



Issue 66 – March 29, 2017

The Naz Prayer Ministry



## The Tethered Life

A few years ago, I was quite convinced that I was going blind.

I could not read anything without an inordinate amount of light and then only with large print on the whitest of paper. Freeway signs were mere blurs. The font size on the computer was set at about 24 pt. and higher, and the magnifying feature was on the desktop for quick and easy use. And street signs, oy vey!

My ophthalmologist had advised me nearly 15 years earlier that I had both glaucoma and macular degeneration, neither of which can be cured, only managed, and I assumed they had run their course. So at my appointment the exam included the familiar machines and usual tests, except for one that was new to me. When the doctor finally came through the door, I heard, “Well, let’s take care of those cataracts.”

*Cataracts!*

At that moment I recalled that nearly 10 years before, he had mentioned I was starting to form cataracts, but from that single moment to this one, the word *cataract* had never passed between us.

Within a matter of days – the surgery behind me, the bandages off – skies were blue, grass was green and I didn’t have to come to a dead stop in an intersection to read a street sign.

What a difference a little clarity – or a lack of it – can make.

The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13:12 that in this life “we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror,” knowing only “in part.” But a day is coming when we will be able to see clearly.

We who have been touched by grace look forward to that day when the restraints of time and space fall off, and we experience the clarity of an eternity in the presence of the Lord, “face to face,” all things revealed and all mystery dispelled, seeing as He sees, knowing as He knows.

But what about some clarity on this side of heaven? In this life there will always be ambiguities and obscurities. Our understanding is limited, but issues of life and truth that puzzle us need not confuse us.

He is still the Sovereign God of grace.

The God whose grace raises us from darkness to light and makes us new creations is the same God who is Lord of all. Our limited capacity to understand does not limit Him. He still is over all and still extends grace. “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory in the face of Jesus the Messiah” (Corinthians 4:6).

Clarity on our spiritual journey is anchored in who He is; not in who we are, strengths or weaknesses.

We are to be learners, to be sure. “Let the wise listen...and become even wiser. Let those with understanding receive guidance” (Proverbs 1:5, NLT). But whatever degree of learning skill we exhibit, we are simply absorbing light given by the One whose “life brought light to everyone” (John 1:4).

Spiritual clarity is the product of keeping our focus. The Greek word *shalom*, meaning peace included the sense of being complete. When there is no conflicting allegiance within us, we are indeed complete in our faith. *Shalom* is the secret to spiritual clarity. We may understand in part, and still live with our focus set clearly on the Sovereign Lord of grace and truth. We long to learn, but we live at rest (*shalom*) with the assurance that He sees perfectly what we wait to see when we stand in His presence.

## Taking Our Next Step Together

In You alone, Lord, are we complete. Any true clarity of faith comes from You. Deliver us from a life tethered and spiritually restricted by what we do not yet fully know. Help us to embrace You daily as Lord and discover the clarity of living a life tethered to Your sovereignty and grace.