRIENDS, ARE BUT SHADOWS; BUT GOD IS THE SUBSTANCE.”

JONATHAN EDWARDS



**“THE SPIRIT FILLED BELIEVERS  
DAILY DEVOTIONAL”**  
**DICK MILLS**

PROVERBS 4:18, “BUT THE PATH OF THE JUST IS LIKE THE SHINING SUN,  
THAT SHINES EVER BRIGHTER UNTO THE PERFECT DAY.”

One day my dad and I went hiking all night in the Sierras. We parked the car at a trail head and began an eight-mile hike by flashlight into the back country. Between 4 and 5 a.m. a transition began to take place. All the nocturnal activity terminated. All thought we were in an area populated by marauding bears, stealthy mountain lions, howling timber wolves, and barking coyotes, everything became unearthly quiet. Total silence settled over the forest. It was as though the stalking creatures had retired to their lairs and dens and gone to sleep. There was not yet any light so the daytime creatures were still inactive. There was an indescribable hush which lasted for about an hour. Then about 5 a.m. the first ray of light appeared over the horizon.

From that moment on, the forest gradually became a bedlam of noise from chipmunks, stellar jays, golden mantled ground squirrels, quail, and other chattering creatures. By the time the full rays of the sun broke through the heavy foliage about 6 a.m., the forest was alive at the vibrant sounds of life.

This verse tells us that our Christian journey is like that time just before the sunrise. The night is far spent and the day is at hand. (Romans 13:11). For the believer, the long dark night is being replaced by a new day at which time... shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in His wings. (Malachi 4:2). His glory shall light up the earth. For us who believe, it is getting brighter and brighter!

 **ANSWER KEY: WEEK TWO**

2. JESUS
3. DAILY, DAILY, DAILY
4. PURPOSE
7. GOD ENTRANCED VISION

WEEK THREE  
LET THERE BE LIGHT TRANSFORMED

GENESIS 1:4, "AND GOD SAW THE LIGHT, THAT IT WAS GOOD:  
AND GOD DIVIDED THE LIGHT FROM THE DARKNESS."

## 1. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE LIGHT COMES ON?

Pastor Frank Bailey writes, "Funny how different the world appears after the light is turned on. For me, I spent my first twenty-one years spinning in circles, walking in darkness trying to feel my way through life. If I wasn't high I was figuring out how to get high. My life was consumed with myself and the pleasures of the moment. That seemed like the right way to live because that is all I could see. I couldn't see the value of eternity, heaven wasn't on my radar, and the Bible was a book I couldn't understand and wasn't interested in. How did my life change drastically, suddenly, and permanently? It can be described in one word, light. Somehow the light came on.

- First, I was suddenly aware of my selfish, self-centered lifestyle. I was my problem and I became painfully aware of my need to change.
- Secondly, I saw Jesus as the only answer. The light of revelation revealed Christ as the only Savior and my only way to get free.
- Next, the word of God came alive to me, God's written word became the source of that light for me, I could never see the Bible the same way again. Let there be light, light had begun to shine in my life."

## 2. WHO OPENS OUR EYES TO SEE?

Spurgeon writes, "Physical light is said by Solomon to be sweet, but Gospel light is infinitely more precious, for it reveals eternal things, and ministers to our immortal natures. When the \_\_\_\_\_ gives us spiritual light, and opens our eyes to behold the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, we behold sin in its true colors, and ourselves in our real position; we see the Most Holy God as He reveals Himself, the plan of mercy as He propounds it, and the world to come as the Word describes it. Spiritual light has many beams and prismatic colors, but whether they be knowledge, joy, holiness, or life, all are divinely good."

Jesus is the light of the world. Look to Him today and you too will find yourself in a new world. Not only will you see Him differently, you will see life itself very differently.  
**LET THERE BE LIGHT!**

### 3. WHAT WILL SEEING THE LIGHT DO IN OUR LIVES?

II Corinthians 3:18, “But we all with open face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

Something is dreadfully wrong with our world. Mankind wanders around in darkness but actually thinks he has perfect vision. The darkness has corrupted our hearts so that our view of everything is skewed. Our perception of everything from money to property, from marriage to family, and from gender confusion to sexual promiscuity has been altered so that society itself is spiraling toward mayhem.

There is good news that can reverse this dilemma in a moment of time. God is light and in His light we are \_\_\_\_\_. In that light, we begin to see sin and righteousness differently, we see church and the Word of God differently, we even begin to view God and our reason for existence from a totally different perspective. Jesus is the Light of the world, when He comes into our lives we are **transformed and translated**. We are no longer part of the kingdom of darkness, we have stepped into the light. This light transforms our lives, everything it touches begins to be drawn in to this whole new way of life.



“THIS LIGHT...CHANGES THE NATURE OF THE SOUL. IT ASSIMILATES THE NATURE TO THE DIVINE NATURE, AND CHANGES THE SOUL INTO AN IMAGE OF THE SAME GLORY THAT IS BEHELD. THIS KNOWLEDGE WILL WEAN US FROM THE WORLD, AND RAISE THE INCLINATION TO HEAVENLY THINGS. IT WILL TURN THE HEART TO GOD AS THE FOUNTAIN OF GOOD, AND TO CHOOSE HIM FOR HIS ONLY PORTION. AND IT EFFECTUALLY DISPOSES THE SOUL TO GIVE UP ITSELF ENTIRELY TO CHRIST.”

JONATHAN EDWARDS

#### 4. WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR NATURE WHEN WE STEP INTO GOD'S LIGHT?

According to today's scripture verse when we step into the light, **metamorphosis** sets in. We become like this light that we behold. It not only changes our perception of things, it changes us, it changes the very nature of who we are. Ephesians 5:8, 'for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light'.

Ps.119:103 says, "How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" Martin Luther writes, "This Epistle (Romans) is really the chief part of the New Testament and the very purest Gospel. And it is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but \_\_\_\_\_ with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul. It can never be read or pondered too much, and the more it is dealt with the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes...Faith, however, is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1); it kills the old Adam and makes altogether different men, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Ghost."

#### 5. WHO IS THE LIGHT?

John 8:12, "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

John 1:1-5, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."

#### 6. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE READ THE BIBLE EVERYDAY?

The Bible is like a mirror. When we wake up each morning and gaze in it we see Christ and all His beauty. As we behold the Light of the world we become the light of the world. Jesus said "You are the Light of the World." (Matthew 5:14)

Billy Graham writes in his book Where I Am, "Scientists really don't know what light is, but we all know its many effects. We know that there could be no plant, animal, or human life upon the earth without light. God put the sun in precise balance and distance

from the earth. If it were a few miles closer, we would be burned up. If it were a farther distance from the earth, we would freeze. What the sun is to the earth, Jesus Christ is to the spiritual world. What effect the sun has on nature is the effect Jesus has on our cold, lifeless, and sinful natures. Christ wants to turn His light on in our hearts. He wants us to be reflectors of His divine Light. I have traveled to every continent in the world and have been a witness to the difference God's light makes in the people who possess Him. We are His light in a dark world....Every day should be lived with eternity on our minds. If we did this, we would live differently, with purpose and resolve to please the eternal One who is Bread and Light and Vine and Shepherd."

## 7. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE BIBLE (THE WORD OF GOD)?

ROMANS 10:17, "SO **FAITH COMES** BY HEARING AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD."

PSALM 107:20, "HE SENT HIS WORD AND **HEALED THEM,** AND **DELIVERED THEM** FROM THEIR DESTRUCTION"

PSALM 119:11, "YOUR WORD HAVE I HIDDEN IN MY HEART, **THAT I MIGHT NOT SIN AGAINST YOU.**"

PSALM 119:162, "I REJOICE AT YOUR WORD AS ONE WHO FINDS A **GREAT TREASURE.**"

PSALM 119:105, "THE WORD IS A **LAMP** UNTO MY FEET AND A **LIGHT** UNTO MY PATH."

PSALM 130:5, "I WAIT FOR THE LORD, MY SOUL WAITS, AND **IN HIS WORD I DO HOPE.**"

JEREMIAH 1:12, "I AM **WATCHING OVER MY WORD** TO PERFORM IT."

PROVERBS 13:13, "HE WHO DESPISES THE WORD WILL BE DESTROYED, BUT HE WHO FEARS IT **WILL BE REWARDED.**"

ISAIAH 55:11, "SO SHALL MY WORD BE THAT GOES FORTH FROM MY MOUTH; IT SHALL NOT RETURN TO ME VOID, BUT **IT SHALL ACCOMPLISH WHAT I PLEASE,** AND IT SHALL PROSPER IN THE THING FOR WHICH I SENT IT.

COLOSSIANS 3:16, "**LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY** IN ALL WISDOM, TEACHING AND ADMONISHING ONE ANOTHER IN PSALMS, HYMNS, AND SPIRITUAL SONGS, SINGING WITH GRACE IN YOUR HEARTS TO THE LORD.

HEBREWS 4:12, "FOR **THE WORD OF GOD IS LIVING AND POWERFUL** AND SHARPER THAN ANY TWO-EDGED SWORD, PIERCING EVEN TO THE DIVISION OF THE SOUL AND SPIRIT, AND OF JOINTS AND MARROW, AND IS A DISCERNER OF THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTS OF THE HEART."

JAMES 1:22, "BUT **BE YE DOERS OF THE WORD,** AND NOT HEARERS ONLY."



“THE SPIRIT FILLED BELIEVERS  
DAILY DEVOTIONAL”  
DICK MILLS

ROMANS 12:2, “DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND.”

A lady came home from a revival meeting and cheerfully announced to her agnostic husband, “I have been born again.” In contempt he snarled these words at her: “You have lost your mind!” She lovingly responded, “You’re right! Now I have the mind of Christ.” She was sharing with him that her whole way of thinking had been changed as a result of her conversion. One of the key words in this verse is transformed. In the original Greek text it is *metamorphoo* (*met-am-or-of-o*). The interesting thing about the word *metamorphoo* is that it is the same word to describe the change Jesus underwent going up the mount of transfiguration. (Matthew 17:2)

As Jesus ascended the mountain, His clothing became as white as light and His face shone with a dazzling glory as bright as the sun. He was transfigured (*metamorphoo*) or transformed. What happened to Jesus was a drastic and dramatic change from his former condition. Here in Romans, Paul is urging you and me to go through the same process. In 2 Corinthians 3:18 Paul writes: But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed (*metamorphoo*) into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” The radiance of Jesus demonstrated on the mount transfiguration is resident within us by the indwelling Spirit of God. As our hearts and minds respond to His dealings, we too, are being transfigured or transformed.



ANSWER KEY: WEEK THREE

2. HOLY SPIRIT
3. TRANSFORMED
7. OCCUPY HIMSELF

WEEK FOUR  
EYES OF OUR HEART TURNING OTHERS FROM  
DARKNESS TO LIGHT

EPHESIANS 1:16-18, "I DO NOT CEASE TO GIVE THANKS FOR YOU, REMEMBERING YOU IN MY PRAYERS, THAT THE GOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE FATHER OF GLORY, MAY GIVE YOU A SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND OF REVELATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM, HAVING THE EYES OF YOUR HEARTS ENLIGHTENED."

## 1. WHAT HAPPENED TO PAUL ON THE DAMASCUS ROAD?

(Read Paul's story in Acts 9.)

Paul had a life changing experience on the Road to Damascus. His eyes were opened. When Christ revealed Himself to Paul, it was something that carried Paul the rest of his life. What actually happened to Paul? I guess it can be described many ways, but one of the things that happened to Paul is that he got a sense of the reality of God, it could be said that the \_\_\_\_\_ of his heart were \_\_\_\_\_. The puritans spoke of having a "sense" of spiritual things. They often spoke of an experiential Christianity.

