

## **Eyes trained by the Flesh**

As we mature in the Lord one thing becomes clear that controlling sin in our life is the monumental task, At first the joy of our salvation keeps us through the excitement of our salvation bringing honor to the Lord and joy to our hearts. To be sure we want to become part of the Glory to come. This is mostly a work of God's Love through the Holy Spirit and our submission to Him, which means sanctification. Therefore, we must seek to hear His Voice for direction and our security. This comes by picking up our cross to follow Christ, staying humble before Him, and partaking of His Word with prayer

Being born again that we may see the Heart of God and His Kingdom we have an obligation to live our best always striving toward the goal of being called His child. An outward sign to those around us by bringing glory to the Lord "Whom" gave so much through His suffering. The Bible says He went to the cross despising the shame for the joy set before Him. That joy was making us His brothers and sisters. Even better, His Bride to live in eternal intimacy with our God.

This is where I bring in the Eyes of the Flesh. It is written the eye is the lamp of our soul. This simply means what the physical eye observes trains our soul. This becomes a problem for the born again believer. I can tell you that there are many men proclaiming themselves Christians who confess to me they struggle with lusting after women. This May include both sexes but more so for men. I find the younger we are in our devotion to Christ keeps us better from the soul training. Therefore dying to self (our cross) means changing our programming. This is much harder for those coming out of pornography, stripper bars, and loose living. It is more important than you know. As long as the soul trained by the eyes of flesh is alive, there will be struggles. The flesh does not die easy.

We know a person by their fruit if we give them that much time. The real shame is how many still observe others with the eyes of the flesh. The Christian when mature should see the heart of a person by looking their fruit. Too many times we still look at others with the soul of flesh showing we have not yet been crucified. This is why being sanctified is so important. The fact is if we are not walking in the fruit of the Spirit we probably will not know we are judging others by our eyes of flesh.

The parable about the speck and the log in the eye found in the Gospels (Matthew and Luke) are good examples. We don't want to get to the door of heaven and the Lord says depart from Me I never knew you. I believe this is where the Lord is talking about intimacy as His bride. I do not believe the Lord will spend eternity with a halfhearted (lukewarm) bride. Remember the flesh is our biggest enemy. All temptation and poor judgement come through the flesh.

The Bible says walk in the Spirit and you will not satisfy the desires of the flesh. Paul said why do I do what I don't want to do but if I do it I find it is sin living in me. He asked the Lord several times to remove his thorn in the flesh. We will never know what that thorn was however he did say I die daily. He felt the Lord left something to keep him humble because of the great amount of revelation the Lord gave him. However the Lord also said to Paul "My grace is sufficient"

There is no one that does not have this struggle with the flesh. That is why I mentioned reprogramming. This entire struggle goes through the cross (dying daily) that we may live. Do not get tired of the fight because it is life long. However the suffering is short as compared to an eternity of joy. There is no easy way to tell you this but a daily exam of thoughts and motives will be easier with HUMILITY. It proves and improves of our love for God!

Self-condemnation does no good. I tried it. Especially after you stumble. Daily repentance is the only answer. Yes, it is humiliating going before the Lord every day but you never find judgement only encouragement.

There is joy here on earth as we invest ourselves in others for His Glory.

I just took you on my 30year-road trip and I'm giving you my cliff notes so you can cheat and start at the end. Hope you are not too stubborn!

Love and blessing Rev. Callender