

## **BEING BORN BLIND SO THAT ONE MAY SEE THE LIGHT OF TRUTH (JOHN 9)**

Our Scripture today includes one of Jesus' "I AM" claims, where He says "I AM the Light of the world". Although in **John 9**, Jesus is reiterating, what the Apostle John recorded Jesus as saying in **John 8**, where Jesus had said, "I AM the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (**John 8:12**) We can therefore see a connection between the stories in **John 8** with **John 9**. In **John 8**, Jesus had said that right after some scribes and Pharisees had brought a woman caught in adultery to Jesus, to see what His judgment would be concerning her. After Jesus had said "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first" (**John 8:7**) and everyone turned and walked away, Jesus said to the woman, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more." Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I AM the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (**John 8:10-12**) That sounds like repentance. Turn from sin and follow Him.

That goes along with John's recording of what Jesus had said previously in **John 3**, where Jesus had that conversation with the Jewish leader Nicodemus, of which Jesus had told him that one must be born-again, born of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, in order to be saved and have eternal life. Jesus then said, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." Then also, as we're putting this all together to make sense of the doctrine of Christ, Jesus had said, as recorded in **John 6:27-29**, "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him." Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" [ie-what must we do to ensure that we are saved] Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." While it may seem as though Jesus is contradicting Himself saying to labor for the food which does not perish but also to just believe in Him. That is the summation of what the Apostle Paul tells us in **Ephesians 2:8-10**, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created

in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

For many who WERE following Jesus, we find a contrast to that, as what Jesus says in **John 6**, which became a stumbling block to many of His followers. Jesus told them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him." (**John 6:53-56**) Right after, Jesus explained to His disciples, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life." (**John 6:63**) Then we read one of the saddest passages of Scripture in God's Word, "From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Now it may seem to be that to be born blind is a handicap that one is stuck with throughout one's life. Yet spiritually speaking, which our next story alludes to that, one is born blind, into darkness and sin, in order to see the Light that has come into the world.

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[**John 9:1-12 (A Man Born Blind Receives Sight)**] Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. [that pertains to all of us] And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."

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Keep in mind as we move forward with this story, the once blind man was given eyes to see. Yet there's more to the story as it is with us, once we are given eyes to see, spiritually speaking.  
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**[John 9:13 (The Pharisees Excommunicate the Healed Man)]** They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself." His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the **Jews had agreed already** that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from." The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.

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Everyone involved in that story had been born blind, so-to-speak and everyone in the story was born into sins. Yet the Jewish rulers were not willing to come to the Light, to accept the Truth, so that they too could see. The Apostle Paul addressed that. "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the

foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—that, as it is written, **“He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”** (1 Corinthians 1:18-31)

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**[John 9:35-41 (True Vision and True Blindness)]** Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when **He had found him**, He said to him, **“Do you believe in the Son of God?”** He answered and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” And Jesus said to him, **“You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.”** Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” **And he worshiped Him.** And Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.” Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, “Are we blind also?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see.’ Therefore your sin remains.

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There is then but one Way. As Jesus said later in **John 14:6**, **“I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”** One other story that ties in with this. A man who had a demon-possessed son had asked Jesus’ disciples to deliver Him. They could not but Jesus then entered the scene and “Jesus said to him, **“If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”** Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” As Jesus had stated, **“For many are called, but few are chosen.”** (Matthew 22:14), it is not in our blindness that we are not chosen nor initially in our unbelief, as we all start out with those handicaps. Yet are we willing to acknowledge our unbelief, shortcomings, our foolishness in comparison to the One who is perfect in all of His Ways and Works, and our sins against Him, and cry out for the Truth. Do you want the Truth? Once the Truth has been revealed to you, what will we do then? Follow the Truth or walk away? **“And you shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free.”** (John 8:32) **John 1:12-13.** To those who do believe, **“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”** (Matthew 5:16) **[Fruit of the Spirit]**