## 2. HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED HIM FOR YOURSELF?

Have your eyes been opened? Do you have a sense of spiritual things? This is the way Jonathan Edwards put it, "Thus there is a difference between having an opinion, that God is holy and gracious, and having a sense of the loveliness and beauty of that holiness and grace. There is a difference between having a rational judgment that honey is sweet, and having a sense of its sweetness. A man may have the former that knows not how honey tastes; but a man cannot have the latter unless he has an idea of the taste of honey in his mind. So there is a difference between believing that a person is beautiful, and having a sense of his beauty. The former may be obtained by hearsay, but the latter only by seeing the countenance. When the heart is sensible of the beauty and amiableness of a thing, it necessarily feels pleasure in the apprehension. It is implied in a person's being heartily sensible of the loveliness of a thing, that the idea of it is pleasant to his soul; which is a far different thing from having a rational opinion that it is excellent."

### 3. AFTER YOU HAVE TASTED YOURSELF OF THE GOODNESS OF GOD WHAT DO YOU DO NEXT?

“When Christ comes into your life there is an awakening of your soul. Your spiritual senses are energized, the spiritual world becomes alive to you, there is literally an awakening of your inner man. Your \_\_\_\_\_ is made \_\_\_\_\_, and you begin to taste for yourself the reality of God. Honey is sweet but can never be fully explained what the taste is like. How do you know that honey is good? You have to have a taste for yourself.”

After you taste for yourself that God is good you can't help but wanting to share what you have experienced with someone else. **Sharing your faith with others is the privilege of the believer.**

### 4. WHAT IS THE REAL PURPOSE OF YOUR SALVATION?

The purpose of our Christian walk is all about the law of love, to live our lives to see the harvest of souls in the kingdom of God. This is the law of love, Luke 10:27, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, 'Love YOUR NEIGHBOR as yourself.” Have you seen the harvest? Has your heart been awakened to the teeming thousands of lost souls all around us?

Part of our salvation experience is becoming aware of the hurting people all around us. Jesus said “Look, the fields are white unto harvest”. Have you seen it yet, have you discovered the real purpose of your salvation?

### 5. WHAT WAS PAUL'S MANDATE AFTER HIS EYES WERE OPENED?

Acts 9 tells the story of Paul's conversion. On his way to Damascus to persecute Christians in his day a light shone from the sky and he was struck with blindness. Paul (Saul) encountered God Himself and Paul's life was completely transformed. A man named Ananias found him and laid hands on him and prayed for him and he was healed. Paul was then filled with the Holy Spirit and water baptized and the Bible says he was strengthened in the Lord. He immediately began to boldly proclaim that Jesus was Lord and came in and went out with the disciples (joined himself together with the disciples). Paul would recount his testimony all throughout his life. In Acts 26:12-23, Paul was recounting to King Agrippa what the Lord actually said to Him on that life changing day. It became his mandate and it is ours as well.

Paul would recount this story again and again... While on the road to Damascus, **“I saw a light** from heaven, ...I heard a voice speaking to me... ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. **But rise and stand on your feet**; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, **to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.** I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom **I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light....** He would go on to say **“I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,”** Paul would go on to tell what had happened to him in Damascus, in Jerusalem, in all the regions in Judea and then even to the Gentiles and to this day he continued to stand and witness both to small and great. (Acts 26:12-23 shortened)

It is not only the mandate of every believer but it is our privilege to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (to tell others who He is and what we have experienced) of all that God has done for us. The Lord uses our testimonies and sends us to others to open their eyes and to turn them from darkness into light. Let us not be disobedient to the heavenly vision. (kb)

## 6. HOW ARE WE ABLE TO BE EFFECTIVE WITNESSES?

Acts 1:8, **“But you will receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

This is one of the greatest of all Bible promises. It seems almost unthinkable, Jesus is promising His followers the same power for ministry that was on Him. He had told them that they would do greater things than He had done in His life-time, they had no idea how anything like that would be remotely possible. This was the game changer. The disciples were being suddenly launched into a ministry that seemed impossible. It would have been impossible if they did not receive the promised power of the Holy Spirit. The thing that is even more amazing is this, that promise is still in effect. It wasn't just for the early church and the apostles. This promise is for us. It was given to men, women, the young and the old, it was even given to all of the ethnic groups of the world.

**POWER=** Greek- *dunamis*= Strong's 1411, 1410; force (literally or figuratively); specially, miraculous power (usually by implication, a miracle itself):--ability, abundance, meaning, might(-ily, -y, -y deed), (worker of) miracle(-s), power, strength, violence, mighty (wonderful) work.

Wuest- Power of the kind that God has and exerts.

**WITNESS**= Greek- Martus (mar'-toos) It is the same word used for martyr. But this word has more meanings in addition to martyrdom, the verb form of this word means "to testify". The Holy Spirit empowers the believer to live a life that is a testimony to others. How we live, we conduct ourselves, how we react and respond in awkward and unpleasant situations is also a witness or testimony to our faith (or lack of it!). An overcoming and victorious life is a great testimony to the world. (Dick Mills)

Wuest- Those who testify of what they have seen and experienced.

**TESTIFY**= "to give evidence or produce facts," "to exhibit truth", or "to confirm claims". One form of evidence is signs, wonders and miracles. The early church depended upon the Lord to confirm their witness with supernatural signs. In Acts 1:8 the Lord Jesus declared that His disciples would be filled with the Holy Spirit. In Mark 16:17,18 He promised that their witness would be backed up with divine evidence. (Dick Mills)

## 7. WHAT DOES THE WORD POWER HERE REFER TO?

Albert Barnes, "But ye shall receive power, etc. Literally, as it is translated in the margin, "ye shall receive the power of the Holy Ghost coming upon you." This was said to them to console them. Though they could not know the times which God reserved in his own appointment, yet they should receive the promised Guide and Comforter. The word power here refers to \_\_\_\_\_ or aid which the Holy Spirit would grant; the power of speaking with new tongues; of preaching the gospel with great effect; of enduring great trials, etc. (See Mark 16:17, 18). The apostles had impatiently asked Him if He was then about to restore the kingdom to Israel. Jesus by this answer rebuked their impatience; taught them to repress their ill-timed ardor; and assured them again of the coming of the Holy Ghost."

## 8. WHAT DOES THE CHURCH NEED TODAY?

The church today needs this power. Somehow we often settle for far less than New Testament Christianity. This generation needs to see the power of God for itself. Its time for all of us to shake off our preconceived ideas about what church should look like. It's time to wait again for power to fall upon us from on high. This will take us out of the realm of human effort and orchestration to the arena of the power of the Holy Spirit.



**“THE SPIRIT FILLED BELIEVERS**  
**DAILY DEVOTIONAL”**  
**DICK MILLS**

DANIEL 1 1:32, “THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW THEIR GOD SHALL BE STRONG,  
AND CARRY OUT GREAT EXPLOITS.”

This verse covers life during times of great stress, pressure, and turmoil. It is not speaking of a time of unparalleled peace, prosperity and plenty. It is a promise that shows us how to survive on a climate of international tension, economic upheaval, and spiritual change. This word from the Lord tells us that persecution of the Christians will result in greater knowledge (“they shall know their God”), greater strength (“they shall be strong), and greater miracles (“they shall carry out great exploits”). The more difficult the days, the greater God’s power will be demonstrated. You and I should be encouraged knowing that the Lord is fortifying us for the future. We are not only going to survive, we have been promised that miracles will accompany our Christian witness.

In times of great opposition to the church of the living God, the world becomes a combat zone between God and Satan. Where sin abounds grace abounds even more. (Romans 5:20.) The greater the darkness, the greater the light. Right in the midst of the devil’s revival of occultism and mystic religions, the Holy Ghost is being poured out in copious measure. The Church of Jesus Christ is not getting weaker and weaker as the end of time approaches; it is getting stronger and stronger. We believers are going out in a blaze of glory. We will know the Lord intimately, have a prevailing strength, and do notable feats and miracles in His name! Our future prospect is victory all the way!



**ANSWER KEY: WEEK FOUR**

1. EYES, OPENED
3. FAITH, ALIVE
5. MINISTER, WITNESS
7. ALL THE HELP

WEEK FIVE  
SINGLE VISION VERSUS DOUBLE VISION

MATTHEW 6:22,23, “THE EYE IS THE LAMP OF THE BODY. SO, IF YOUR EYE IS HEALTHY, YOUR WHOLE BODY WILL BE FULL OF LIGHT, BUT IF YOUR EYE IS BAD, YOUR WHOLE BODY WILL BE FULL OF DARKNESS. IF THEN THE LIGHT IN YOU IS DARKNESS, HOW GREAT IS THE DARKNESS!”

1. WHAT KIND OF VISION IS JESUS TALKING ABOUT IN THESE VERSES?

I love the teaching of Jesus, so simple a child can understand His words yet so profound that the scholars stumble over His message. In today’s verse Jesus is in the middle of a teaching on the Lord’s provision. He reminds His followers about the Father’s love for all of His creatures and how He lavishes His provision daily on all of His creation. He said that if the Father provides for His creatures how much more will He provide for His sons and daughters.

So what do our eyes have to do with anything? This is the point, He is talking about \_\_\_\_\_ vision and the focus of our love. **If our affection and vision is focused on the things of this world our life is filled with darkness. If our affection is on Him, our whole being is filled with light.** As a result we know our God will provide for us. Secondly, we will love His kingdom and want to invest our lives and our resources in His work.

2. WHAT THREE THINGS MUST OUR EYES OF FAITH BE?

Albert Barnes writes, “When the eye is directed singly and steadily towards an object, and is in health, or is single, everything is clear and plain. If it vibrates, flies to different objects, is fixed on no one singly, or is diseased, nothing is seen clearly, everything is dim and confused. The man, therefore, is unsteady. The eye regulates the motion of the body. To have an object distinctly in view, is necessary to correct and regulate action. So Jesus says, in order that the conduct may be right, it is important to fix the affections on heaven. Having the affections there—having the eye of faith \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_—all the conduct will be correspondent.”

### 3. WHAT QUESTIONS MUST WE ASK OURSELVES TO FIND THE CONDITION OF OUR SOUL?

So, what is your “eye” fixed on? What is the object of your joy and affection? Answer those questions and you will find the condition of your soul. (fb)

### 4. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE A SINGLE EYE OR TO BE SOUND IN VISION OR TO HAVE A GOOD EYE?

It is a renewed understanding, an \_\_\_\_\_ eye, a mind illuminated by the Spirit of God, a mind which is dominated and regulated by the truth. As the body is furnished with light for its activities by means of eye, so the mind is fitted for its operations only as it is receptive to the influences of the Holy Spirit. A “single” eye has but one objective-God, the pleasing and glorifying of Him. (awp)

### 5. WHY CAN'T THE NATURAL MAN SEE THE WAY OF TRUE HAPPINESS?

If the true riches of the soul are found not in the things of time and sense, why is it that our fellows labor so hard for “that which satisfieth not” (Isaiah 55:2.) If the best which this world has to offer perishes with the using of it, why is it prized so highly by almost one and all? Here is the explanation: because men view things through a vitiated (*faulty or defective*) eye, so that the real appears but a phantom, and the shadows are mistaken for the substance. Marvel not at this, says Christ, they lack the single eye, the divinely enlightened understanding, they are in nature’s darkness; they cannot discern between things that differ, they are incapable by judging aright of the true treasure, and being ignorant of the heavenly they seek only the earthly... (awp)



SO STUPID AND SOTTISH (*VERY FOOLISH, DRUNKEN*) IS HE THAT MEASURES HAPPINESS BY OUTWARD THINGS, ESTEEMING THE WEALTHY TO BE ENVIED AND THE POOR TO BE PITIED. THEREFORE DOES HE REGARD PHANTOMS AS REALITIES AND REALITIES AS PHANTOMS, AND SPENDS HIS TIME AND STRENGTH IN PURSUING THE SHADOWS WHILE HE MISSES THE SUBSTANCE. THAT IS WHY WE ARE EXHORTED TO SET OUR AFFECTION “UPON THINGS ABOVE” (COLOSSIANS 3:2), FOR BY NATURE THEY ARE FIXED UPON THINGS BELOW.

