

“Impressing God”

By Mrs. Sojourner

My question to you today is, are you trying to impress God?



Many people do all sorts of good godly things, or follow many rules and regulations impeccably trying to make themselves impressive to God. The key word here is that they DO things to impress God.

Notes:

- [a] 1 Sam. 15:22 KJV
- [b] Mark 12:30 KJV
- [c] Acts 9

Understanding that there are things we should and should not do, there are a few things we must remember.

First of all, “to obey is better than sacrifice...”^[a]

Next, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind”^[b]

Loving God with all we are—this impresses God. ³²“Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. ³³To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacri-

fices.” Mark 12:32-33 NIV

All of this comes down to two things: 1.) being who God called us to be. and 2.) an issue of the heart. Will we always do everything perfectly and never sin? Likely not, but we can dedicate ourselves to loving God and relating to him in a loving, respectful but also very personal manner.

Saul of Tarsus was very wrong in his actions, but his heart was pure in his desire to honor God.^[c] Because of this God turned him around, he learned his new identity through Christ and became Paul who wrote two-thirds of the New Testament.

Paul’s actions were not the key, his heart was the key. The same is true of you. A heart after God, this is what impresses him.

9-08

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Sojourning

Vol. 9 No. 8 February 21, 2010

...with The Sojourner

“How Do You See?” (Teaching Sketch)

Matthew 13:11-17 (NIV)



Sight is very important to everyone. Can you imagine what your life would be like if you did not possess the sense of sight? Being blind to the world around us would certainly limit us in many of our daily activities. Most would find the work they do to be severely hampered if not impossible without the blessing of sight. Close your eyes and imagine how hampered your life would be without being able to see around you.

The World’s Sight

The world’s view of sight is very much restricted to the sense of sight—physical sight. This is because the world perceives sight as, basically, physical only. When the world speaks of sight it talks of the physical organs of the eyes, the optic nerves, and brain’s handling of received information from the eyes. Now hold on, before you take me to task, yes, the world also speaks of insight and foresight. These attributes from

the world’s point of view are still attached to what the eye can see.

When Moses, following God’s instruction,

Notes:

[1]

Eph. 1:18
The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

went before Pharaoh to tell Pharaoh to free Israel from slavery, he was repeatedly denied. Why? Because Pharaoh had not seen the consequences of refusing Moses. It took many plagues to convince Pharaoh because he had not seen enough evidence of the necessity of granting God’s command through Moses.

The world sees the five senses as the overwhelming validation of a thing or a matter. The world says, “Seeing is believing.”

The Believer’s Sight

The Believer’s sight is based on Jesus Christ and his Word. His Word is the Word of faith which says, “Believing is seeing!” This is very different from the world’s perception.^[1] The Believer has the same natural senses as those in the

9-08

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture: Matthew 13:11-17 (NIV)

(NIV is employed here to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

¹¹He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. ¹²Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ¹³This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. ¹⁴In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: " "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

Notes:
[a]
Isaiah
6:9,10

¹⁵For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'[a] ¹⁶But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. ¹⁷For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

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world plus the gifts of the Spirit recorded in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11.

⁷But to each one is given the manifestation of the [Holy] Spirit [the evidence, the spiritual illumination of the Spirit] for good and profit.

⁸To one is given in and through the [Holy] Spirit [the power to speak] a message of wisdom, and to another [the power to express] a word of knowledge and understanding according to the same [Holy] Spirit; ⁹To another [wonder-working] faith by the same [Holy] Spirit, to another the extraordinary powers of healing by the one Spirit;

¹⁰To another the working of miracles, to another prophetic insight (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose); to another the ability to discern and distinguish between [the utterances of true] spirits [and false ones], to another various kinds of [unknown] tongues, to another the ability to interpret [such] tongues.

¹¹All these [gifts, achievements, abilities] are inspired and brought to pass by one and the same [Holy] Spirit, Who apportions to each person individually [exactly] as He chooses. ¹

Cor. 12:7-11 AMP)

The Believers contain the ability with themselves to see

with spiritual eyes. "How is this possible?" may easily be asked. The answer is that the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells within the Believer. ^{Rom 8:11}

How Do You See?

The world, as mentioned earlier, sees with the natural eye while the Believer sees with natural and spiritual eyes.

The world often says Believers believe because they are weak and need a crutch and that crutch they call faith or belief in God. Well, those same critics use telescopes, microscopes, and binoculars to enhance their natural abilities not calling them crutches but enhancements. They do not belittle those who use them. Perhaps it is because these enhancements are man-made or natural in origin. If this is the only way you see, you are greatly missing The Creator's plan for you. You are in fact living a handicapped life where sight is concerned.

The gift of sight, both physical and spiritual, is far more capable when enhanced by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. View life through all The Spirit provides!