

Gathering

VISION

In the movie *Prince of Egypt*, Moses father-in-law Jethro, sings the song “*Through Heaven’s Eyes*.” He sings, “A single thread in a tapestry, though its color brightly shines, can never see its purpose in the pattern of the grand design.” We are a thread in God’s grand design. Sometimes things happen in life and we are left contemplating why. Instead we need to ask God for spiritual vision. Job did. In Job 34:32 we read:

“Teach me what I cannot see; if I have done wrong, I will not do so again.”

Job was a faithful godly man whom God allowed to be tested by Satan. Job’s servants were killed, and his livestock stolen. His children perished when a house collapsed on them. Painful disease covered his body, but through all his suffering, Job never turned from God.

Spiritual vision is seeing life with eternal eyes; looking at things that happen from God’s Kingdom perspective. In Biblical times, it was believed that when bad things occurred in one’s life, it was because of committed sins. Job’s friend Elihu tried to get him to confess and repent because he believed that Job must have sinned in some way. Elihu could not see that there was a different reason for Job’s suffering. He couldn’t see the situation through God’s eyes. What was important in this situation was not all the horrible things that were happening, but instead, it was Job’s faithfulness. Job had kingdom priorities and set his eyes on things above. He acknowledged God’s omnipotent power and realized after all he experienced, God desired his faithfulness and trust.

We may not always understand why things happen. God asks us to be faithful and trust in Him because He sees the whole picture of our past, present and future as an all knowing, ever present, eternal God. Job clung firmly to his faith and put his full trust in the Lord throughout his sufferings. As a result, his spiritual vision was sharpened, and God rewarded Job’s faithfulness. Job concluded “My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you (*Job 42:5*)”.

Job 34:32

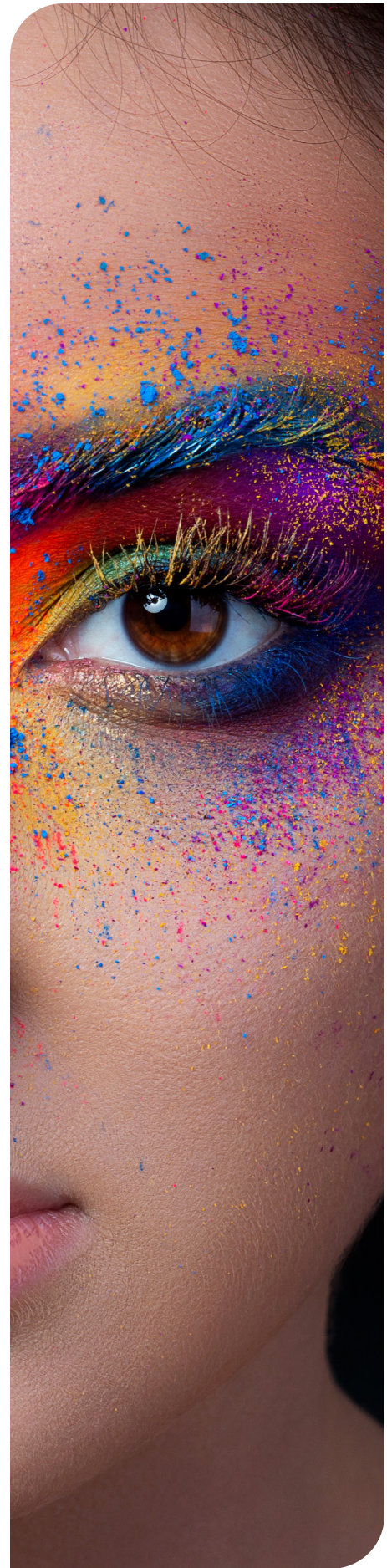
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VISION continued

After reading the scripture, consider these questions:

1. How did Elihu's vision differ from Job's? Are you looking at your life with eternal eyes?
2. What components of developing spiritual vision are present in Job's statement of today's verse?
3. How do trials and sufferings help us sharpen our spiritual vision?
4. Is there a situation in your life (*past or present*) where you have contemplated why, that you need to revisit from God's perspective?

Complete your monthly report and turn it in to the Corps Officer.





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Is there a situation in your life (*past or present*) where you have contemplated why, that you need to revisit from **God's** perspective?



Developing spiritual vision takes time and practice as we grow in faith, trust and perseverance during trials, like Job experienced. In order to view things like



Christ, we need to change the way we think, not limiting our circumstances to the here and now, but understanding God sees the bigger picture and operates according to what has eternal value. When we start to think like Christ, we start to see things from

God's perspective. Explore the following verses to better understand how to develop your spiritual vision and live according to God's Kingdom priorities.

READ ROMANS 12:2

What does the phrase "renewing your mind" mean to develop spiritual vision in the world we live in? How does renewing our minds affect your goals and priorities? What is your action plan to "renew your mind?"

READ MATTHEW 6:19-23

What does it say about priorities in life in relation to God's Kingdom perspective? What does it say about cultivating our spiritual vision?



*Written by Captain Sally Warren
- Massachusetts Division*

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