A.W. PINK

**WE SHOULD TAKE THE ADVICE OF THE GREAT PHYSICIAN, “I COUNSEL THEE TO BUY OF ME... EYE-SALVE THAT THOU MAYEST SEE” (REVELATION 3:18).**

#### 5. WHAT IS THE OPPOSITE OF SINGLE VISION?

The opposite of single vision is of course double vision. One eye is looking at one thing the other at something else. In the medical world, this would be considered a defective eye that needs to be corrected. When this happens in our spiritual lives one eye is set on God and the other on the world, your affections are divided. James 1:7,8, says “For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” What this is saying is this “double-minded person” is unstable in all his ways so therefore he will get nowhere in his spiritual life. The only kind of Christian acceptable to God is the person who is totally committed to Him whose eye is single. So let us have “Dove’s Eye’s” A dove can only look in one direction. The dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. (kb)

#### 6. WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF HAVING THE EYES OF FAITH?

2 Kings 6:16-17, “He said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” Then Elisha prayed and said, “O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”

Sometimes we can’t see the real picture. Man is stuck looking at the physical circumstances when that doesn’t tell the whole story. Elisha recognized that there was an unseen army at his disposal. He prayed for his disciple Gehazi, “Lord open his eyes”. Suddenly, he saw that the mountain was full of the angels of The Lord. What about today? Is there unseen help for all of us? Absolutely! There are legions of angels working on behalf of all of God’s children. (fb)

## 7. WHEN WILL GOD'S ARMIES REVEAL THEMSELVES?

Charles Spurgeon writes, "The adversaries of truth are many, influential, learned, and crafty; and truth fares ill at their hands; and yet the man of God has no cause for trepidation. Agencies, seen and unseen, of the most potent kind, are on the side of righteousness. God has armies in "**ambush**" which will reveal themselves in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. The forces which are on the side of the good and the true far outweigh the powers of evil. Therefore, let us keep our spirits up, and walk with the gait of men who possess a cheering secret, which has lifted them above all fear. We are on the winning side. The battle may be sharp, but we know how it will end. Faith, having God with her, is in a clear majority: "They that be with us are more than they that be with them."

## 8. WHO IS OUR GOD?

A number of years ago, spiritual warfare became a huge emphasis in the church. Many became "demon conscious" and were overly fixated on the powers of darkness. One glimpse into the unseen world shows the real truth. There are more with us than with them. At the end of the day, all of our enemies are limited. Humans are limited, demons are limited, even the prince of darkness is limited. The only omnipotent one is our God. I have to agree with the Apostle John, "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

## 9. HOW CAN YOU BE ASSURED YOU ARE IN A SAFE PLACE?

So whatever challenges you are facing today, like Gehazi discovered, you are not facing them on your own. **If you belong to God and you are involved in His purposes and plans for your life, then you are in a safe place.** The Lord cannot be defeated and He will do whatever is necessary to accomplish His plans for your life. So take another look, maybe you will also see the angels and the chariots of fire. There are more with us than with them.

**ROMANS 8:31,32, "WHAT CAN WE EVER SAY TO SUCH WONDERFUL THINGS AS THESE? IF GOD IS ON OUR SIDE, WHO CAN EVER BE AGAINST US? SINCE HE DID NOT SPARE EVEN HIS OWN SON FOR US BUT GAVE HIM UP FOR US ALL, WON'T HE ALSO SURELY GIVE US EVERYTHING ELSE?"**



“THE SPIRIT FILLED BELIEVERS DAILY  
DEVOTIONAL”  
DICK MILLS

REVELATION 3:18 “ANOINT YOUR EYES WITH EYE SALVE,  
THAT YOU MAY SEE.”

These are the words of the Lord Jesus addressed to the Laodicean church. Laodicea was world famous during Bible days for its manufacture of an eye powder which could cure weak eyes. Workmen would make cylindrical tubes of this substance in a form called collyrium. It was in great demand as an export item. One medical writer listed five different kinds of eye trouble that was helped by the application of the Laodicean eye powder or eye salve.

There is such a thing as the eye of the soul. Laodicea could cure defects of physical sight and yet be blinded to spiritual insights. David prayed when reading the Word of God for the ability to see the truths that were in the scriptures. (Psalm 119:18)

Elisha prayed for the Lord to open the eyes of his servant who was frightened by a pursuing host coming to capture him and the prophet of God. Second Kings 6:17 tells us that the young man’s eyes were opened and he saw the mountain filled full of angelic protection.

The regular word for **anoint** is chiro (khree’-o) meaning “smearing, rubbing or superficially touching a surface lightly with a substance such as oil.” In this verse, John compounds the word making it egchiro (eng-khree’-o) which is more thorough than chiro. The Lord is thus saying that instead of just going over the surface lightly, we are to rub carefully and deeply: “Do a thorough job of rubbing in the ointment or eye salve of truth.” He tells us, “so you will have lasting results.”

 ANSWER KEY: WEEK FIVE

1. SPIRITUAL
2. SINGLE, STEADY AND UNWAVERING
4. ANOINTED
7. HOUR OF NEED

WEEK SIX  
DO YOU HAVE A VISION IN YOUR HEART?  
PROPHETIC VISION

HABAKKUK 2:2, "THEN THE LORD ANSWERED ME AND SAID: WRITE THE VISION AND MAKE IT PLAIN ON TABLETS, THAT HE MAY RUN WHO READS IT."

1. WHAT KIND OF VISION DOES HABAKKUK 2:2 DESCRIBE AND WHAT DO WE NEED TO FULFILL GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIVES?

This scripture played an important role in the early days of our church. Our hearts were inflamed with a passion to see the vision of the Lord fulfilled in our city. This word **"vision"** in this scripture is an important Bible word. The very nature of this word is supernatural. It is describing a prophetic vision. The Hebrew prophets were a very important part of the Old Testament Jewish world. Their ability to hear from the Lord kept the people of Israel on course. Without a \_\_\_\_\_ vision from the Lord they would "come off the rails" and end up in a bad situation. We too need to "hear from the Lord". Today, all of us have an ability to hear from God. He speaks to our hearts by the scriptures inspired and breathed upon by the Holy Spirit. We too need to have "vision" that we can fulfill God's plans in our lives. (fb)

2. WHAT DOES THE WORD "VISION" MEAN IN THE GREEK?

**"VISION"**=, **chazon (cha-zohn)**; A prophetic vision, dream, oracle, revelation; especially the kind of revelation that comes through sight, namely a vision from God. This noun occurs 35 times and is from the root chazah, "to see, behold, and perceive." Chazon is especially used for the revelation which the prophets received. The prophets understood God's counsels so clearly because He revealed matters to them by visible means. Proverbs 29:18 shows that when a society lacks any revelation from God (divine insight), such a society heads in the direction of anarchy." (Dick Mills)

### 3. WHAT IS CRITICAL TO HAVING A COMPLETE LIFE?

So today our spiritual vision starts with having a vision of Christ in our hearts. What do I mean by that? Having a vibrant, daily relationship with the Lord where He actually becomes real to us. Out of that “vision” of Christ comes His vision for our lives. He has a plan for each of us. He has a ministry of touching and helping people for each of us. \_\_\_\_\_ that “vision”, recording it on the tablet of our heart, is critical to having a complete life. Once we begin to allow the Spirit to write His vision on our heart it becomes part of us. Then, and then only, can we begin to run. Draw near to the Lord. Seek Him and His vision for your life. Before long, you too will find yourself on the run.

“WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, THE PEOPLE PERISH: BUT HE THAT KEEPETH THE LAW, HAPPY IS HE.” PROVERBS 29:18

ESV BIBLE SAYS, “WHERE THERE IS NO PROPHETIC VISION THE PEOPLE CAST OFF RESTRAINT, BUT BLESSED IS HE WHO KEEPS THE LAW.” PROVERBS 29:18

### 4. WHAT KEPT JOSEPH THROUGHOUT ALL OF HIS TROUBLES?

Genesis 49:22-24, “Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a fountain; his branches run over the wall. The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and persecuted him: but his bow abode in strength.”

Pastor Frank Bailey writes, “This is a prophesy that was actually spoken over my life many, many years ago. Jacob was prophesying over his son Joseph, the mantle of God had been on Joseph all of his life. This word describes the life that Joseph had experienced; he had been betrayed by his brothers, persecuted by the Egyptians, lied about by the captain’s wife, and forgotten by pharaoh’s baker. What had kept Joseph throughout all of his troubles? He had been kept secure by the dreams that had fallen on him as a child. He had been set apart from his youth, cloaked in his father’s coat, and as a result experienced the blessing of God all throughout his life.”





**“THE SPIRIT FILLED BELIEVERS  
DAILY DEVOTIONAL”  
DICK MILLS**

PSALM 32:8, “I WILL INSTRUCT YOU AND TEACH YOU IN THE WAY YOU SHOULD GO; I WILL GUIDE YOU WITH MY EYE.”

This is a good verse for those of us who seek guidance and direction from the Lord. It is an assurance that our heavenly Father is going to move us from a weak transmission to a “clear-channel station with no static.” We will be able to hear the gentle voice of the Good Shepherd without interference.

The Lord makes three distinct promises in this verse:

**A). I WILL INSTRUCT YOU...** This is like having a private tutor. The purpose of the instruction we receive is to make us more intelligent, skillful and circumspect in our dealings, more adept in making decisions.

**B). ...AND TEACH YOU IN THE WAY YOU SHOULD GO...** The original word used here indicates the pointing of a finger in a certain direction. It also implies shooting an arrow at a target in such a way as to avoid missing the mark. This word from the Lord is an assurance that we will not drift aimlessly through life, but that He will give us a definite direction and a clear goal to aim for.

**C). ... AND I WILL GUIDE YOU WITH MY EYE.** One translation of this phrase says, “I will keep My eye on you to see how you are doing.”

Here is my paraphrase of this verse: “I will make you skillful and proficient in decision making and will aim you in the right direction; I will watch your progress and see how you are getting along: My eye will be upon you for your benefit.” (Dick Mills)

 **ANSWER KEY: WEEK SIX**

1. PROPHETIC
3. FINDING
5. HE SAW WHAT GOD WOULD DO

WEEK SEVEN  
HIS EYES OF FIRE, LOVE AND MERCY  
HE SEES YOU!

2 CHRONICLES 16:9, “FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD RUN TO AND FRO THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH, TO SHOW HIMSELF STRONG ON BEHALF OF THOSE WHOSE HEART IS LOYAL TO HIM. IN THIS YOU HAVE DONE FOOLISHLY; THEREFORE FROM NOW ON YOU SHALL HAVE WARS.”

## 1. HOW DOES THE BIBLE DESCRIBE THE LORD’S EYES?

Revelation 1:14 says, “His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;”

Song of Solomon 5:12 says, “His eyes are as the eyes of doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, and fitly set.” (Set like Jewels CSB)

Psalms 34:15, “The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry.

The Bible describes the indescribable. His eyes are like a flame of fire. His eyes are like jewels fitly set, His eyes are always on us. He is always aware of those who draw near. When John saw Him on the Isle of Patmos he was struck by those captivating fiery eyes. And when the woman in Luke 5 had issues in her life she could not solve the Bible says, He saw her. And so it was that the Father’s eyes were on us even when we were “still a long way off”, He saw us and was moved with compassion. Lets take a look into His eyes of **FIRE, LOVE and MERCY.**

## 2. WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT HIS EYES LIKE A FLAME OF FIRE?

Revelation 1:14, “His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire...”

John was struck by the eyes of fire Jesus had in his encounter on the Isle of Patmos. He had never seen eyes like this before even though he had many other encounters with The Lord. People always say you can tell a lot about someone by their eyes, you can tell a lot about Jesus by His eyes. For John it was a look into eternity. Adam Clarke said, “His eyes were as a flame of fire, to denote his omniscience, and the all-penetrating nature of the Divine knowledge.”

### 3. WHAT WILL LOOKING INTO THE EYES OF JESUS DO IN OUR LIVES?

Looking into the eyes of Christ will \_\_\_\_\_ the darkness in our souls, it will \_\_\_\_\_ the motives of our heart, and \_\_\_\_\_ us like a refiner's fire. Hebrews 4:12-13 says, "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."

