

Yielded Bodies

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CHAPTER TWO

THE EYES OF THE HUMAN BODY

**"The light of the body is the eye:
if therefore thine eye be single,
thy whole body shall be full of light.
But if thine eye be evil
thy whole body shall be full of darkness,
If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness,
how great is that darkness"**
(Matthew 6:22-23)

"He that formed the eye, shall he not see?"
(Psalm 94:9)

With all his mechanical skill, man has never yet built a machine that even approximates the precision, delicacy, intricacy, mystery and durability of the human body.

With all the careful explorations and startling discoveries of the physiologists, the wonderful story of the human body - the body, "**not for fornication but for the Lord**," - has not been told by half. Some of the processes of the human body are so intricate that even today, after hundreds of years of painstaking investigation, they remain a complete mystery.

Who ever found, or can now find, any palace or cathedral that held or holds, such severe beauty, such chaste proportions, such marvelously wrought walls, such magnificent adornments as are found in the human body?

Have you not read the romance of modern times as credited in the discoveries of the human body

- Harvey, with his circulation of blood?
- Aselli, showing the existence of the lymphatic system of vessels?
- Hales, revealing the method of the direct measurement of the blood pressure?

- Haller, with his patient work on the muscles?
- Lavoisier, discovering oxygen and showing its functions in respiration?

And are not these men but a few of the modern explorers of the human temple who stand before its countless mystic doors and add fresh emphasis to the Psalmist's words:

"For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them" (Psalm 139:13-16).

Here is evidence of GOD's planning from the very moment of conception.

GOD's signature, as in the book of nature, is written everywhere in the human body, showing us that a thing of such precision and accuracy could not have possibly come by chance or by evolution. Forget never that only GOD could conceive and create such a marvelous thing as the human body.

We must remember as we think of the body

- that **"the body is more than raiment"** (Luke 12:23);
- that **"if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live"** (Romans 8:13);
- that we are to glorify GOD in the body (I Corinthians 6:20) because **"the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body"** (I Corinthians 6:13).

We, as believers, can never be found **"always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus might be made manifest in our body"** (II Corinthians 4:10), unless we give heed to these words:

"Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? Know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body" (I Corinthians 6:15-18).

In *Othello*, Iago says:

"Our bodies are gardens; to the which our wills are gardeners: so that if we will plant nettles or sow lettuce, set hyssop and weed up thyme, supply it with one gender of herbs or distract it with many, either to have it sterile with idleness or manured with industry, why, the power and corrigible authority of this lies in our wills. If the balance of our lives had not one scale of reason to poise another of sensuality, the blood and baseness of our natures would conduct us to more preposterous conclusions: but we have reason to cool our raging motions, our carnal stings, our

unbitted lusts."

It is good for us to remember Shakespeare's words as we hearken to Paul who said: "**I keep under my body, and bring it unto subjection**" (I Corinthians 9:27).

Paul, urging upon us the wisdom of yielding our bodies to GOD, speaks of "**your members**" - meaning the members of our bodies. We have but to lose one of these members - a hand or a finger on the hand, a foot or a toe on the foot, an arm, a leg, a tooth, a part of the lip - to know the value of every member of the body.

Our message today is one about the eyes.

Consider the MARVEL OF THE HUMAN EYE

The eye is the imperial organ of the human system. The eye is mentioned 534 times in the Bible.

In the Bible,

- GOD honors the eye,
- extols the eye,
- illustrates the eye,
- arraigns the eye,
- condemns the eye.

And surgeons speak of the glories of the eyes. And physiologists write much of the wonders of the eyes. GOD is a GOD of infinite wisdom. Proof of this is that He created the human eye. Had He been less than infinite in wisdom, He could not have created the human eye. "**The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them**" (Proverbs 20:12).

GOD sings an anthem of praise to His own infinite wisdom and creative power in human eyes. For there are eight hundred contrivances in the human eye. Modern optometry has developed a twenty-one point eye examination. There are twenty-one different measurements of the eye and its muscles. Of all the senses, sight is supreme. Although it is small as compared with some of the other faculties, the eye, by reason of the quality, the delicacy, the painstaking thought which has gone into its construction, reigns with a kind of undisputed kingship over all man's bodily powers.

