



Seeing the Unseen

“Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’” (John 20:29 ESV)

Here Jesus declared to his disciple, Thomas, a sacred blessing on all who believe He is God without the assurance or confidence that comes by physical sight. It is a blessing for all of us who have come to know Jesus in faith.

Thomas finally understood in this moment when he exclaimed, *“my Lord and my God!”* (John 20:28b) that *“No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, He has made Him known”* (John 1:18), yet Thomas didn’t arrive here by faith. He believed that Jesus was God’s physical manifestation to humanity because he saw Him. Yet, physically, Jesus was in the flesh for only three decades of human history. After His ascension, Jesus was no more available to the physical senses of mankind. He is “seen” now only by faith, which *“comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ”* (Romans 10:17). **“We walk by faith, not by sight”** (2 Corinthians 5:7). It is by believing the Gospel that faith “sees,” because faith is a spiritual “sight” brought by assurance and conviction: *“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen”* (Hebrews 11:1), for the things that are seen physically distract us from spiritual reality and promises of God.

The Kingdom of Heaven is only “seen” by the spiritually alive, it is not visible to the spiritually dead. Only if you are “re-born” through faith can you see the realities of God through assurance and confidence in His promises: *“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he*

cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3), for, *“I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, ‘You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; You will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; For the heart of this people has become dull, With their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes, Otherwise they would see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and return, And I would heal them.’ But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear”* (Matthew 13:13-16). This insight is the difference between the world’s physical sight, which blinds men to reality, and the spiritual sight of Heaven that brings life when we are born again through faith in the Word of Jesus Christ, revealed to us by His Holy Spirit. We are truly privileged with a sacred blessing to have not seen with our physical eyes and yet to SEE through faith!

Unfortunately, many modern Christians seem wearied by this blessing. They seem tired of the multi-millennial wait to see Jesus. They want ready-made results that are tangible. Jesus warned us this would happen when he said, *“The days will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. They will say to you, ‘Look there! Look here!’ Do not go away, and do not run after them”* (Luke 17:22-23). What a dangerous distraction our physical eyes can be! Therefore, let us walk patiently in faith *“fixing our eyes on Jesus”* (Hebrews 12:2a), remembering always that *“we have fixed our hope on the living God”* (1 Timothy 4:10b). Remember always that *“faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass”* (1 Thessalonians 5:24). Amen.