These eyes of fire also speak of the indignation of our Lord. Many people only see Jesus as a softie who overlooks sin. Nothing could be further from the truth. Christ bares the mark of judgment against sin in His body, it is the holes in His hands and feet, that He suffered at Calvary. These eyes of fire are burning against the sinfulness of mankind. Christ bore our sins as He willingly suffered God's judgment on sin on our behalf, for those that reject His offer of mercy, there is a horrible day of justice yet to come.

### 4. BUT WHAT WAS JOHN REMINDED OF WHEN HE LOOKED INTO THOSE EYES?

As John looked into the eyes of The Lord he was reminded of another encounter that had happened in an upper room many years before. In that experience, tongues of fire came upon all the disciples they were baptized in the Holy Spirit. Here are some thoughts from the Fire Bible about that baptism of fire. "John teaches that the work of the Messiah will involve baptizing His followers with the Holy Spirit and fire. This baptism would provide great spiritual power and enthusiasm to live for Christ and spread His message."

### 5. WHEN JESUS TURNED TO LOOK AT THE WOMAN WHO HAD THE ISSUE OF BLOOD, WHAT DID SHE FEEL?

Matthew 9:22, "But Jesus turned around, and **when He saw her** He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour."

This poor lady was afraid, she had been afraid for a long time. That is what rejection will do to you. She could still remember the hurt she felt when she had been banished from the house of worship. The man who banished her probably had a robe like the one Jesus was wearing. This time as she touched the edge of His robe, she felt love and acceptance rather than the rejection and scorn she had felt for twelve years. Jesus was different from

that other rabbi. He was different from anyone she had ever known. When Jesus turned and looked at her she felt the \_\_\_\_\_ in His \_\_\_\_\_. Rather than eyes of condemnation and rejection she was caught by His look of love. When He called her daughter, she knew she was home. She had found that place of rest she had longed for a very long time.

## 6. THE WOMAN TOUCHED HIS GARMENT, BUT WHAT TOUCHED HIM?

Charles Spurgeon writes, “Jesus knew all that was going on behind Him... “He saw her”. ...She ‘was made whole’, and she knew it; but she feared when she was found out lest she should lose the blessing and earn a curse. This fear soon vanished: Jesus called her ‘daughter’....**It was His garment which she touched, but it was \_\_\_\_\_ that had touched it**; therefore our Lord said, ‘Thy faith hath made thee whole’;...The moment we touch Jesus we are made whole; yea, ‘from that hour’. May we touch Him now, and may this hour be as memorable to us as that hour was to her!”

So maybe you have had a taste of rejection yourself. Maybe you know that look, you know the look that says you don’t belong here. You will never get that look from Jesus. Maybe it seems like He doesn’t know you exist, believe me, He does. Go ahead, try to steal a touch for yourself. Before you know it you too will be looking into those eyes of love.

MALACHI 4:2 (AMP), “BUT UNTO YOU WHO REVERE *AND* WORSHIPFULLY FEAR MY NAME SHALL THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS ARISE WITH HEALING IN HIS WINGS *AND* HIS BEAMS, AND YOU SHALL GO FORTH AND GAMBOL LIKE CALVES [RELEASED] FROM THE STALL AND LEAP FOR JOY.” **HEALED** BY ONE TOUCH, ONE LOOK INTO HIS EYES. THERE IS **HEALING** IN HIS **BEAMS**, RAYS OF LIGHT PIERCING, SHINING FROM HIS EYES OF LOVE.”

## 7. WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM HIS EYES OF MERCY?

Luke 15:20, “So he got up (he arose) and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father **saw him** and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.”

One of the great parables of Jesus is the Prodigal Son, a great display of the Father’s love of fallen man. I remember looking at some pencil sketches a number of years ago from the famous artist Rembrandt. He had painted his own face as the face of the prodigal in his depiction of this parable. This pretty much tells the story, we are all the prodigal son in need of the Father’s mercy and love. In the story we see the mercy of the Father displayed in His actions. First we see the eyes of mercy, The Father is looking down the road on purpose, gazing the horizon hoping to see His son’s familiar gate. When He saw him, he was moved with compassion.

The original **Greek for ‘felt compassion’** describes your intestines being moved with emotion. You could describe this as bowels of mercy, the Father being moved with compassion for you. Suddenly the Father could not keep still, His feet of compassion began to run, who could ever forget this picture that Jesus painted, God running toward you.

## 8. AFTER THE FATHER SAW HIM AND RAN TO HIS SON WHAT DID HE DO NEXT?

Matthew Henry writes, “Here were arms of mercy, and those arms stretched out to embrace him: He \_\_\_\_\_ on his neck. Though guilty and deserving to be beaten, though dirty and newly come from feeding swine, so that any one who had not the strongest and tenderest compassions of a father would have loathed to touch him, yet he thus takes him in his arms, and lays him in his bosom. Thus dear are true penitents to God, thus welcome to the Lord Jesus. Here were lips of mercy, and those lips dropping as a honey-comb: He kissed him. This kiss not only assured him of his welcome, but sealed his pardon; his former follies shall be all forgiven, and not mentioned against him, nor is one word said by way of upbraiding.”

What a picture Jesus painted of our Heavenly Father. He loves us, He loved us when we were away, He welcomed us with joy when we returned. **Maybe its time to bring out the fatted calf and let the party begin!!!**

Note: The word for “**FELL**” in Greek is **epipto**. It means to seize or fall upon with an embrace. The Father literally tackled His son and began to kiss him. This word is used one other time in the New Testament. It was when Peter was trying to explain to the Jewish elders in Jerusalem what had happened when he preached to the gentiles. Peter said the Holy Spirit fell upon (**epipto**) the gentiles just like He had fallen on them in the upper room. The gentiles had been tackled by the love of God, the Holy Spirit had fallen upon them too.

## 9. WHAT DOES THE WORD KISS MEAN IN THE GREEK?

Luke 15:20, “So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.” The word kiss in this verse is the Greek word **KATAPHILEO**. The literal meaning is to kiss repeatedly and fervently. Jesus is focusing on the Father’s passion and love for His wayward sons and daughters. There is hardly a more moving picture in all the scripture as this one, the Father embracing and kissing His dirty, wayward son.

Dick Mills writes, “The love the Father showered on the prodigal son when He fell on his neck and kissed him was intense. **KATAPHILEO** describes a great warmth the Father showered on His long lost son’s return.... The example of the Father welcoming His boy back home is described by Bible translators as “tenderly kissed him, fondly kissed him, affectionately kissed him, kissed him again and again.”

The word was also used describing the woman who kissed the feet of Jesus and anointed them with ointment. A forgiven sinner, she lavished the **KATAPHILEO** on Jesus, kissing His feet affectionately and repeatedly.

**“SO THE YOUNG SON SET OFF FOR HOME. FROM A LONG DISTANCE AWAY HIS FATHER SAW HIM COMING, DRESSED AS A BEGGAR, AND GREAT COMPASSION SWELLED UP IN HIS HEART FOR HIS SON WHO WAS RETURNING HOME. SO THE FATHER RACED OUT TO MEET HIM. HE SWEEPED HIM UP IN HIS ARMS, HUGGED HIM DEARLY, AND KISSED HIM OVER AND OVER WITH TENDER LOVE.”**

**LUKE 15:20 TPT**



## “THE BAILEY DRINK BLOG”

### AMBUSH

PASTOR FRANK BAILEY

Isaiah 30:18, Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.

This is a very precious promise from Isaiah the prophet. In the original language there is a powerful shade of meaning in the word “wait”. This word implies some sort of ambush. Isaiah pictures the Lord waiting at strategic places in our lives to ambush us; He wants to ambush us with His compassion and mercy. It’s easy for us to get restless when we are waiting for some sort of breakthrough, the Lord uses those seasons to teach us why we are seeking Him after all. The breakthrough involves intimacy with Him, His gifts and provisions became secondary. I can imagine Him as the Lion of the tribe of Judah waiting in the bushes of the turns in our lives waiting to pounce on us to devour us with His love. Here is how Dick Mills sees this verse.

“The mercy in store for them is very affectingly expressed. He will wait to be gracious; he will wait till you return to him and seek his face, and then he will be ready to meet you with mercy. He will wait, that he may do it in the best and fittest time, when it will be most for his glory, when it will come to you with the most pleasing surprise. He will continually follow you with his favors, and not let slip any opportunity of being gracious to you. He will stir up himself to deliver you, will be exalted, will be raised up out of his holy habitation, that he may appear for you in more than ordinary instances of power and goodness; and thus he will be exalted, that is, he will glorify his own name. This is what he aims at in having mercy on his people.”

So maybe you feel like you have been forgotten or forsaken. Let this season in your life increase your hunger for Him. Rather than forgotten you are remembered. He is looking for the perfect moment to ravish you with His love and bring restoration to the broken places of your life. Let this verse be a word from the Lord for you, “Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him”.



#### ANSWER KEY: WEEK SEVEN

2. EXPOSE , TRY , PURIFY
4. LOVE, GAZE
5. HER FAITH
7. FELL

WEEK EIGHT  
ARE YOU A BURNING AND SHINING LIGHT?  
BECOMING A WORSHIPPER

JOHN 5:35, "HE WAS THE BURNING AND SHINING LAMP,  
AND YOU WERE WILLING FOR A TIME TO REJOICE IN HIS LIGHT."

1. WHAT TWO CHARACTERISTICS DID JOHN HAVE THAT  
CAUSED JESUS TO DEFINE HIM AS A BURNING AND  
SHINING LIGHT?

Christianity is more than having right beliefs (though our doctrinal accuracy is essential), but it also consists of a heart aflame with God's love. In today's scripture verse Jesus is describing John the Baptist as a prophet burning and shining with the light of God's glory. **His mind had a great revelation of the coming Messiah and his heart was consumed with God's love for mankind.** Jesus said that John was burning and shining with the glory of God. Jonathan Edwards preached from this verse speaking about the excellency of a gospel minister. Not only should our ministers be burning and shining, all Christians should carry those traits; a mind shining with the revelation of God and a heart consumed with His love.



JONATHAN EDWARDS PREACHED IN 1744 A SERMON CALLED "HE WAS A BURNING AND SHINING LIGHT", HERE IS HOW JOHN PIPER RECORDS IT: "IF A MINISTER HAS LIGHT WITHOUT HEAT, AND ENTERTAINS HIS [HEARERS] WITH LEARNED DISCOURSES, WITHOUT A SAVOR OF THE POWER OF GODLINESS, OR ANY APPEARANCE OF FERVENCY OF SPIRIT, AND ZEAL FOR GOD AND THE GOOD OF SOULS, HE MAY GRATIFY ITCHING EARS, AND FILL THE HEADS OF HIS PEOPLE WITH EMPTY NOTIONS; BUT IT WILL NOT BE VERY LIKELY TO REACH THEIR SOULS."

"AND IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, HE BE DRIVEN ON WITH A FIERCE AND INTEMPERATE ZEAL, AND VEHEMENT HEAT, WITHOUT LIGHT, HE WILL BE LIKELY TO KINDLE THE LIKE UNHALLOWED FLAME IN HIS PEOPLE, AND TO FIRE THEIR CORRUPT PASSIONS AND AFFECTIONS; BUT WILL MAKE THEM NEVER THE BETTER NOR LEAD THEM A STEP TOWARDS HEAVEN, BUT DRIVE THEM APACE THE OTHER WAY."

## 2. WHAT WAS JOHN THE BAPTIST'S CLEAR REVELATION OF JESUS AND HOW DO WE BECOME BURNING AND SHINING LIGHTS?

John the Baptist had a clear revelation of the true ministry of Christ. **He saw Him as the Sacrificial Lamb slain for the sins of man. John also saw Jesus in His heavenly ministry, He would be the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit when He took His place at the Father's right hand.** Today, those two revelations will cause us to be burning and shining lights. We see Him as the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and our hearts are consumed with His love. We then see Him in His present heavenly role as our Heavenly \_\_\_\_\_, this causes us to be literally overcome with His love. Lord make us all burning and shining lights.

