

WHAT 'LOOKING' WILL DO

TEXT: *Lamentations 3:51: Mine eye affecteth mine heart because of all the daughters of my city.*

INTRODUCTION:

It is amazing what effect our eyes have upon our whole life. What we behold with our eyes will affect our heart and conduct. Our eyes are a very precious possession, a priceless possession. They are much more in use than almost any other organ in our body, besides the heart. There are things which we can behold that will bless us, cheer us, and direct us.

There are some things which we can take a look at and keep looking at that are beneficial to our lives. I'll get to that a little later, but for now, I'd like to remind you that God made everything in His creation beautiful in his time.

Ecclesiastes 3:11: He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also He hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

There are beautiful flowers, the wonders of Creation, the attractive colors in the feathers of many species of birds . . . If you have ever to been to Aalsmeer in Holland where there is a gigantic warehouse where they bring all kinds of gorgeous flowers for shipment around the world, it is breathtaking. Plus, there are all the scenic beauties of the landscape with acres of flowers.



Then there are the amazing cathedrals in England, in Stratford on Avon, the beauties of Hawaii, our own Grand Canyon, and Yellowstone National Park, or Yosemite. Then there's Alaska with its wonders. Truly God made everything beautiful in his time.

You and I enjoy seeing the happy faces of our friends. We are greeted by an

adoring look from our mates, children, and close relatives or friends. Some of God's spiritual giants in the faith have had the marvelous privilege of seeing the Lord, either in a vision or in person. Apostles were so blessed as well as the people of the generation in which Christ came down to earth. The apostle saw the shining face of our Lord on the Mount of Transfiguration and were blessed by it.

2 Peter 1:16-18:

16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

17 For He received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to Him from the excellent glory, This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.

18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with Him in the holy mount.



The apostles see Jesus transfigured.

Moses also saw the Lord's face and was transformed into the same glory, being with the Lord for 40 days on Mount Horeb.

The prophet Isaiah also saw the Lord high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple in heaven.

Isaiah 6:1, 5:

1 In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple.

5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.



Isaiah's eyes affected his heart. He was convicted of his loose tongue which was defiled by too much arguing, murmuring, complaining, and critical and negative talk. He had a confession meeting, and God responded by sending an Angel with a live coal from God's altar to purge his lips. Then, after the cleansing, Isaiah had a divine call from the Lord for active service:

Isaiah 6:8: Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

King David said:

Psalm 16:8: I have set the LORD always before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Psalm 25:15: Mine eyes are ever toward the LORD; for He shall pluck my feet out of the net.

Acts 2:25: For David speaketh concerning Him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for He is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:

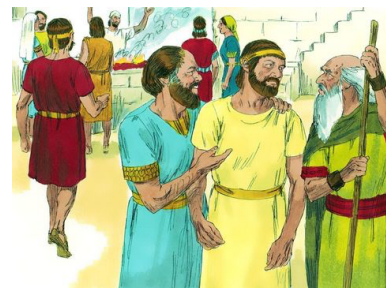


That is a much wiser thing to do than most people — including some Christians — who set the television always before their eyes; and what they behold affects the heart, often taking it away from the Lord, rather than toward Him.

In Psalm 34:5 we read:

Psalm 34:5: They looked unto Him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.

God was about to choose a new king to replace the backslidden King Saul. For this replacement king, He sent His prophet Samuel to the home of a man called Jesse who had eight sons. Samuel observed the eldest son, Eliab, and said to himself: "Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him".



Samuel looks upon Jesse's son, Eliab.

1 Samuel 16:6: And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before Him.

But the Lord said:

1 Samuel 16:7: But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

We can be fooled and deceived by good looks, by what we see with our eyes. A man may see a pretty face and a shapely body, and want that person as his mate; but later he discovers he got what he wanted, but doesn't want what he got.

Stephen, a preacher for the Holy Ghost, looked steadfast into heaven and saw Jesus standing on the right hand of God the Father, and got blessed.

