

# The Gospel According to John

“Only the Blind Will See”

John 9:1-41



## John 9:1-7

As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth.

And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?” Jesus answered,

“It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.” When He had said this,

He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes, and said to him,

“Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent).

So he went away and washed, and came back seeing.

## John 9:8-12

Therefore the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, “Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?” Others were saying, “This is he,” still others were saying, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the one.” So they were saying to him, “How then were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash’; so I went away and washed, and I received sight.” They said to him, “Where is He?” He said, “I do not know.”

## John 9:13-17

They brought to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind. Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them,

“He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see.”

Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, “This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.” But others

were saying, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And there was a division among them. So they said

to the blind man again, “What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?” And he said, “He is a prophet.”

## John 9:18-23

The Jews then did not believe it of him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

## John 9:24-29

So a second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner." He then answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." So they said to him, "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? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?" They reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from."

## John 9:30-34

The man answered and said to them, “Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him. Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.”

They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?” So they put him out.

## John 9:35-41

Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him,  
He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

He answered, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?”

Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him, and He is the one  
who is talking with you.” And he said, “Lord, I believe.”

And he worshiped Him. And Jesus said, “For judgment  
I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see,  
and that those who see may become blind.”

Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things  
and said to Him, “We are not blind too, are we?”

Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin;  
but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

# Main Idea

This man was born blind so that we could see our own blindness and our own need and so be enabled to do the works of God.

# Only the Blind Will See Our Blindness



# **Our Blindness**

Why was this man born blind?

## **John 9:1-3**

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nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God  
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nor his parents; but it was **so that the works of God  
might be displayed in him.**”

This man was born blind so that  
God would be glorified!

Do you believe that you belong to God  
and that your life is not your own?

Do you believe, then, that your life serves  
God's purposes and that He is righteous  
in whatever ways He chooses to use you?

# Our Blindness

Why was this man born blind?

What is this blindness?

## **John 9:8-9**

Therefore the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, “Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?”

Others were saying, “This is he,” still others were saying, “No, but he is like him.”

He kept saying, “I am the one.”

**This man was truly born in physical blindness.**

## **John 9:39-40**

And Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world,  
so that those who do not see may see,  
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Those of the Pharisees who were with Him  
heard these things and said to Him,  
"We are not blind too, are we?"

They clearly understood that Jesus was  
speaking of spiritual blindness.

## **John 12:39-40**

For this reason they could not believe, for Isaiah said again,  
*“He has blinded their eyes and he hardened their heart,  
so that they would not see with their eyes and perceive  
with their heart, and be converted and I heal them.”*

This man was born blind to illustrate that all people are born under the judgment of sin and are blind, that is, without spiritual eyes, unable to see the truth of the gospel.

## **2 Corinthians 4:3-4**

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

# Our Blindness

Why was this man born blind?

What is this blindness?

## Who are the blind?

# All people are born blind!

John 9:5

“I am the Light **of the world.**”

John 9:39

And Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see.”

There is no category of people who come into this world seeing and who do not need their eyes opened.

# Those who think they see are blind!

John 9:39-41

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Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, “We are not blind too, are we?”

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### **Revelation 3:17**

Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,” and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.

It is not your sight that brings Christ to you; it is your blindness, and if you will not acknowledge your blindness, He will not come to you.

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Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.

It is not your sight that brings Christ to you; it is your blindness, and if you will not acknowledge your blindness, He will not come to you.

Do not say in your heart, "I am not like those blind and arrogant Pharisees. I see and understand."

But nor should you say,  
“My sin is too great?”

Believe me, it is much worse  
than you think!

Let not conscience make you linger,  
Nor of fitness fondly dream;  
All the fitness He requireth  
Is to feel your need of Him.

View Him prostrate in the garden;  
On the ground your Maker lies;  
On the bloody tree behold Him;  
Sinner, will this not suffice?

Let not conscience make you linger,  
Nor of fitness fondly dream;  
All the fitness He requireth  
Is to feel your need of Him.

View Him prostrate in the garden;  
On the ground your Maker lies;  
On the bloody tree behold Him;  
**Sinner, will this not suffice?**

# Only the Blind Will See

Our blindness

Our need



**What is our need?**

We need grace.

## **John 9:1**

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## John 9:6-7

He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle,  
and applied the clay to his eyes, and said to him,  
“Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent).  
So he went away and washed, and came back seeing.

Jesus initiated, and Jesus healed!  
This man simply needed to receive.

**Ephesians 2:8**

For **by grace** you have been saved through faith;  
and that **not of yourselves**, it is the gift of God.

**Romans 11:6**

But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works,  
otherwise grace is no longer grace.

***It must be by grace because  
blind people cannot see!***

# The Need

We need grace.

We need light.

# We all need light!

John 9:5

“While I am in the world,  
I am the Light of the world.”

John 12:46

“I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone  
who believes in Me **will not remain in darkness.**”

We are all born into darkness and  
need the light of Christ.

Even as believers we still need  
the light of Christ.

## **Ephesians 1:18-19**

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened,  
so that you will know what is the hope of His calling,  
what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,  
and what is the surpassing greatness of His power  
toward us who believe.

# Only the Blind Will See

Our blindness

Our need

Our work



## **John 9:40-41**

We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.”

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## John 9:40-41

**We** must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.”

**When He had said this**, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes, and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went away and washed, and came back seeing.

The work we are given to do is the work  
of receiving *and* restoring sight.

We are enabled to do this work by  
the same grace that makes us to see.

# **Our Work**

Our work of confession

### **John 9:40-41**

Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, “We are not blind too, are we?”  
Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

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and said to Him, “We are not blind too, are we?”

Jesus said to them, “**If you were blind, you would  
have no sin;**  
but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

You must confess your blindness and sin  
and your need of healing.

And we must work to lead others  
to this same confession.

# Our Work

Our work of confession

## Our work of faith

**John 6:28-29**

“What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?”

Jesus answered and said to them,

“This is the work of God,  
that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”

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# The beginning of faith...

**John 9:30-34**

The man answered and said to them, “Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him. Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.”

They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?” So they put him out.

# The flowering of faith...

John 9:35-38

Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him,  
He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

He answered, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?”

Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him,  
and He is the one who is talking with you.”

And he said, “**Lord, I believe.**”

You must believe in Christ  
and receive His healing.

And we must work to call others  
to this same faith.

# Our Work

Our work of confession

Our work of faith

## Our work of worship

**John 9:38**

And he said, “Lord, I believe.”

And **he worshiped Him.**

You must worship Christ  
with all of your life.

And we must work to call others  
to this same worship.

# What is the urgency?

**John 9:40-41**

We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.”

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**John 9:40-41**

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as long as it is day; **night is coming** when no one can work.”

# Concluding Questions:

Are you acknowledging your blindness and the true depths of your sin?

Do you believe that Christ's sacrifice and healing touch is enough for you?

Are you coming to Him confessing, believing, and worshipping?

Are you willing to tell others?