## 3. WHAT MAKES A WORSHIPPER?

Why do some people seem to get it but others just can't seem to understand? John the Baptist was at the center of a firestorm in his day, a storm that he actually started. Why was John so out of the box? What had gotten him so disturbed? I guess it goes back to that heart thing. John's heart had been set on fire by a glimpse of the glory of the Lord. Luke said that the word of the Lord came to John out in the wilderness. It was that word that set John's heart on fire. His heart was burning with \_\_\_\_\_, his mind was lit up with \_\_\_\_\_.

## 4. WHAT IS THE CURE THEN FOR A LUKEWARM CHURCH?

So maybe that's the cure for lukewarm worship in lukewarm churches. There may not be enough fuel to light a fire. What is the fuel that lights the fire of worship? It is revelation that comes from the Word of God. It was the preaching of John the Baptist that fueled the fire preparing the way for Jesus. Maybe its time to light the fire again. (fb)

## 5. WHAT IS WORSHIP A WORK OF?

John 4:23-24, "But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

Worship is more than singing songs about God. Worship is spiritual by nature. No one can truly worship God until they are born again. As Jonathan Edwards used to say, “they may be able to howl but they can’t sing”. Worship is the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. The Spirit of God convicts us of our sin, awakens us to the reality and majesty of Christ, and He magnifies the Lord in our eyes and in our hearts. What is the result? Worship! An awakened heart has no other options, part of the package is making melody with our hearts to the Lord.

## 6. WHERE DOES TRUE WORSHIP COME FROM?

“The fuel of worship is the truth of God; the furnace of worship is the spirit of man; and the heat of worship is the vital affections of reverence, contrition, trust, gratitude, and joy. But there is something missing from this picture. There is furnace, fuel, and heat, but no fire. The fuel of truth in the furnace of our spirit does not automatically produce the heat of worship. There must be ignition and fire. This is the \_\_\_\_\_....In other words, until the Holy Spirit quickens our spirit with the flame of life, our spirit is so dead and unresponsive it does not even qualify as spirit. Only that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. So when Jesus says that true worshipers worship the Father “in spirit,” He must mean that true worship comes only from spirits made alive and sensitive by the quickening of the Spirit of God.” John Piper

## 7. WHAT DOES THE WORLDLY MAN SING ABOUT?

The worldly man sings songs about what he knows; love that went wrong, love that went right, or whatever vice he is dealing with at the moment. If he sings a spiritual song there is no life in it because it comes from his soul, not from his spirit energized by the Holy Spirit. To an awakened saint the difference is obvious. When the Lord is not present in a song it has no life. God is still seeking worshippers. He is seeking them by His Spirit. When He finds one, that person is awakened and empowered to glorify God with their voice.

## 8. HOW DO WE BECOME LIKE JOHN, A BURNING AND SHINING LIGHT?

John Gill wrote, “he burned with strong love and affection for Christ and the souls of men”. That love was the result of the fire that was burning in his soul. The fire of God had fallen upon John, his life had become a bright light in a dark world. Today, our world is in desperate need of spiritual light. Where does that light come from? Jesus said that

we are the light of the world. When anyone has a spiritual encounter, and continues to walk in it, he becomes like John, a burning and shining light in a dark world.

**Have you been baptized in the fire of God, have you been lit up with a passion for God?** That burning and shining is the fruit of revival. Something has been awakened in your soul. It is a hunger and love for God which, like John, spills over in a love for souls. If you have been **“lit up”** by God recently, it’s time to start burning and shining. We can’t hide our light under a basket, we have to let it shine.

## 9. HOW DID JEREMIAH DESCRIBE THIS FIRE INSIDE OF HIM?

Powerful words, a man or woman effected by the touch of God will begin to carry that burning nature in their hearts. Like Jeremiah, it will become like a fire shut up in your bones. Today, our world is in need of Christians who, not only speak about spiritual things, but also have this fire burning in their hearts.

We have heard the teachings, we have seen the orchestrated ministries but where is the fire? Mankind is in need of the fire of God that burns with strong affection in our soul. How can we become burning lights in our modern world? There is only one way. If you want to catch on fire you have to get close to the flame.

## 10. WHAT MAKES A MINISTER A MINISTER?

“A minister has his soul enkindled with the heavenly flame; his heart burns with love to Christ, and fervent desires of the advancement of His kingdom and glory; and also with ardent love to the souls of men, and desires for their salvation.”

Each of us should cherish and honor the ministers of His church. The Lord has provided pastors to be guardians and messengers to each of us. The calling on their lives demand our respect, our prayers, our encouragement, and our support. As we honor those whom God has given as gifts to His church we will benefit greatly. First because we will benefit from the anointing upon their lives. Secondly because there is a blessing for all of those who honor the servants of The Lord.



**THE BAILEY DRINK**  
**TONGUES OF FIRE**  
PASTOR FRANK BAILEY

ACTS 2:3-4, "AND DIVIDED TONGUES AS OF FIRE APPEARED TO THEM AND RESTED ON EACH ONE OF THEM. AND THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BEGAN TO SPEAK IN OTHER TONGUES AS THE SPIRIT GAVE THEM UTTERANCE.

I am persuaded that the greatest sign of the last days is totally overlooked and even shunned by the Christian church. You speak of the end times and thoughts of wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes, famines and signs in the heavens immediately come to mind. No one even mentions the sign that was the subject of Peter's sermon on that first Pentecostal Sunday. The very focus of the great 'this is that' sermon was the gift of the heavenly language. It was the speaking in tongues that drew the crowd, it was those unusual languages that brought the sense of the supernatural on the scene. This was the fulfillment of the outpouring on all flesh that Joel spoke of as well as Isaiah's stammering lips. Isaiah 28:11, "For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people." What would prove to be our greatest weapon to win the most has been put aside as something unimportant or even irrelevant to this world's culture. Here are some words from the 1800's by Maclaren on the fire of God.

"I believe, dear brethren, and I am bound to express the belief, that one of the chief wants of the Christian Church of this generation, the Christian Church of this city, the Christian Church of this chapel, is more of the fire of God! We are all icebergs compared with what we ought to be. Look at yourselves; never mind about your brethren. Let each of us look at his own heart, and say whether there is any trace in his Christianity of the power of that Spirit who is fire. Is our religion flame or ice? Where among us are to be found lives blazing with enthusiastic devotion and earnest love? Do not such words sound like mockery when applied to us? Have we not to listen to that solemn old warning that never loses its power, and, alas! seems never to lose its appropriateness: 'Because thou art neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of My mouth.' We ought to be like the burning beings before God's throne, the seraphim, the spirits that blaze and serve. We ought to be like God Himself, all aflame with love. Let us seek penitently for that Spirit of fire who will dwell in us all if we will."

Lord, I don't want to be an iceberg, make me one of your burning ones. I think the world is longing for passion. It wants to feel strongly about something. Why not let our passion be an unbridled fire for the Lord.



**ANSWER KEY: WEEK EIGHT**

2. LAMB, BAPTIZER
3. PASSION, REVELATION
6. HOLY SPIRIT

WEEK NINE  
LOOKING FOR A CITY  
HEAVEN IS UNCONCEIVABLE

HEBREWS 11:9-10 (KJV), "BY FAITH HE SOJOURNED IN THE LAND OF PROMISE, AS IN A STRANGE COUNTRY, DWELLING IN TABERNACLES WITH ISAAC AND JACOB, THE HEIRS WITH HIM OF THE SAME PROMISE: FOR HE LOOKED FOR A CITY WHICH HATH FOUNDATIONS, WHOSE BUILDER AND MAKER IS GOD."

### 1. WHAT IS THE BIGGEST WASTE OF ALL?

Luke 12:20-21, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Jesus wasn't known for mincing words. How could He? From His perspective, eternity was at stake. He recognized the consequences of wasting your life. It wasn't just a few years, eternity was being wasted. The Lord recognized the urgency that living for eternity involved, after all, He lives in eternity with His Father. To Him, the biggest waste was to live only for the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. He knew there was much more important stakes involved.

### 2. IF OUR JOURNEY IS ANYWHERE BUT HEAVEN WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO OUR LABOR?

Jonathan Edwards writes, "So that if we improve our lives to any other purpose than as a journey towards heaven, all our labor will be \_\_\_\_\_. If we spend our lives in the pursuit of a temporal happiness; if we set our hearts on riches and seek happiness in them; if we seek to be happy in sensual pleasures; if we spend our lives to seek the credit and esteem of men, the good will and respect of others; if we set our hearts on our children and look to be happy in the enjoyment of them, in seeing them well brought up, and well settled, all these things will be of little significance to us. Death will blow up all our hopes and expectations, and will put an end to our enjoyment of these things. The places that have known us will know us no more, and the eye that hath seen us shall see us no more.

We must be taken away forever from all these things. And 'tis uncertain when. It may be soon after we have received them and are put into the possession of them; it may be in the midst of our days, and from the midst of our enjoyments. Where will be all our worldly

employments and enjoyments when we are laid in the silent grave? For “man lieth down, and riseth not again: till the heavens be no more” (Job 14:12).”

### 3. IF YOUR JOURNEY AND LABOR IS FOCUSED ON HEAVEN, WHAT ARE YOU PROMISED?

This is quite unnerving to the natural man. The natural man only concerns himself with temporal activities and temporal enjoyments. He lives his life as if heaven doesn't exist. For the spiritual person, heaven is his destination. His life has become consumed and focused on this heavenly journey. If that is you, **you won't be disappointed.**



“BUT I MUST STOP, THE GLORIES OF THE UPPER WORLD CROWD IN SO FAST UPON MY SOUL, THAT I AM LOST IN THE CONTEMPLATION OF THEM. BRETHREN, THE REDEMPTION SPOKEN OF IS UNUTTERABLE; WE CANNOT HERE FIND IT OUT; EYE HATH NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NOR HAS IT ENTERED INTO THE HEARTS OF THE MOST HOLY MEN LIVING TO CONCEIVE, HOW GREAT IT IS. WERE I TO ENTERTAIN YOU WHOLE AGES WITH AN ACCOUNT OF IT, WHEN YOU COME TO HEAVEN, YOU MUST SAY, WITH THE QUEEN OF SHEBA, ‘NOT HALF, NO, NOT ONE THOUSANDTH PART WAS TOLD US! ALL WE CAN DO HERE, IS TO GO UPON MOUNT PISGAH, AND, BY THE EYE OF FAITH, TAKE A DISTANT VIEW OF THE PROMISED LAND; WE MAY SEE IT, AS ABRAHAM DID CHRIST, AFAR OFF, AND REJOICE IN IT; BUT HERE WE ONLY KNOW IN PART. BLESSED BE GOD, THERE IS A TIME COMING, WHEN WE SHALL KNOW GOD, EVEN AS WE ARE KNOWN, AND GOD BE ALL IN ALL. LORD JESUS, ACCOMPLISH THE NUMBER OF THINE ELECT! LORD JESUS, HASTEN THY KINGDOM!”

GEORGE WHITEFIELD

### 4. DID THE PATRIARCHS ROAM AIMLESSLY?

“By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” (Hebrews 11:9, 10 KJV)

We dwell in our fair land, amid things that our hands have fashioned, among surroundings that our minds understand, where our plans have laid out the future, and where our enterprises are flourishing. From this comfortable land of our own security we called to go-we know not whither.”

The Interpreter’s Bible has said, “The wanderings of the patriarchs is not a mere restless roaming, or an aimless change of dwelling places, but under divine guidance is a discipline of obedience, a proving of faith, and a type and example for those who seek the abiding home and for this reason they do not turn their eyes backward to the perishable world, and what they possess gain and lose therein, but forward to the promised land and enduring good, whose attainment is certain, because God has already prepared it for them, and is no mere transitory good, but has come into a permanent relation to them, so that God is not ashamed to be called their God.”



AND THUS THEY WILL LOVE, AND REIGN IN LOVE, AND IN THAT GODLIKE JOY THAT IS ITS BLESSED FRUIT, SUCH AS EYE HATH NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NOR HATH EVER ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN IN THIS WORLD TO CONCEIVE; AND THUS IN THE FULL SUNLIGHT OF THE THRONE, ENRAPTURED WITH JOYS THAT ARE FOREVER INCREASING, AND YET FOREVER FULL, THEY SHALL LIVE AND REIGN WITH GOD AND CHRIST FOREVER AND EVER.”