It is wonderful how the eye can:

- flash with indignation,
- kindle with enthusiasm,
- expand with devotion,
- melt with sympathy,
- stare with fright,
- leer with villainy,
- droop with sadness,
- pale with envy,

- fire with revenge,
- twinkle with mirth,
- beam with love,
- frown with wrath,
- contract with pain.

The wise philosopher said: "An eye can threaten like a loaded and leveled gun, or can insult like hissing or kicking. In its altered moods, by beams of kindness, it can make the heart dance with joy." What a genius among the members of the human body is the eye!

Dr. Talmadge once said: "The eyes of Archibald Alexander and Charles S. Finney were the mightiest part of their sermons. The fire of spiritually passionate souls burned in them."

George Whitfield enthralled great assemblages with his eyes, though they were crippled with stabismus. The HOLY GHOST lit them. Many a military chieftain has with a look hurled a regiment to victory or to death.

Martin Luther turned his great eye upon an assassin who came to take his life, and the villain fled. Under the glance of the human eye, the tiger, five times a man's strength, snarls back into the African jungle.

Logan Clendening, M.D., who often discusses the diseases of the eye in detail, says that the mechanism of the eye is complicated - and he speaks of the "peculiarities of the sense of vision."

Vision is created by light striking on the retina of the eye. The retina is made up of probably the most complicated nerve cells in the entire body. These cells, stimulated by light, carry an impulse of some kind to a special part of the brain where it is translated into form, color and light itself. And yet, this is only part of the mystery of the mechanics of the eye.

For instance, the eye has automatically to close or open the pupil so that exactly the right amount of light comes in. It has to lengthen or shorten the lens so that an object is in focus. Every photographer has learned the trouble that he gets into from similar needs of accommodation with his iris and his distance, and he has had to employ all kinds of gadgets to help him out. Yet, the eye does all of this automatically.

The cells in the retina are of various kinds. Among them, named from their shape, are rods and cones. The present theory is that the cones are stimulated both by light and color perceptions, while the rods perceive only light itself and have nothing to do with color.

The sensation of light produced by radiant energy impinging on the retina consists of two factors - brightness and color. Color is dependent on the wave length, brightness on the intensities of the light rays.

Wonderful sights we see on this earth! - Niagara Falls, where 250,000 cubic feet of water pour over the rocks every second. The moon blossoming like a large jonquil in the garden of the patient stars, or with invisible brush painting a path of silver across seas and lakes, or spreading a silver mantle over the hills and plains of earth. Snow storms glorifying the earth with a covering of white, making the garbage heap look like a king's palace. Square miles of peach blooms

kissed by a golden sun. Thousands of fluttering sea gulls' wings. The Grand Canyon, more glorious than words can say, where it seems GOD paused and worked longer and did better work than in some other places. Ten thousand little children each with a red poppy in hand. Great tall pines, GOD's million-stringed harp, strung against the wind. But the most wonderful sights we ever see are not so wonderful as the instruments through which we see them - the human eyes.

A poet pictured the sunset and the night in these words:

The beautiful black stallion men call night
Hurdles, with one long leap, the sunset bars;
His flying, wild mane jeweled with a touch of lilac light,
And his graceful cloud-hooves shod with diamond stars

But more wonderful than what is yonder in sunrise morning and sunset evening and midnight splendor are the human eyes that enable us to see these.

Telescope and microscope in one is the human eye. It can see the sun 95,000,000 miles away - and the point of a pin. It can gaze on the smallest insect and the most luminous star. The traveler among the Alps with one glance takes in Mont Blanc and at the next second the face of his watch to see if he has time to climb it. We can from the tip of Mt. Washington take in New England. At night we take into our vision the constellations from horizon to horizon. We can take in at one glance miles of the Mississippi in one second and at the next second tiny dewdrops falling from the rims of lily cups. We sweep into our vision the cloud chariots rolling across the skies and at the next second we take in the earthworm crawling in the mud. Strong enough to behold the "tabernacle of the sun" set in the midst of the heavens and yet so delicate and so semi-infinite that the light coming at the rate of nearly 200,000 miles a second is obliged to halt at the gate of the eye waiting until the portcullis be lifted.

There is not much danger that we shall fail to see the beauties of the landscape by day nor the glories of the heavens by night where the star blossom in "the infinite meadows of Heaven," but there is a danger that we shall be blind to the gold in the common clay of humanity; blind to the opportunities of service; blind to the responsibilities of church; blind to the harvest fields at our doors; blind to the glory and worth of commonplace service; blind to the things that matter most; blind to the warning lights set here and there: blind to the wounded man by the roadside. If the eyes are yielded to GOD, they are not blind to things of service in the world.

