

Eyes Wide Open

Recently I heard the testimony of a young lady who was ecstatic about God. She read her Bible in public without regret or restraint, speaking enthusiastically about the wonders of God's goodness and grace. I thought to myself, *this young lady is the antithesis of the Apostle Paul's description of the spiritually blind:*

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (^{NIV} II Corinthians 4:3-4)

In contrast to the spiritually blind her spiritual eyes were wide open, a living answer to Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:18:

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, (^{NIV} Ephesians 1:18)

I have to ask myself, *are the eyes of my heart as wide open as those of this young lady? Or has my vision been blurred by spiritual cataracts?* I vividly recall the sensations that followed my total commitment to Christ. When the eyes of the heart are enlightened, there is godly hope and an awareness of riches literally out of this world. However, when disappointments followed by betrayals immerge, the heavenly perspective narrows to a squint. Eyes that were once wide open become tiny slits, resembling those of a boxer that has gone ten rounds with a champion. Eventually, eyes that once enjoyed full vision are now fogged over with spiritual cataracts.

Paul's prayer for the eyes of the heart leads me to believe that all believers, including pastors, need prayer teams to pray that their spiritual eyes would be opened and remain open throughout the various challenges of life and ministry.

Have you developed a prayer team yet? Will you request that your team pray **that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints?**

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