JONATHAN EDWARDS  
HEAVEN IS A WORLD OF LOVE

**“So if you are not ready for a place like this it’s time to get ready. Heaven is near to us and the beginning of our eternity is at hand.”**

**Pastor Parris Bailey**



## THE BAILEY DRINK OPEN DOOR IN HEAVEN

PASTOR FRANK BAILEY

REV.4:1,2 — AFTER THESE THINGS I LOOKED, AND BEHOLD, A DOOR STANDING OPEN IN HEAVEN. AND THE FIRST VOICE WHICH I HEARD WAS LIKE A TRUMPET SPEAKING WITH ME, SAYING, “COME UP HERE, AND I WILL SHOW YOU THINGS WHICH MUST TAKE PLACE AFTER THIS.” IMMEDIATELY I WAS IN THE SPIRIT; AND BEHOLD, A THRONE SET IN HEAVEN, AND ONE SAT ON THE THRONE.

There are seasons of outpouring in this life where the Lord gives us greater access to heavenly things. Many times during the outpourings in the 1990’s I would be caught up in the Spirit and have impressions of things in heaven and things about to happen on earth. This is what John was experiencing in a greater measure than any of us can even fathom. John was called to come up through an open door to experience spiritual ecstasies and understanding of things to come.

John Gill writes, “upon the opening of the door in heaven, and hearing the former voice, and the things it said, the Spirit of God at once possessed and filled him, in an extraordinary manner; and his soul or spirit was immediately taken from the consideration of all sensible objects, and was fixed and intent upon the things presented to it in the vision, so that it was as if it was out of the body.” John became so aware of the spiritual realities that the things of this earth just began to fade away. His first vision was of the incredible scene at the throne. This is where all revelation flows from, it comes from a revelation of Jesus Christ. Albert Barnes points this out, John was called up into these visions to receive information about things to come; it started with a revelation of Christ on the throne.

“And the first voice which I heard. That is, the first sound which he heard was a command to come up and see the glories of that world. He afterwards heard other sounds—the sounds of praise; but the first notes that fell on his ear were a direction to come up there and to receive a revelation respecting future things....And, behold, a throne was set in heaven. That is, a throne was placed there. The first thing that arrested his attention was a throne.” There is a door opening for God’s people in these days. Draw near to Him, let Him carry you away in the Spirit to His throne. That is where you will understand things to come.



### ANSWER KEY: WEEK NINE

1. HERE AND NOW
2. LOST

WEEK TEN  
PRO-VISION A THANKFUL HEART

MATTHEW 14:19, "THEN HE COMMANDED THE MULTITUDES TO SIT DOWN ON THE GRASS. AND HE TOOK THE FIVE LOAVES AND THE TWO FISH, AND LOOKING UP TO HEAVEN, HE BLESSED AND BROKE AND GAVE THE LOAVES TO THE DISCIPLES; AND THE DISCIPLES GAVE TO THE MULTITUDES."

1. WHAT IS THE LORD LOOKING FOR FROM ALL OF US?

I love to read about Jesus. His life was a constant picture of a man dependent on God. If the Son of God lived His life "looking into heaven", how much more should I. The trials we go through in life are just gentle reminders (well okay, sometimes not so gentle) that I need Him constantly and totally in my life. Our first Feed the Multitudes was just that, we were being taught to look into heaven because our resources were depleted. His resources are never depleted, all He is looking for is \_\_\_\_\_.

2. WHAT MUST BE SOUGHT BEFORE WE CAN EXPECT GOD'S PROVISION?

Charles Spurgeon writes, "Now that all is in order, the divine Lord takes the slender provision into His blessed hands. By a simple sign He teaches the people whence to expect gracious supplies: 'Looking up the heaven'. Not without a blessing does the al fresco meal begin: 'He blessed'. **God's blessing** must be sought even when Jesus did all in the **provision** of the feast: He blessed, He brake, He gave to His disciples. All is with Him. The disciples come in to take their subordinate position, after He has displayed His divine creatorship.

They are the waiters: they serve and distribute; they can do no more; they are glad to do that. In haste, but yet in order, they divide the food among the throng, much wondering and adoring as they do so. It was bread and a relish with it; good fare and agreeable; sufficient, but not luxurious. Some would give the poor only the barest necessities bread only; our Lord adds fish. What a feast was this! Christ for Master of the feast: apostles for butlers; thousands for numbers and miracles for supplies! What a far more glorious feast is that which the gospel spreads for hungry souls! What a privilege to be fed by the Son of God!"

### 3. WHAT DID JESUS DO AFTER HE LOOKED UP INTO HEAVEN AT THE FEEDING OF THE 5000?

Luke 9:16, "Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, \_\_\_\_\_ and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people."

**"EUCHARISTEO-  
"THANKS"- "GIVING"  
ALWAYS PRECEDES THE MIRACLE."**



THE GREATEST THING IS TO GIVE THANKS FOR EVERYTHING. HE WHO HAS LEARNED THIS KNOWS WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE....

ANN VOSKAMP

**"EUCHARISTEO"  
IT IS THE CENTRAL SYMBOL OF CHRISTIANITY.  
THANKSGIVING.  
THE (COMMUNION) TABLE WITH ITS EMBLEMS  
IS THE ESSENCE OF WHAT IT MEANS  
TO LIVE THE CHRIST –LIFE.**

### 4. WHAT IS GOD CALLING YOU TO DO DURING YOUR PRESENT DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES?

I love that; Christ for the Master of the feast, apostles for butlers, thousands for numbers, miracles for supplies. Sounds like "Feed the Multitudes" to me! Most people want to wait to get "their stuff together" before they engage in ministry to the hurting. Let me give you a clue, you will never get your stuff together. Your present difficult circumstances are God's way of calling out to you, "\_\_\_\_\_ into heaven". As you do, you will discover the Father of lights, with Him there is no shadow of turning. There is a constant, resplendent, sufficient stream of His goodness flowing down upon all who look to Him for help. If you are lacking in any way, look into heaven and give thanks and watch Him work miracles in your life.

- A. **Give Thanks IN everything and IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.** Colossians 3:17, “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”
- B. **Give Thanks for this is the WILL OF GOD.** 1 Thessalonians 5:18 “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
- C. **Giving Thanks FOR ALL THINGS.** Ephesians 5:17-20 “Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,”

## 5. WHAT WILL HAPPEN AS A RESULT OF LOOKING UP TO HEAVEN AND GIVING THANKS?

Ezekiel 34:26, “I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.” Jesus said to the Pharisee Nicodemus, “Unless a man is born again he can’t even see the kingdom of God.” That’s how it is with mercy, until you have eyes to see, humans often think they are responsible for their blessing and success. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our prosperity comes directly from the Lord. We look to Him in gratitude and He rains down blessings upon us. It is His showers of blessing that cause us to be a blessed people.

## 6. WHO GETS ALL THE GLORY FOR SENDING THE SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS?

Charles Spurgeon writes, “Here is sovereign mercy-I will give them the shower in its season. Is it not sovereign, divine mercy? For who can say, *I will give them showers* except God? There is only one voice which can speak to the clouds, and bid them beget the rain. Who sendeth down the rain upon the earth? Who scattereth the showers upon the green herb? Do not I, the Lord? So grace is the gift of God, and is not to be created by man. It is also needed grace. What would the ground do without showers? You may break the clods, you may sow your seeds, but what can you do without the rain? As absolutely needful is the divine blessing. In vain you labor, until God the plenteous shower bestows, and sends salvation down.”

**PROVISION**= *Greek, pronoia (pron'-oy-ah)*. Pro is a prefix meaning “before, in front of, prior to, ahead of time” (compare prologue- words spoken before the main dissertation). *Noia* comes from *noiea* referring to the mind, perception, the intellect, the thoughts. Provision (pronoia) is thinking about something ahead of time. (Dick Mills)

So what this is saying is that God Himself has gone before your need, ahead of time, prior to and already had it in His mind and thought about it before the need even existed. He is ON IT before the problem even occurred. **HE WILL PROVIDE FOR YOU.** (kb)

## 7. WHAT IS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN YOU TITHING AND GOD POURING DOWN A BLESSING YOU CANNOT CONTAIN?

Malachi 3:10, “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and **pour down for you a blessing** until there is no more need.”

Tithing is an act of faith that places us into an agreement with God Himself. When we give 10% of our income we are acknowledging that we are dependent on Him and we are thankful for all that He has done, is doing, and will do in our lives. The Bible says, “without faith it is impossible to please Him.” (Hebrews 11:6.) This simple act of faith, that we continually do throughout our life guarantees His blessing and favor. He **PROMISES** that if we do so (tithe) **HE WILL POUR DOWN FOR YOU A BLESSING.** I think it’s cloudy outside. You might want to carry an upside down umbrella. (kb)

## 8. WHAT DO WE CALL THE BLESSINGS OF THE LORD IN OUR LIVES?

Some people call it luck, we call it \_\_\_\_\_ . If you remember the prayer meeting in Acts 4, you know, the one where the building shook, the Lord answered their prayer with showers of blessing. Luke said that great grace was upon them all. **EVERYONE** in that early church began to experience the supernatural favor of God upon their lives.

If you look carefully at Ezekiel 34:26 again-“I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing”- you will notice something. The blessings of God can be described as seasonal. Maybe, just maybe, you are about to step into one of those seasons of blessing. The time of drought comes to a close, the heavens open up, and showers of blessing began to fall on the sons and the daughters. The seed sown in tears began to sprout and bear fruit. Listen closely I think I hear the sound of an abundance of rain. Showers of blessing are surely coming your way. (fb)



THE BAILEY DRINK BLOG  
CREATION IS WAITING  
PASTOR FRANK BAILEY

PSALM 104:27.28, “THESE ALL WAIT FOR YOU, THAT YOU MAY, GIVE THEM THEIR FOOD IN DUE SEASON. WHAT YOU GIVE THEM THEY GATHER IN; YOU OPEN YOUR HAND, THEY ARE FILLED WITH GOOD.

Some people act as if God set everything in creation in motion and then stays uninvolved, expecting us to run things or for creation to run itself. That is not the way the Bible reveals our God. He is not only the originator of all things, by Him all things are held together. He has His hand on every detail of everything that is going on. Creation displays the glory of God and His very nature in sustaining it. That being true, His sons and daughters are in good hands. He watches over us and supplies all things for our benefit. The beauty in this; I am satisfied and He is glorified. Here is how Dick Mills describes this beautiful attribute of our Lord.

“God wasn’t finished after He created the world and all its forms of life. The Creator is also the One Who maintains. He makes; He also sustains. He is the Author and Finisher of our faith. This whole Psalm is a song of **Praise and Thanksgiving** to the Sovereign Lord for His providential care of the entire planet. The Psalm could be a role call of created beings and things and how God watches over and provides for the beast of the field, the wild donkey. The birds in their nests. The cattle are cared for. The trees of the field are included. The stork is mentioned. Wild goats are on the list. The rock badgers are named. Young lions roar after their prey. The ocean is filled with creatures both small and great. The psalmist is overwhelmed by how manifold His works are. He jubilantly states, “Your wisdom has made all this and the earth is full of your possessions.”

If the birds, the badgers, and the donkeys are waiting on God, then what about me? Too often I have found myself taking matters into my own hands. The problem with that? If things work out I take the credit, if they don’t the tendency is to blame the Lord. The best place to be is the place of total dependency. Does that mean I do nothing? Absolutely not. I do my work as unto the Lord with all my ability and diligence. The difference? I am looking to the Lord and He is blessing the work of my hands. Ps. 37:24 - “Wait on the LORD, and keep His way, and He shall exalt you to inherit the land...”



ANSWER KEY: WEEK TEN

1. TOTAL DEPENDENCY
3. LOOK UP
6. DIVINE FAVOR

WEEK ELEVEN  
**FATHER OF LIGHTS**  
**GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING**

JAMES 1:17, "EVERY GOOD GIFT AND EVERY PERFECT GIFT IS FROM ABOVE,  
AND COMETH DOWN FROM THE FATHER OF LIGHTS, WITH WHOM IS NO  
VARIABLENESS, NEITHER SHADOW OF TURNING."