But we have to think of the evil usage of the eyes - because we have learned of the

EVIL EYES

Poets and writers have written many things about the eyes. Note these:

- "eyes like a butterfly's gorgeous wings."
- "Eyes like the reflection of stars in a well."
- "Eyes like those of a roe tenderly looking at her young."
- "Eyes like orient pearls." "Eyes like lovely lamps."
- "Her eyes like marigolds, had sheathed their light, and canopied in darkness sweetly lay, till

they might open to adorn the day."

- "Eyes like torches flinging their beams around."
- "Sunken gray eyes, like reflections from the aspect of an angel."
- "Doubting eyes, like a child that never knew but love, whom words of wrath surprise."
- "Eyes like the summer's light blue sky."
- "Eyes like the dawn of a day."
- "Eyes shining like thin skins full of blood."
- "Twin violets by a shady brook were like her eyes."
- "Her eyes were homes of silent prayer."
- "Her eyes are sapphires set in snow."
- "Honest eyes, blue like tropic skies."
- "Solar eyes, like meteors which rival the dark like a new day."
- "Eyes like blue pansies."
- "Eyes like the eyes of doves."
- "Eyes like moonbeams glowing."
- "Eyes that mock the diamond's blaze."
- "Eyes mild as a gazelle's."
- "Limpid eyes laughing in the summer sun."
- "Eyes dilted as if the spirit world would open before him."
- "Bright eyes - like lotus blossoms."
- "Blessed eyes, like a par of suns, shine in the sphere of smiling."
- "Eyes whose sleeping lid like snow on violets lies."
- "Eyes like an orange grove, in whose enchanted bowers the magic fire-flies rove."
- "Eyes - pioneers that first announce the soft tale of love."
- "Eyes like the open Heaven, holy and pure from sin."
- "Dim dried eyes like an exhausted well."
- "Eyes as fair as starbeams among twilight trees."
- "Eyes like the fish pools in Heshbon, by the gate of Bethlehem."
- "Deep eyes - darker and softer than the bluest dusk."

But the eye is also spoken of an evil, **"Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats"** (Proverbs 23:6). The eyes are oftentimes enemies of the body and the soul. They live and function, creating dangers, as though they had hands to pull up flowers in the soul's garden, as though they were dynamite to blast foundations to bits, as though they were ghouls poisoning wells where thirsty travelers drink.

The truth of the eyes being **"instruments of unrighteousness unto sin"** (Romans 6:13) is testified to in the writings of many.

For example:

- "Her eyes worked like an ice gimlet."
- "Eyes like burnt holes in a blanket."
- "Eyes like flames of sulfur."
- "Burning eyes that blaze through a lace veil, like flame through cannon spoke."
- "The dame had eyes like lightning, or the flash that runs before the hot report of thunder."
- "Ambiguous . . . eyes like the china dog on the mantel piece."

- "Expectant yellow eyes, like a cat watching the preparation of a saucer of milk."
- Balzac says: "His eyes, like those of a pitiless judge."
- Robert Burton writes: "His eyes are like a balance apt to propend each way, and to be weighed down with every wrench's looks."
- Joseph Conrad declares: "Those dry eyes of his shining more like poisoned stones than living tissues."
- And Daudet: "Eyes, gleaming like lizard's eyes in the crevices of old walls."
- And Emerson: "when a man has base ends, and speaks falsely, the eye is muddy, and sometimes a-squint."
- And Gautier: "A burning eye, yellow and phosphoric, like the eye of a crocodile."
- And Holmes: "The lack-lustre eyes, rayless as a Beacon Street door-plate in August."
- And Keats: "The Sophist's eye, like a sharp spear, rent through her utterly, keen, cruel, perçant, stinging."
- And Sir Thomas Overbury: "Her eyes are like free-booters, living upon the spoil of stragglers."
- And Saltus: "Eyes - mirage of sultry prisons."
- And Shakespeare: "And eye like Mara, to threaten and command."
- And Sterne: "An eye is, for all the world, exactly like a cannon, in this respect, that it is not so much the eye or the cannon, in themselves, as it is in the carriage of the eye and the carriage of the cannon - by which both the one and the other are enabled to do much execution."
- And Tasso: "His threatening eyes like flaming torches burned."
- And another: "His eye red as 'twould burn Rome."