Acts 7:55: But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,



Stephen sees Jesus.

The Scriptures tell us that he was brought before the Jewish Council in Jerusalem for questioning about his preaching. They, at the Council, looked steadfastly at Steven and saw his face as if it had been the face of an angel.

Acts 6:15: And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.

Those in the first church, which included the apostles, were very dejected and discouraged because their Lord had been crucified, had died, and was buried, and they felt abandoned. However, this was not for long, for Jesus prophesied that He would rise again the third day. Their faith was not up to par, so they hid themselves away for fear of persecution. They were weeping and mourning until suddenly — into that bolted and locked-door home — Jesus was standing. They were shocked, amazed, and couldn't believe their eyes. Jesus showed them His hands and feet which had been pierced, His side also that had been pierced by the sword, and said to them:



Jesus appears to the apostles.

Luke 24:39: Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself: handle Me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see Me have.

The Scriptures the say in John 20:20:

John 20:20: And when He had so said, He shewed unto them His hands and His side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

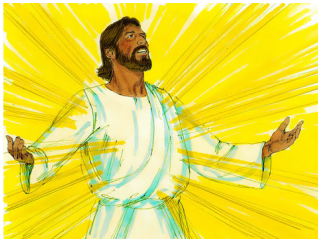
You can see how our eyes can affect our hearts, for good or otherwise.

One of Jesus' apostles was cast onto the isle of Patmos where he was abandoned for boldly preaching God's Word, and for his testimony of Jesus. The Lord was now resurrected from the dead and had ascended into Heaven at the right hand of God. He, seeing His beloved Apostle on that lonely island, made a personal appearance to him, and this is what happened according to John's testimony:

Revelation 1:17-18:

17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the First and the Last:

18 I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.



QUESTION: What did the Apostle John behold that's so astonished him?

ANSWER: He saw the Lord glorified with the Glory He had with the Father before the world was.

Revelation 1:13-17:

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks One like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

14 His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and His eyes were as a flame of fire;

15 And His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and His voice as the sound of many waters.

16 And He had in His right hand seven stars: and out of His mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and His countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. And He laid His

right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the First and the Last:

Revelation 1:7: Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen.

Isaiah 33:17: Thine eyes shall see the King in His beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.

Mark 10:17-21:

17 And when He was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to Him, and asked Him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou Me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

20 And he answered and said unto Him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.



1 Corinthians 2:9: 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.

2 Peter 3:13-14:

13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

Titus 2:13-14:

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Hebrews 9:28: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

There can also be:

A Harmful Look

A Seducing Look

An Angry Look

An Enticing Look

A Jealous Look

An Envious Look

A Fatal Look

The **FIRST SIN** was committed with a look, a look at the forbidden thing.



Genesis 3:6: And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

That look was a costly look, for it cost Eve the lovely home which she was enjoying very much in the beautiful Garden of Eden.

The **SECOND SIN** was caused by an envious look.

Cain saw God's holy fire come down upon Able's sacrifice as a witness from the Lord that it was approved, but Cain's wasn't. It's amazing what effect our eyes could have on our heart. Cain became very angry, and God took notice of his countenance. He asked Cain:



Genesis 4:6: And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

Then God said this:

Genesis 4:7: If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.



The FATAL LOOK — LOT'S WIFE

Genesis 19:26: But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

THE COVETOUS LOOK — ACHAN

Joshua 7:20-21:

***20 And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done:
21 When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.***

THE HATEFUL LOOK — MICHAL, THE WIFE OF DAVID.



She looked through a window and saw king David leaping and dancing before the Lord, and despised him in her heart.