## 1. WHAT IS THE LORD ALWAYS AT?

I can remember being in one of those difficult seasons that we all experience in this crazy world. Reinhard Bonnke came to speak at our church and spoke on this passage, with God there is no shadow of turning. Brother Bonnke said that the Lord is always at \_\_\_\_\_ . Like a sun-dial in the ancient world, at high noon there are no shadows. Bonnke went on to say that the Lord is always at high noon, always ready to work on behalf of His children. The simplicity of that message carried great power and was saturated with faith. I can remember how easy it was for me to believe God for the miracle that we desperately needed in our ministry. The miracle wasn't one of those instant miracles of provision, it was much greater than that. The Lord began a long term change in me and in our congregation that preceded us being swept up into revival.

## 2. WHAT IS GOD'S BENEVOLENCE LIKE?

Reinhard wrote, "God's benevolence is like a \_\_\_\_\_ which cannot be \_\_\_\_\_, eclipsed, or shadowed out in any way at all. Nothing can block God's light, interrupt the flow of His goodness, or put us in shadow so that we are out of the reach of His radiance."

Nothing can block or hinder the intense, relentless, radiating power of the light of the Glory of the Lord. His Glory is shining down on you today, full of life, light, and supernatural provision. (fb)

John Gill writes, "...as there is in that great luminary, the sun in the firmament, which has its parallaxes, eclipses, and turnings, and casts its shadow; it rises and sets, appears and disappears every day; and it comes out of one tropic, and enters into another at certain seasons of the year: but with God, who is light itself, and in Him is no darkness at all, there is no change, nor anything like it; He is unchangeable in His nature, perfections, purposes, promises, and gifts;"

### 3. WHAT DOES “HIS RADIANCE” DO IN OUR LIVES?

I love the constancy of the Lord, He is always there, always providing, always loving His people. His radiance is not only \_\_\_\_\_, it is \_\_\_\_\_. **It pierces** our very hearts, **revealing the secrets** we think are hidden away. This penetrating love is able to divide between the thoughts and the intentions of our hearts. As we allow Him to expose and purify our hearts with the Light of His Glory, we become prepared for His visitations. These visitations are sure and are unavoidable. Just as we cannot avoid the light of the sun, it is impossible to hide from the glorious light of His presence.

### 4. HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO SIT UNDER “THE FATHER OF LIGHTS” (HIS SHINING RADIANCE)?

The sun is one of the great pictures of God that the Creator has placed in His creation. Everything in our world is totally dependent on the sun. There is a constant flow of light that rains down on the earth. It gives us light, and heat, and the energy that is the source of all plant and animal life. This is a great picture of the constant stream of life that flows to us from the Father of Lights.

Adam Clarke writes, “God is never affected by the changes and chances to which mortal things are exposed. He occupies no one place in the universe; He fills the heavens and the earth, is everywhere present, sees all, pervades all, and shines upon all; dispenses His blessings equally to the universe; hates nothing that He has made; is loving to every man; and His tender mercies are over all His works: therefore He is not affected with evil, nor does He tempt, or influence to sin, any man.”

### 5. WHY DOES IT SEEM LIKE THE LORD IS HIDDEN AND HIS BLESSINGS ARE BLOCKED FROM US?

All of God and His blessings are revealed in His Son Jesus Christ. Look to Him, bow before Him in worship, seek Him in His word. You too will soon find yourself swallowed up in His beams of light and life.

## 6. WHO IS THE FATHER OF JESUS CHRIST?

Jonathan Edwards also spoke about this verse in a sermon in the 1730's. He said that the Lord is, first of all, **the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ**. In John 1:18 He is called the only begotten Son. This phrase is the word monogenes in the Greek New Testament. It means one of a kind or uniquely generated. Jesus is the only begotten of the Father. The reason His generation is unique is because it is eternal, without beginning. He has always been the only begotten of the Father.

Edwards went on to say that we have become sons of the Heavenly Father by the Spirit of adoption. We were children of darkness and have become His children by the infusion of His Spirit into our lives. We are no longer orphans, **we have become sons and daughters of the Father of lights.**

HEBREWS 1:5, FOR TO WHICH OF THE ANGELS DID HE EVER SAY, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"? AND AGAIN, "I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME"?

LUKE 1:35, "AND THE ANGEL ANSWERED AND SAID TO HER, "THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU, AND THE POWER OF THE HIGHEST WILL OVERSHADOW YOU; THEREFORE, ALSO, THAT HOLY ONE WHO IS TO BE BORN WILL BE CALLED THE SON OF GOD."

LUKE 3:22, "AND THE HOLY SPIRIT DESCENDED UPON HIM IN BODILY FORM LIKE A DOVE, AND A VOICE CAME OUT OF HEAVEN, "YOU ARE MY BELOVED SON, IN YOU I AM WELL-PLEASSED."

## 7. WHAT IS THE FATHER ALSO CALLED?

Ephesians 1:17, "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him."

Paul also called the Lord the Father of \_\_\_\_\_ in Ephesians 1:17. This is the Glory that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ and is now the reflected Glory that is shining in the life of His church. If you are born again, the reflected Glory of the Father of Lights is shining out from you into your world, your life is impacting people more than you know. There is a difference about you that may be subtle but it is full of power. Christ, the hope of Glory, shines out of your heart. He is shining in your home, in your place of business, and when you gather with friends. The Father of Lights is penetrating the darkness of this world. Where is this light shining from? It is shining from your face.



**THE BAILEY DRINK BLOG**  
**I SAW HIS GLORY**  
**PASTOR FRANK BAILEY**

JOHN 1:14, “AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH, AND DWELT AMONG US, AND WE SAW HIS GLORY, GLORY AS OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN FROM THE FATHER, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.”

This passage touches on the very nature of man’s basic problem; we were all born in a state of absolute spiritual blindness. Now spiritual blindness is far worse than natural blindness. A man born physically blind or who becomes blind in this life knows that something is wrong. He knows seeing is possible, he just can’t see. The spiritually blind have a double curse, they are blind and don’t know it. This passage shows the cure, the only cure for this horrible malady. Look closely at this verse and you will see it, the first time we can see is when we see Jesus as the Eternal Word who became a man. The Word became flesh, seeing that, seeing His glory, is where our seeing really begins. Here are some thoughts from Augustine on this amazing miracle:

“But because “the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,” by His very nativity he made an eye-salve to cleanse the eyes of our heart, and to enable us to see His majesty by means of His humility. Therefore “the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us:” He healed our eyes; and what follows? “And we beheld His glory.” His glory can no one see unless healed by the humility of His flesh. Wherefore were we not able to see? Consider, then, dearly beloved, and see what I say. There had dashed into man’s eye, as it were, dust, earth; it had wounded the eye, and it could not see the light: that wounded eye is anointed; by earth it was wounded, and earth is applied to it for healing. For all eye-salves and medicines are derived from the earth alone. By dust thou wert blinded, and by dust thou art healed: flesh, then, had wounded thee, flesh heals thee.”

This verse can change your view of Christmas. John doesn’t tell the story of the nativity, he is struck with eternity. The angels singing, the shepherds, and the wise men are all a beautiful part of this story, but this is the very heart of the Christmas miracle. The Eternal Word took on a human body, entered into the very creation that He had formed, and lived among us. Maybe this Christmas you too can say like John, “I saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth”.



**ANSWER KEY: WEEK ELEVEN**

1. HIGH NOON
2. LIGHT, EXPECTANCY
3. CONSTANT, PIERCING
7. GLORY

## CLOYED WITH LIGHT

THE WORLD WAS CLOAKED IN DARKNESS  
THE KIND THAT CLOUDS YOUR MIND  
THE HOPES AND DREAMS FROM DAYS GONE BY  
WE KNEW WE'D NEVER FIND

BUT THE PROMISE STILL REMINDED  
OF GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN  
THAT IN THE MIDST OF DARKNESS  
HIS LIGHT WOULD SHINE AGAIN

IT STARTED IN A MEADOW  
BLEATING SHEEP SOUNDS FILLED THE NIGHT  
THE DARK WAS FILLED WITH GLORY  
THEN SINGING CLOYED WITH LIGHT

WE HAD NEVER HEARD SUCH SINGING  
THE JOY WAS BEYOND COMPARE  
THE DARKNESS HAD BEEN CONQUERED  
HIS LOVE WAS IN THE AIR

THE LIGHT BROUGHT US TO A MANGER  
TO A STABLE AND AN INN  
IN BETHLEHEM WE FOUND THE SAVIOR  
THAT'S WHERE LIFE BEGAN

PASTOR FRANK BAILEY

WEEK TWELVE  
**CHRISTMAS LIGHT**  
**REJOICING IN GOD OUR SAVIOR**

ISAIAH 9:2, "THE PEOPLE WHO WALKED IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT; THOSE WHO DWELT IN THE LAND OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH, UPON THEM A LIGHT HAS SHINED."

## 1. WHERE ARE LIGHT AND LIFE FOUND?

John 1:4-5, "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."

At the time of Jesus birth, the land of Israel was experiencing a time of unprecedented darkness. It seemed as if the promises of the prophets, by now hundreds of years old, were just the words of dreamers without the slightest chance of ever coming true. It was in that time of chances that were slim and none, that the Light began to shine.

The world we live in is shrouded in darkness. It seems as if the world is permeated with a godlessness, an apathy about the spiritual realities that surround us. This spiritual darkness enslaves every person that comes into this world. It effects our perception of everything. At times, it may seem as if the story of the birth of Christ is irrelevant, only a story from long ago. But in it we learn of others, in spite of the darkness they lived in, saw a great light and their eyes were opened. Without the light that shines from the face of Jesus shining in our hearts today, it is impossible for us to see. **Light** and **Life** are found only in **CHRIST**. (fb)

## 2. DESPITE THE DARKNESS, WHO WERE WAITING FOR THE MESSIAH?

Luke 1:5-6, "There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zachariah, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless..."

Pastor Parris Bailey writes, "Despite the darkness there were a **REMNANT** of people who were righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah were two of those people. Day in and day out they silently served their God and believed in the promises of old. The fullness of time was upon them, but little did they know that the **Dayspring was about to arise with Healing in His wings**. And yet like all of us, they thought themselves to be prepared, they were taken by surprise."

### 3. IT HAD BEEN 400 YEARS OF DARKNESS. WHAT BEGAN TO CHANGE?

Pastor Parris Bailey writes, "The Old Testament in the book of Malachi ends with an historic prophecy about the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to the fathers. It is hard to believe 400 years pass between the Old Testament and the New. A lot can happen in 400 years! But time is so amazing that when it does happen, when God steps into our world, it always seem as if it always was. I pray if your world has grown silent, a "fullness of time" would come to you.

When you start to read the gospel of Luke you can tell the \_\_\_\_\_ had begun to move again. "The fullness of time was not yet come. The time was maturing, but was not yet ripe. Heaven was long ago prepared for an Incarnation. There must be a leading up to God's gift, or His blessings cease to be blessings. **The world must be prepared for the Christ**, or virtually He is no Christ, no Savior to them. The Christ must come into the world's mind as a familiar thought. He must come into the world's heart as a deep-felt need, before He can come as the Word Incarnate." (Quotes from Expositor)

### 4. HOW DOES GOD SHOW UP IN OUR DAILY LIVES?

Luke, right off in Chapter One begins to tell of that prophetic hour, "In the days of Herod, King of Judea". Such is the phrase that now strikes the Divine hour, and leads in the dawn of a new era, the time when the Dayspring on High will arise with healing in His wings. My, how a moment can change a world! All I know is that God, the angel Gabriel, Son of God and or the Holy Spirit show up everyday in our lives with \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Everyone in this Luke story was taken by surprise. The unexpected came. We can let 400 years pass us by or we can be like Simeon who "read from the stars of promise" and "filled his heart with music of fond hope" he kept awake till the dawn of morn. (Quotes from Expositor)



**“DO YOU KNOW THAT YOU ALWAYS LIVE IN THE DIVINE HOUR? THE FULLNESS OF TIME HAS COME FOR YOU! PUT YOURSELF IN THE PLACE OF EXPECTANCY AND CAST YOUR VISION! HE IS ALWAYS MOVING IN THE ORDINARY!”**

**PASTOR PARRIS BAILEY**

## 5. MARY WAS ANOTHER WHO WAS TAKEN BY SURPRISE, HOW DID SHE RESPOND TO THE ANGELIC MESSAGE?

(Read Luke 2:26-38).