But weightier than all these are the words of the Bible, showing that the eyes of the soul as we have read in Proverbs 23:6: **"Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats."**

And among the seven things that are an abomination unto GOD is included in the words: **"A proud look"** (Proverbs 6:17).

A brief catalogue of evil eyes is interesting:

There is the *winking eye*:

"He that winketh with the eye causeth sorrow" (Proverbs 10:10).

"Let not them . . . wink with the eye that hate me without a cause" (Psalm 35:19).

And *mocking eyes*:

"The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it" (Proverbs 30:17).

And the *insatiate eyes*:

"The eye is not satisfied with seeing" (Ecclesiastes 1:8).

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

"He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye" (Proverbs 28:22).

The insatiate eye is the eye of greed. It becomes yellow, no matter what its color is, from looking too long at gold or its reflection. The unseen, eternal world never enters the vision of insatiate eyes. Desire for gain, search for the seen, forgetting that **"a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth,"** no heavenly visions, no holy communings, no sweet spiritual joys. The spiritual world a blank - a dense darkness. Miserly eyes that never glow, that never kindle with luster, fail to achieve one of the highest uses of the eye - that of being the outward visible sign of a living soul.

The human eye is the organ of sight but it is also an organ of speech, and it carries messages to keep, too high for the voice to utter. The life-giving power of a generous eye, flashing the quick movement of a sympathetic heart, is well expressed in Browning's words: "He lived in his mild and magnificent eye." Even the animals which have no equipment of distinctively human muscles - those we use to smile with - nevertheless have the gift of eyes which speak. The human whose inert and stingy eye holds back like a miser its possible healing radiance and never speaks the warm glow of the spirit descends even below the level of the dog and the horse.

Ungenerous eyes are also those which see only a pitiful fraction of the human and divine scene. Such stingy eyes do not swing on a pivot like a searchlight; they are set solid like a lamp post. They see only a groove running in one direction. They are set solid.

Edwin Arlington Robinson paints a memorable picture of Aaron Stark, a miser in his line, "with eyes like little dollars in the dark." Little dollars in the dark - what an equipment with which to see GOD's world. And yet how many people have traded eyes for little dollars.

And *pitiless eyes*:

"They shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye shall not spare children" (Isaiah 13:18).

"His eyes are privily set against the poor" (Psalm 10:8).

And *ensnaring eyes* are spoken of when Solomon says:

"My son . . . the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light . . . to keep thee from the evil woman . . . Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids" (Proverbs 6:23-25).

And *irreverent eyes*:

"Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the Lord" (Jeremiah 7:11).

"Her priests . . . have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths" (Ezekiel 22:26).

And *jealous eyes*:

"And Saul eyed David from that day and forward" (I Samuel 18:9).

This has been called the green eye. Shakespeare gave it that name: "Oh, beware, my Lord, of jealousy! It is the green-eyed monster, which doth mock the meat it feeds on." JESUS spoke of the jealous eye when He said:

"Is thine eye evil, because I am good?" (Matthew 20:15).

Jealous eyes "sear the conscience, warp the judgment, sour the spirit, and blunt all delicate sensibilities." People who look through such eyes bid an eternal farewell to happiness, for "jealousy is as cruel as the grave." Look through jealous eyes - and you will narrow and vitiate your soul.

And the *inflamed eyes of drunkenness*

"Who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright" (Proverbs 23:29-31).

All of which means: Keep your eyes off the wine cup, for most sin begins at the eyes. Some sin against the eyes through the stomach.

And *lustful eyes*: The eyes of Potiphar's wife were lustful eyes.

"And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me" (Genesis 39:7).

Against such eyes, Job warned men when he said:

"I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?" (Job 31:1).

So did Peter when he wrote:

". . . having eyes full of adultery, and that can not cease from sin" (II Peter 2:14).

And Job surely had adulterers with lustful eyes in mind when he said:

"They are of those that rebel against the light; they know not the ways thereof, nor abide in the paths thereof. . . . The eye also of the adulterer waiteth for the twilight saying, No eye shall see me: and disguiseth his face" (Job 24:13-15).

But GOD sees. **"Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps?" (Job 31:4).** Surely the lustful eye must often become a painful eye - it dreads the light. The possessor of eyes full of adultery.

". . . hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deed be reproved. And this is the

condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19-20).

David had lustful eyes when he staked his crown for a woman's caress, when he endangered his throne for a woman's embrace.

"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 of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon" (II Samuel 11:2).

Our LORD warned men against the evil of lust when He declared that a look was sometimes tantamount to adultery.

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: but I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:27-28).

What a curse to a man to look out upon the world through eyes of lust.

All life seems an inflamed and unholy thing. The light that comes in through adulterous eyes wears a foul track across the brain and induces a fever in the heart which nothing but a miracle can remove. There is only one alchemy which can change the eyes of lust into eyes that are pure - the blood of JESUS which cleanses from all sin.

And not least, though we mention them last, among evil eyes are *fault-finding eyes*. JESUS knew this when He said,

"And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye" (Matthew 7:3-5).

Lowell calls them "flaw-finding eyes, like needle points." Fault-finding eyes that are eyes of malice, and eyes that snap with ill will, eyes that magnify faults, eyes that dim merit, eyes that see only defects, eyes that see blemishes.

JESUS showed how important it is that we yield our eyes to GOD as instruments of righteousness when He said:

"The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" (Matthew 6:22-23).

You will recall how Bunyan represents the five senses as five gates to the citadel, all of them barred against Emmanuel, their rightful KING. So it is with him that hath an evil eye. Evil eyes

that read wrong things - how they serve the Devil.

How often the eyes are made sewer channels that carry slop and garbage and plague to souls. Books as foul as filth are read - books which ought never to see light. I do not mean that all books should be religious. There are good books, good histories, good biographies, good novels, good books of all styles to fill the minds of the young so that there will be no more room for the useless and the vicious than there is for chaff in dough.

But "I am a business man and have no time to examine what my children read - no time to inspect the books that come into my house." If your children were threatened with typhoid, would you have time to watch the progress of the disease? Would you have time for the funeral?

In the presence of GOD, I warn you that your children are threatened with moral and spiritual typhoid and that unless the thing be stopped, it will be to them a funeral of body, a funeral of mind, a funeral of soul - three funerals in a day.

Evil eyes that look on bad pictures - how they please the Devil and dishonor GOD. Evil eyes that look lustfully on women - how they please Satan and grieve GOD. Evil eyes that never see open church doors - how they gratify Satan and displease GOD. Evil eyes that covet what others have - how they please Satan! Evil eyes to which the shine of gold means more than sunlight and moonlight and Heaven's light.

I want us to think of the truth that through the eyes come

THE BLESSINGS OF LIGHT

"Let there be light!" said GOD. And there was light. What a wonderful thing light is!

But not to the blind people.

- The light of the glowworm, the firefly, the cat's eye;
- the light of boiling lava in deep volcanic craters, of phosphorus;
- comet's tails millions of miles in length, showers of meteors, of the sun, the dawning light of morning, the fading light of evening, of moon hanging like a globe in the sky, of the moons of all the planets, of rings of Jupiter, of Pluto, the newly discovered planet;
- lights red and green in railroad systems, candlelight, lamplight, incandescent light.

Light of beacon lights,

- searchlights,
- conflagration,
- bonfires,
- forest fires,
- molten metal,
- furnaces,
- strange lights of laboratories,
- sparks that ride with the blast,

- burning charcoal, blacksmith's forge,
- flashlights, burning blubber in Eskimo's icy cave,
- beautiful bowls in Mohammedan mosques,
- incense sticks that burn before images of Buddha,
- decorating homes of India at time of Dewali festival,
- fishing boats of China sea,
- lights of sparks that scatter from wheels of friction,
- of phosphorescent ocean wave,
- of miner's lamps,
- of aurora borealis,
- of my hearth when the log is the vista of my dreams,
- of my hearth when glowing coals become an avenue for memory,
- of my hearth when dreams are done and memory is fast asleep,
- of the spark found by stirring ashes in the morning.

GOD said: "**Let there be light.**" And without eyes we could enjoy none of the lights that are in this world. What a wonderful thing to have sight - to have functioning eyes.

But we might be blessed if we considered the

LIMITATIONS OF THE EYES

Though the eyes are wonderful - microscopes and telescopes in one, superior organs of the human body - still they have their limitations.

