



CELL GUIDE 2015

Theme	You Choose - Life Before & After - Deuteronomy 30:19-20
Topic	I Once Was Blind, But Now I See!
Speaker	Elder Low Kok Guan
Date	12 nd and 13 rd December 2015

Message Summary

Spiritual Objective: Our Messiah comes, and the blind shall see

Self-denial is the first hindrance to our ability to see. There are two types of blindness: physical and spiritual. Spiritual blindness can be dangerous because it comes very subtly. How then can we help those who are spiritually blind, or be sure that we aren't the ones falling into the trap?

In John 9, Jesus met a blind man and healed him of his physical and spiritual blindness. This passage ties to Isaiah 35:4-5 where he prophesied that when our Messiah comes, the blind shall see. It is not sin that caused the man to be blind, nor did God make him blind for His own Glory. The fact is that we live in a fallen world but God overruled darkness, became the light of the world and healed this man. Not everyone will respond to this light; some may even be offended, which will result in spiritual blindness.

Avoid the Danger of Spiritual Blindness

In John 9:8-41, there are 3 groups of people: the **neighbours**, the **Pharisees**, and the man's **parents**.

The **neighbours** couldn't believe that the blind man can now see, so they were sceptical and started questioning him where this man called Jesus was. At the end, the blind man had to say, "I don't know", a response out of frustration to those who cannot see. Hence, the first danger to spiritual blindness is **scepticism**. What the blind man said was beyond the neighbours' imagination, so there was no rejoicing - only doubts and denial. The solution to such blindness is to walk by faith, not by sight. When the light of the world comes, the blind will see. Yet due to scepticism, the neighbours remained blind.

The **Pharisees** did not believe the blind man's testimony because it was contrary to what they knew. They thought they knew it all, but they didn't because the spirit within them was not right. In them was a spirit of **legalism**, the second danger to spiritual blindness. To them, Jesus must be a sinner because He "worked" on a Sabbath day by healing the blind man. Instead of praising God, they tried to discredit Jesus. This happens when legalism slips into our hearts. Our hunger for power, our pride and anger, etc. is what is making us spiritually blind. The key to overcoming this is to understand the heart of God; our God whose love is unfailing. Knowing the Scriptures is important but it is not good enough; we must also know Jesus' heart, otherwise if we will end up contradicting the Word of God.

When the man's **parents** were being questioned, they repeatedly said, "ask my son". Excommunication was a fearful consequence of any Jew. Thus by avoiding the question, his parents thought that they had succeeded. Ironically, they had fallen into a bigger trap that they cannot see, which is the **fear of men**. This trap can hinder our spiritual sight, but trusting in God will lead us through and keep us safe (Proverbs 29:25).

Spiritual blindness doesn't happen overnight, it is progressive. We love because God first loved us.



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Hence, don't lose our first love but instead, hold on to God's promises, obey and trust Him in order to avoid the dangers of spiritual blindness. In turn, we can help those who are spiritually blind.

Answer the Call to Reach the Spiritually Blind

To reach out to the spiritually blind requires intentionality and patience. In reaching out to the blind man, Jesus was there to redeem his soul, to bring light to His people and to give eternal life. Through John 9, there are two lessons that we learn from Jesus:

1. Reaching out might not always be easy. It takes time and sometimes people may get offended. However, we should not give up in reaching out to the lost because the Lord will help us as we continue to sow the seeds and build the bridges.
2. Meet the felt needs before the person's spiritual needs. Just like the blind man who took a step of faith towards the pool because he wanted to see, we must be practical when reaching out to the lost by meeting their felt needs and God will take care of their spiritual needs.

Hence, we must continue to work the works of Him who sent us (John 9:4-5). Jesus is the light of the world but we must work together with Him for we too are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). We must shine for Jesus by pointing others to Christ and as we obey, God will work with us and in us.

Accept the Truth to Gain Spiritual Sight

After meeting the Pharisees, it dawned on the blind man that Jesus was not just an average man but a man from God. In John 9:38, he finally accepted the truth and worshipped Jesus and ultimately, gained spiritual sight because he chose to accept and obey the truth.

All of us are born spiritually blind because of this fallen world. To gain spiritual sight, we must first believe and accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. After which we need to move from salvation to spiritual maturity, then can we naturally share Christ as we mature in Him. We should follow God out of conviction, not because it is comfortable or convenient. There is a price to pay, but remember that it was Jesus who gave up everything for us to give us salvation. Only through Him can we be brought out from darkness and into His wonderful light.

Conclusion

Let's choose not be so caught up with the things of this world that can ultimately blind us. Start with what we can do. Avoid the dangers that can lead to spiritual blindness, answer the call to reach out to the lost and choose to accept and obey the truth so that we can proclaim, "I was blind but now I see"!



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Questions

1) Imagine what life would be like if you were blind. What are three things you would miss the most?

(Fill In Answer Here)

2) Share with us a personal struggle you had that have put you in danger of becoming spiritually blind. What did/will you do to overcome it?

(Fill In Answer Here)

3) The sermon covered the following 3 points: 1. Danger of spiritual blindness. 2. Call to reach the spiritually blind. 3. Accept the truth to gain spiritual sight.

At which juncture do you think you resonate with the most at this point in time? Share with us your thoughts and how the cell group can pray for you.

(Fill In Answer Here)