

Spiritual Blind spots

He was very sure of himself. He loved his master and there could be nothing that would separate them. He knew within himself that he would sacrifice all for his Lord. Had he not declared him one who was blessed? That was a memorable day for Peter. The Lord had just finished speaking about John the Baptist and told them that John came in the spirit of Elijah! That cleared the air as there was debate as to who John really was. There was specific scripture that this fulfilled. He was the voice of one crying in the wilderness, who prepared the way of the Lord (Isa 40:3). He indeed prepared the way for Jesus! When he had done his job, Jesus took over (Matt 11:1-14 and 14:1-13). But he said, who do you say I am? It was indeed time for Jesus to reveal his identity to his disciples:

*When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? ¹⁴ And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. ¹⁵ He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? ¹⁶ And Simon Peter answered and said, **Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.** ¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ²⁰ Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ (KJV Strong's) Matthew 16:13-20.*

The spiritual insight or revelation that Peter had, was so powerful and deep, that only God could have been behind it. But that should not be a resting place! Whatever estate you are in the Lord at the moment, just note that there is more! Spiritual insight, such as the momentary one Peter had, was the foundation upon which God will build his church. Jesus had the key of David, and his job was to transfer the key to all mankind, everyone, who must come to the state of glory, must have such spiritual power and insight. Compare Matt 16:19 to Isa 22:22- 23 (where the Lord spoke about Eliakim, a type of Christ and Rev 3:7 (where it directly spoke about Jesus our Lord, when he was speaking to the leadership of the church in Philadelphia. He did not find fault in Philadelphia, but they needed to add additional work to their faith though they were no pretenders who have many blind spots in their spiritual lives.

Some have said that he made Peter the rock or lead for the kingdom to come. The focus of the declaration was the revelation and not the person of Peter! So, Peter was "sure" of himself and acted in the euphoria of the immediate past declaration of the revelation that God granted him! When therefore the Lord began to talk about what will happen to him in Jerusalem, Peter rebuked him!

From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. ²² Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. ²³ But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. ²⁴ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵ For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. (KJV Strong's) Matthew 16:21-25.

Some pride had set in. He was operating in the realm of men and not of God. Peter obviously had a blind spot, a spiritual blind spot that he did not know or could not see. But the Lord Jesus, who sees and knows everything, rebuked him. The NIV puts it this way:

Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." (NIV) Matthew 16:23.

Obviously, it was the contrary spirit in Peter that the Lord called Satan!

In Galatians 2:11-15, Paul reported that Peter acted hypocritically and stopped eating with the gentiles on the arrival of Jews. He ate with them prior to the arrival of the Jews and other Jews imitated him. Paul had to challenge him publicly because it was not right. That was another blind spot, a hypocrisy displayed by one who knew that God had accepted the Gentiles, especially by the revelation that was shown to him in Acts 10, which until the Jews who believed the Gentiles were unclean arrived. Old culture and habits overtook him, until Paul brought in the correction.

Blind spots are gaps in our spiritual lives that we may not be conscious of, which Satan exploits at our weak moments. We should all pray to God to reveal them to us early, so that the blind spots do not create embarrassments to the kingdom. Lord, reveal all the blind spots in my life to me, by your holy spirit. Let, Oh Lord, Satan not take advantage of me like he did David.

David was a righteous man. In moments of spiritual idleness, he was tempted up to the point where his sexual drive pushed him to take Beersheba from Uriah and he arranged his death in battle. No one, except Joab, his military captain and collaborator in crime would have sensed the purpose for which Uriah was murdered. Joab eventually died a violent death in the hands of Solomon. There is a price tag to every act of ungodliness! But God saw it. We can discern the heart of David, when Nathan told him a story of a cheating man (II Sam 12: 1-12). David was so angry that he was ready to put such a cheat to death, until Nathan told him that he was the one. He had a costly price to pay for that error, a blind spot that Satan exploited in his life. This blind spot did not reveal itself, until his unguarded moments... Blind spots are latent. They are invisible and may not interfere with normal Christian life until there is a trigger.

When the day of arrest for crucifixion came, same Peter had boasted that he would die with Jesus if anyone touched him, denied him, openly. The Lord forewarned him that he would deny him three times before the cock crowed. Further, at the Mount of Olives, he was told that Satan had asked permission to sift him as wheat, but the Lord told him that he had prayed for him, not for the temptation not to come, but for him to recover from it. When he recovers, he should help his brethren... to stand. While "warming himself" by the fire of the enemy, a house help recognized him as a disciple of Jesus. He denied Jesus Christ, his master three times. He said he did not know him at all. The cock crowed as predicted after the third time and he remembered what Jesus told him that he would deny him three times before the cock crowed. He was sorrowful and cried out for repentance. The Lord restored him, otherwise, he probably would have committed suicide like Judas, who could not stand the shame of his betrayal. This was reported in all four gospels (Matt 26:34, 75, Mark 14: 30, 72; Luke 22:34, 61 and John 13:38).

Good morning Holy Spirit. I pray this morning that you will reveal my spiritual blind spots to me so that I might be like the Philadelphians, to whom you promised an open door, if they remain faithful. Heavenly father purge every pretense from me and beam your light into every dark spot in my life, so that the

enemy would not have any place to hide and spring surprises on me. I must make it to the throne. Amen.
I am back!