Mary was caught by surprise when an angel appeared to her and told her that she would carry the Christ Child. **She put herself in the place of expectancy by accepting what was told to her. She said, "Let it be to me according to your word."** The vision was cast before her and she would not look back. The vision wasn't just a global vision for Mary it became personal. As a result she began to sing a new song. (PB)

## 6. HOW DID MARY MAKE ROOM FOR THE DIVINE PURPOSE TO BE FULFILLED IN HER LIFE?

Luke 1:46-47, "My soul doth magnify The Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior"

Mary made room for the divine purpose to be fulfilled in her life. She did so by putting herself in the place of \_\_\_\_\_, by simply surrendering to the Lord's song being sung through her life.

When Mary visited Elizabeth it wasn't long before their faith and joy combined into torrents of joy and the supernatural. One minute they were just two ordinary country girls that changed suddenly into a prophetess and poetess. Everyday we should look for God to show up in our ordinary, transforming it into something spectacular.

When Mary encountered the visit from the angel Gabriel she made it personal. She decided to magnify the Lord or make room for Him in her life. In fact it as if she said, "my spirit shall dance like David before the ark, I shall leap, spring, bound and rejoice in God my Savior. She was answering back that "the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head."

Will you embrace the divine purpose? Human will meets with the divine will and something supernatural always happens. The question is "will we surrender to the song God wants to sing over us? I am sure Elizabeth had "all kind of plans for her "little Johnny"- maybe he would be the best disc thrower or become a priest like his father. Instead he ate locusts and honey and grew dreads! When God comes near, our whole perspective can change. Mary faced a choice that day to either embrace what lay before her or run and deny the chance for God to overshadow her. All of us are faced with these same choices. (pb)

7. ELIZABETH, ZACHARIAH, MARY AND JOSEPH ALL HAD A SUPERNATURAL ENCOUNTER WITH GOD AND THEY SAW A GREAT LIGHT. WHAT IS THE MISSING LINK IN OUR LIVES FOR OUR EYES TO BE OPENED TO SEE GOD EVERYDAY?

The missing link in most of our lives is just that we never have had a \_\_\_\_\_ with God so we live from day to day in disappointment, heartache, and hopelessness. As in Mary, he always wants to stomp on the serpent's head in our lives. There is nothing like forgiveness, love and joy in the Holy Spirit. Like Mary, we simply cannot contain the gratitude we feel when God shows up in our storm. Are you willing to open wide and "let the King of Glory" come in?

Elizabeth, Zachariah, Mary and Joseph, all had an encounter with the living God. There was darkness all around, but the Light of Lights broke through and shone on their lives. They all put themselves in a place of expectancy. The vision that was placed before them was set and they never looked back. For them, the vision wasn't just for a nation, they made it personal. Without the light that shines from the face of Jesus shining in our hearts today, it is impossible for us to see. Oh to see into the unseen. To see the face of God and live, truly live....Their eyes were opened and now they believed... "with God nothing was impossible." "Let it be to me (also) according to your word." (pb)

 ANSWER KEY: WEEK TWELVE

1. CHRIST
3. GREAT CLOCK OF HEAVEN
4. HOPE, HEALING, NEW BEGINNINGS
6. EXPECTANCY
7. SUPERNATURAL ENCOUNTER

# O STAR!

O BEAUTIFUL STAR  
HOW BRILLIANT YOU ARE  
THE PLACE I SEE YOU SEEMS SO FAR  
WILL YOU HEAR MY CALL?

O STAR, STAR DIVINE  
HOW DO YOU MAKE YOUR FACE TO SHINE?  
IF WE FOLLOW THE STAR WHAT WILL IT SAY?  
“GO TO THE MANGER”  
WHERE CHRIST THE BABE LAY

FAR AWAY FROM PRESENT DANGER  
STAR OF AMAZING SHINE  
FULL OF HOLY LOVE DIVINE  
SHEPHERDS AWOKE IN THE NIGHT  
THERE WAS A GREAT LIGHT

THEY HEARD THE ANGELS SING  
GLORY TO GOD, PEACE TO ALL  
FIELDS AND VALLEYS DO RING  
THE NEWS OF THE NEW BORN KING  
O STAR, SHINE ON ME!

SHOW ME THIS WONDERFUL MYSTERY  
IN YOU, HIS FACE I WILL SEE  
FROM NOW TO ETERNITY  
YOUR SHINE BRINGS CLARITY

BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR  
FAIREST OF TEN THOUSANDS  
GUIDE TO ME TO THE DISTANT SHORE  
WHERE I WILL BE WITH HIM FOREVERMORE  
UNTIL THE DAYSTAR COMES WITH HEALING IN HIS  
WINGS.

PASTOR PARRIS BAILEY

WEEK THIRTEEN  
LET US GO TO BETHLEHEM  
GOD HAS COME NEAR

LUKE 2:1,4, "IN THOSE DAYS A DECREE WENT OUT FROM CAESAR AUGUSTUS THAT ALL THE WORLD SHOULD BE REGISTERED.... AND JOSEPH ALSO WENT UP FROM GALILEE, FROM THE TOWN OF NAZARETH, TO JUDEA, TO THE CITY OF DAVID, WHICH IS CALLED BETHLEHEM, BECAUSE HE WAS OF THE HOUSE AND LINEAGE OF DAVID,"

1. JOSEPH, MARY AND OTHERS WOULD FIND THEMSELVES ON AN UNEXPECTED TRIP TO BETHLEHEM. WAS THIS JUST A COINCIDENCE?

Proverbs 16:9, "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."

I don't think Joseph was filled with joy when he was summoned to the home of his heritage to pay his taxes. It was a most inconvenient time for this unusual family. Joseph's wife was carrying a baby in her womb that didn't come from Joseph. The whispering of rumors in Nazareth were bad enough, taking a trip to Bethlehem on a donkey with a pregnant wife to pay taxes he couldn't afford to intruders he didn't like was a little too much. **All of these supposed inconveniences and coincidences were actually the working of the hand of the unseen God.** As the old saying goes, the Lord often works in mysterious ways.



"THUS WE SEE THAT THE HOLY SERVANTS OF GOD, EVEN  
THOUGH THEY WANDER FROM THEIR DESIGN,  
UNCONSCIOUS WHERE THEY ARE GOING, STILL KEEP THE  
RIGHT PATH, BECAUSE GOD DIRECTS THEIR STEPS."

JOHN CALVIN

From time to time the Lord will lift the veil in our lives and allow us to see a glimpse of the beauty of Providence. His plans are definite, precise, and indefinable, I can rest in His plans and promises. Does that mean I do nothing? Ask Joseph. He still had plenty to do, he was just covered by the providential plans of God. (fb)

2. IN BETHLEHEM THERE WERE THOSE WHO WERE DRAWN TO THE SMALL TOWN, WHO'S EYES WERE OPENED TO SEE WHAT LAY BEFORE THEM. THEY WERE ALSO OTHERS WHO WERE UNAWARE. IS IT POSSIBLE, THAT WE TOO, WHEN CHRIST SHOWS UP THAT WE ARE UNAWARE?

Luke 2:7, "And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

This is one of the striking elements of Luke's account of the birth of Christ, there was no room in the inn. This instantly paints a picture in our minds of an insensitive, greedy business man who is just trying to make a buck on other people's misery. No time for a pregnant teenager, there is more important matters at hand. We tend to see ourselves differently, surely I would have made room for Mary, Joseph, and their son. But if the truth were known, would I? Every time I think of this story I am reminded of my reluctance to embrace the outpouring of 1994. God was moving and I was clueless. That's how it was for the innkeeper. Christ was visiting his very home and he was unaware. **How about you? Maybe The Lord is visiting us again, are we aware of His nearness?**

Martin Luther writes, "All of us should use the gospel to evaluate ourselves. How near or far are we from Christ? How are we doing in faith and love? Many become inflamed with dreamy devotion when they hear about how impoverished Christ was when he was born. They grow furious at the people of Bethlehem and criticize their blindness and ingratitude. They think that if they had been there, they would have served the Lord and his mother. They wouldn't have allowed them to be so miserable. But these people don't even notice their own neighbors who are nearby and need their help. They ignore them and leave them as they are. Who on earth doesn't have miserable, sick, blundering, or sinful people around them? Why don't they show their love to these people? Why don't they do for their neighbors what Christ did for them?"

### 3. WHY DOES THE LORD STRATEGICALLY PLACE US IN OUR POSITIONS IN OUR WORLD?

Maybe the Lord has shown up again, this time in the homeless man who visits your church, or the pregnant teenager next door. Or maybe He is the coworker struggling in his marriage or the neighbor overwhelmed with troubled children. Each one of us are strategically placed in our world to serve as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Often, our own problems or even our own important work tends to blind us to the truly important. As we take a break from our normal routines during our Christmas celebration maybe we can reflect on our current spiritual condition.

Maybe we, like the innkeeper in Bethlehem, have been blinded by our own busyness. **Maybe God has come near and we are unaware.** Maybe He has come near, moved into our own world. If we ask, He always answers. Go ahead, ask Him how He intends to reveal Himself and use you for His glory in the coming year. Maybe we can shut down our busyness and join the shepherds, wise men, and other creatures worshipping at the manger.

**LUKE 2:15, "SO IT WAS, WHEN THE ANGELS HAD GONE AWAY FROM THEM INTO HEAVEN, THAT THE SHEPHERDS SAID TO ONE ANOTHER, "LET US NOW GO TO BETHLEHEM AND SEE THIS THING THAT HAS COME TO PASS, WHICH THE LORD HAS MADE KNOWN TO US." AND THEY CAME WITH HASTE AND FOUND MARY AND JOSEPH, AND THE BABE LYING IN A MANGER."**

#### ANSWER KEY: WEEK THIRTEEN

1. SALT AND LIGHT
3. EARS TO HEAR
4. SPEND THEIR LIVES

## LET'S GO TO BETHLEHEM

LET'S GO TO BETHLEHEM  
I HEARD A SHEPHERD SAY  
HE WAS RAMBLING ABOUT SOME ANGELS  
HE SUPPOSED HE SAW THAT DAY

SOMETHING ABOUT THE THRONE OF DAVID  
HIS WORDS WERE STRANGE TO ME  
A VIRGIN AND A BABY BOY  
A SONG ABOUT GOD'S MYSTERY

GOD'S GLORY SHONE FROM HEAVEN  
I HEARD HIM CLEARLY SAY  
A KING BORN IN A MANGER  
GOD'S LOVE CAME NEAR TODAY

I TURNED AND FOLLOWED CLOSELY  
MY HEART THUMPED IN REPLY  
COULD THIS BE WHY I'M LIVING  
A KING JUST BORN TO DIE

THEN SOMETHING BURNED INSIDE ME  
THIS GLORY  
FROM ON HIGH  
GOD'S MYSTERY FROM HEAVEN  
THE KING WHO WAS BORN TO DIE

I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH KINDNESS  
SUCH POWER AND SUCH GRACE  
THIS KING REVEALED FROM GLORY  
HE DIED TO TAKE MY PLACE

PASTOR FRANK BAILEY

## NO EYE HAS SEEN...

THINGS NEVER DISCOVERED OR HEARD OF BEFORE, THINGS BEYOND OUR ABILITY TO IMAGINE. THESE ARE THE MANY THINGS GOD HAS IN STORE FOR ALL HIS LOVERS.

BUT GOD NOW UNVEILS THESE PROFOUND REALITIES TO US BY THE SPIRIT. YES, HE HAS REVEALED TO US HIS INMOST HEART AND DEEPEST MYSTERIES THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO CONSTANTLY EXPLORES ALL THINGS.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9-10 TPT