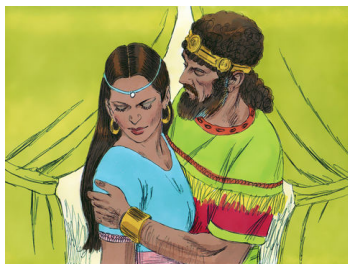
2 Samuel 6:16: And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

THE LUSTFUL LOOK — KING DAVID

2 Samuel 11:1-4:

1 And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

2 And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.



3 And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

4 And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

His eyes affected his heart.

King David took one look too many and got into serious trouble with God over that lustful look. The Bible says:

Matthew 5:28: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Exodus 20:14: Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Psalms 119:37: Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.

Exodus 20:17: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou

shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Leviticus 18:20: Moreover thou shalt not lie carnally with thy neighbour's wife, to defile thyself with her.

Leviticus 20:10: And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

A wrong look can get any one of us into serious trouble.

A wrong look can get any one of us into serious trouble with God, with ourselves, and with our neighbors. Many a jealous husband killed the offending neighbor who seduced his wife to commit adultery.

Proverbs 27:20: Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

Proverbs 6:25-26:

25 Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids

26 For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.

THE ANGRY AND FURIOUS LOOK — NAAMAN

2 Kings 5:11-12:

11 But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.

12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.



Naaman the leper

THE GREEDY LOOK — GEHAZI

2 Kings 5:20-22:

20 But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, as the LORD liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.

21 So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, Is all well?

22 And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments.



Gehazi lies to Naaman

Gehazi was lying about his master Elisha, for it was he who wanted those things, money, and clothes. But his covetousness cost him his health, for the leprosy of Naaman came upon him, and he was a leper until his death.

2 Kings 5:25-27:

25 But he [Gehazi] went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither.



26 And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants?
27 The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever.

And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.

THE PROUD LOOK — KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR

Daniel 4:28-31:

28 All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar.

29 At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon.

30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

31 While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.

THE KINGDOM IS DEPARTED FROM THEE

Isaiah 2:11: The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

Psalms 18:27: For Thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks.

Proverbs 16:18: Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 6:16-19:

16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

THE FEARFUL LOOK



Matthew 14:30-31:

30 But when he [Peter] saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

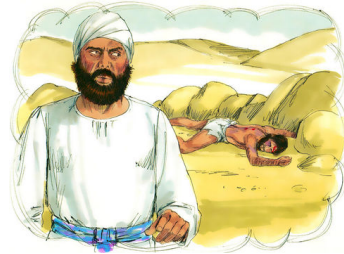
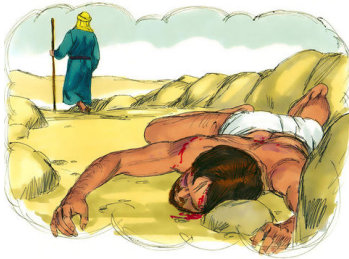
31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand,

and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

THE COLD, CALLOUSED, AND LACK OF COMPASSION LOOK

Luke 10:30-32:

30 *And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.*



31 *And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.*

32 *And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.*

LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING

Acts 28:2-6:

2 *And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold.*

3 *And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand.*

4 *And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live.*



5 *And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.*

6 *Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god.*

THE REMORSEFUL LOOK

Luke 16:23-24:

23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.



THE LOOK THAT BRINGS LIFE

Isaiah 45:22: Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

Numbers 21:5-6:

5 And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.

6 And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.

Numbers 21:8-9:

8 And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.



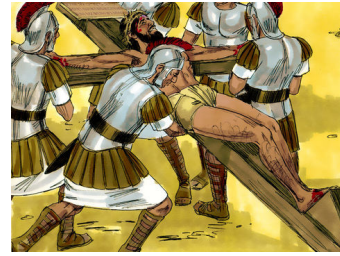
9 And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

Just as the children of Israel were saved from physical death by looking upon the brass serpent in the wilderness, those who look upon the Lord Jesus Christ Who was nailed to a cross for the sins of the world will be saved and will have eternal life.

John 3:14-15:

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

15 That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.



Look unto Jesus, for in Him will you find eternal life.

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