- The microscope that enables us to see a world in a drop of water authenticates such a statement.
- The telescope, magnifying the power of the human eye millions of times and enabling us to view landscapes millions of miles away, testifies to the limitations of the human eyes.
- The spectrograph which makes it so that human eyes can see the constituent elements of the remotest astral bodies-the gold in the sun, the copper in Mars, the iron in the moons of Jupiter-shows us the limitations of man's eyes.
- The X-ray, without which we can not see the marrow in men's bones or the pounding of the heart, authenticates all assertions as to the limitations of the human eyes.

We know that of all the senses sight is supreme. Sight, with the instrument of the eye, has not a superior beneath this dome of skull and brain. But sight, though the instruments of the eyes, cannot see everything.

- The eyes cannot see thought.
- The eyes cannot see life.
- The eyes cannot see hope.
- The eyes cannot see faith.
- The eyes cannot see prayer.

But, forgetting those higher matters for a moment and coming back to the physical things; the eyes, up to 458,000,000,000 vibrations per second, cannot see anything at all. And light waves have to beat in upon the eye at the rate of 727,000,000,000 vibrations per second before they can

see ultra violet. And we cannot say what goes on beyond the vibrations which produce ultra violet.

And the eyes cannot see eternal things. The eyes cannot see the forces that govern the physical world. All these forces are unseen. You never saw heat, nor wind, nor electricity, nor gravitation, nor life. You never saw ambition, nor aspiration, nor personal influence, nor pain, nor music, nor love, nor prayer, nor emotion, nor decision, nor degeneration, nor death.

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (II Corinthians 4:18).

How great the truth:

While with an eye made quiet by power
Of harmony, and the deep power of joy,
We see into the life of things.

Moses **"endured - as seeing him who is invisible."**

But think now of the

BLIGHT OF BLINDNESS

How wonderful the blessing of sight. How awful to be blind - never to see a child's face, a starlit night, a flower, an orchard. Never to see anything. What a blight to be forever in midnight! How long was the night for the man born blind, and for blind Bartimaeus - until JESUS came along.

Terrible to be blind

- "blind as hooded falcons,"
- "blind as the monologue of a storm,"
- "blind as a pilot beaten sightless by foam,"
- "blind like tragic marks of stone,"
- "blind as Samson at the mills of the Philistines,"
- "blind as Zedekiah in Babylon."

Think of Samson losing his eyesight!

"But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetter of brass; and he did grind in the prison house" (Judges 16:21).

This terrible loss Samson bewailed in his last pathetic prayer.

"And Samson called unto the Lord, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes" (Judges 16:28).

How terrible this scene in the Bible:

"And they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass, and carried him to Babylon" (II Kings 25:7).

But more terrible than to be born blind or to be made sightless is to have two good eyes and yet be blind! Listen to the Psalmist:

"They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not" (Psalm 115:5).

Hearken to these words:

"But the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them" (Acts 28:27).

Blind eyes, speaking of minds blinded by a veil of prejudice and unbelief. Blind eyes, testifying to minds contracted as when bigotry narrows visual power!

More awful than blindness is it to have two good eyes and yield them to the Devil as instruments of unrighteousness, so that perspective and localizing power is destroyed, so that spiritual things are distorted as would be a landscape if looked at through a badly twisted pane of glass.

Thinking of the blight and burden of blindness, let me ask you a few questions:

- What if GOD were suddenly to take your eyes out of their sockets?
- What would you promise GOD to do with your eyes if He would give them back?
- If GOD would ask you to read the Bible daily, if He would restore your eyesight to you?
- If GOD would require of you the promise to look upon the preacher in the pulpit and hear his sermon each Sunday, would you promise that to get your eyes back?
- If GOD would say you could not get your eyes back unless you promised to visit someone in the name of JESUS would you promise to visit?
- If your eyes were torn from their sockets and GOD would tell you He would put them back, even as JESUS healed the severed ear of Malchus, if you would pay GOD His one-tenth henceforth, would you promise to do so?

I think you would. How much more than should you, in gratitude for your eyes, do these things?

But I want to think now of the blessed truth that

GOD HAS SOMETHING MORE LOVELY FOR HIS CHILDREN THAN EYES HAVE EVER YET SEEN

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor hath ear heard, neither have entered into the

heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (I Corinthians 2:9).

Oh, why will men be content with lives so small, when GOD means them to be so large? Why will they cramp themselves in their contemptible little worldly plans, when GOD is waiting to flood them with His own eternity? "**The things which are seen are temporal.**" "They are born of time. They are last with time. They will pass with the passing of time. But the things which are not seen are eternal."

Perhaps no woman ever lived to whom the world offered more than it gave to Madame Pompadour, mistress of Louis XIV, and the most powerful woman of her day. In her diary, she wrote: "I am always gloomy. the King's kindness affects me no longer. I have lost relish for all that once pleased me. I caused my house at Paris to be furnished magnificently. That pleased me for two days. My residence at Bellview is charming - and I alone can not endure it. In a word, I do not live. I am dead before my time."

Something like that Catherine of Russia said, when she came to die: "I am an accumulation of broken ends."

On the night before the conquest of Quebec, General Wolfe lay in his tent reciting:

The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,
And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,
Await alike that inevitable hour,
The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

Wolfe was killed next morning. And for us all "this earthly house of our tabernacle" shall soon "be dissolved." But when our tent blows down, if JESUS tarry, "**we shall have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens**" - a house we have never seen. It is eternal!

Thank GOD for the glorious and good things our eyes have seen! Temporal. Thank GOD for the most glorious things our eyes have not seen! Eternal. All the flowers our eyes have seen here will fade, but not the eternal flowers over there. All the trees our eyes have seen here will fall, but not the tree of life over there. All the streams our eyes have seen here will dry up, but the stream that flows from the throne, never. All the faces our eyes will see here will fade, doubtless. But faces glorified with eternal radiance and beauty over there - never!

We ought not to say so much of the human eyes without thinking of

GOD'S EYES

"He that formed the eye, shall he not see?" Job asked: "**Doth not he see all my ways and count all my footsteps?"** "**Thou God seest me.**"

"But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of Heaven: a land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord thy

God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year"
(Deuteronomy 11:11-12).

"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars" (II Chronicles 16:9).

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good" (Proverbs 15:3).

How foolish men are to think to hide from GOD to whom the midnight is as the noonday, to whom the darkness and the light are both alike.

Job showed the folly of such evil in these words:

"The eye also of the adulterer waiteth for the twilight, saying, No eye shall see me: and disguiseth his face" (Job 24:15).

And GOD, who seeth all, who knows our downsitteing and uprising, makes a promise to those who yield the members of their bodies to Him as instruments of righteousness:

"He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; he shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure"
(Isaiah 33:15-16).

And GOD says: **"I will guide thee with mine eye."**

Precious promise GOD hath given
To the weary passerby,
On the way from earth to Heaven,
"I will guide thee with mine eye."

When temptations almost win thee,
And thy trusted watchers fly,
Let this promise ring within thee,
"I will guide thee with mine eye."

When thy secret hopes have perished
In the grave of years gone by,
Let this promise still be cherished,
"I will guide thee with mine eye."

When the shades of life are falling,
And the hour has come to die,
Hear the trusty PILOT calling,
"I will guide thee with mine eye."

"I will guide thee, I will guide thee,
I will guide thee with mine eye;
On the way from earth to Heaven,
I will guide thee with mine eye."

And I beg you by the eyes of JESUS that always looked with compassion on the multitudes, that sometimes flared with the wrath of Heaven's hatred of sin, that sometimes wept tears of grief over cities which shut GOD out - let your eyes be in GOD's calling and in GOD's keeping as instruments of righteousness.

By the mercy and grace that were in the eyes of JESUS when, on the night of Peter's base denial, He turned and looked on Peter, I beg you to let GOD use your eyes.

By the solemnity of the thought of GOD's all-seeing eye, by the knowledge that the darkness is as the noonday with Him with whom we have to do, by the promise of Him who says **"I will guide thee with mine eye."**

- By the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death,
- by the shortness of time and the endless reach of eternity,
- by the certainty of that hour when you must look into the eyes of JESUS, the righteous JUDGE!

I beg you to yield your eyes to GOD as instruments of righteousness.

Remember the words in Luke 11:34-36:

"The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness. Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness."

Get warning and comfort in the words:

"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to whew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him" (II Chronicles 16:9).

Let it never be said of you that you have an evil eye (Mark 7:22). And rejoice in GOD's promise:

"He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; he shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure" (Isaiah 33:15-16).

~ end of chapter 2 ~
