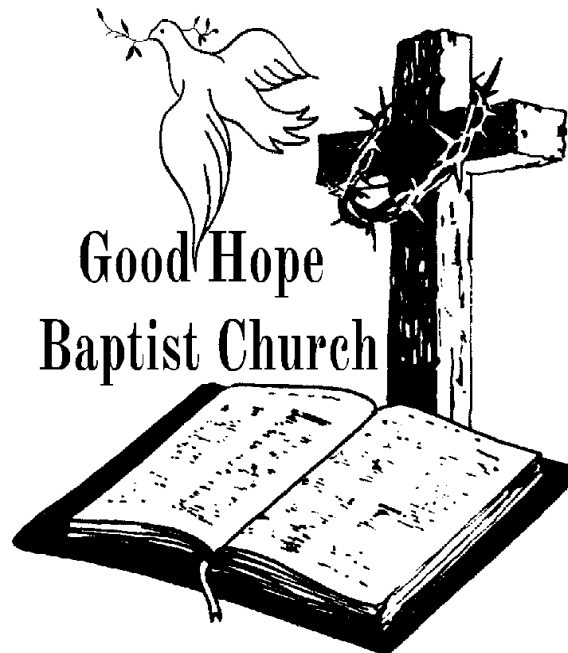


# UnBlind Faith

John 9:21



Good Hope  
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**FOCAL John 9:21** ... he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself.

What is blindness? We define blindness as "**an inability of the eyes to process light brought on by defect or disease**". In our text today we read about ...

**CONTEXT John 9:1** ... a man which was blind from his birth.

This man had lived his life in darkness. Light was all around him. The sun rose every day, and he could feel it on his face. But the man could not see any of the light, for his eyes did not work. Light was there - but to him it was not. His eyes were diseased, or perhaps malformed. The Bible says that he was "**blind from his birth**". Unless God did something with his eyes he would never be able to see.

The Bible recognizes *another* type of blindness that has nothing to do with the eyes, but with the *heart*. There is *physical* blindness, but there also *spiritual* blindness.

This man was blind from birth, but he was healed because he submitted to Jesus. The **Pharisees**, on the other hand, refused Jesus. They heard Him clearly say:

**CONTEXT John 9:39** ... **For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.**

but they ignored His words. Jesus said "**for judgment I**

**am come into this world".** The word translated "**judgment**" is a very interesting word in the Greek text. It is the word KRIMA (κριμα, pronounced *kreema*), and it means "**the ability to decide, make a decision, or render proper judgment**". Jesus Christ is not only the Light of the world, He is the only One Who can fix that which stands between you and light.

Jesus gives us the ability to see, Jesus gives us the ability to live, Jesus gives us access to God, and Jesus gives us the proper balance in life. **For judgment Jesus came into the world.**

### **1. God Is God, And I Am Not**

When our children are born we hope and we pray that they will be healthy. The first thing the parent does when he or she hugs the child to their breast is to count their fingers and their toes, look into their eyes, call out their name. Every parent hopes and prays that their child will be happy. *Sometimes those prayers are not answered.*

**CONTEXT** John 9:1 ... a man which was blind from his birth.

This young man was born blind. He grew up in a household and in a neighborhood where everyone else could see, but he could not. There was no such thing as Braille when this child was born, and no medical procedure that could be done to help him. Without sight this man couldn't read, he couldn't write, and he was unemployable. The only job he could find was humiliating - he was a beggar. He sat in the shadow of

the Temple and begged bread or coin from all who passed.

One day Jesus passed by with His disciples. On seeing the blind man the disciples asked Jesus:

**CONTEXT** John 9:2 ... **Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?**

When we see someone suffering the first thing we think is, "**Suffering is bad because God is good**". That's not necessarily true. Suffering is good when it leads us to a better place - or when it leads Jesus to us.

The Bible tells us that all suffering doesn't come because of sin. **It is true that sin can bring the disciplining hand of God.** The Apostle Paul rebuked the Corinthian Church for sin that was among them, saying:

**1 Corinthians 11:30-32** {because of your sinfulness} **many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep** {that is, meet death}. **31 But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged** {in this way}, **we are disciplined by the Lord ...** (New American Standard)

Sickness and suffering can be the disciplining hand of God. We bring suffering on ourselves when we wallow in sin. The Bible says

**"to be carnally minded is death" (Romans 8:6)**

and

"the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23)

and

**Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?**

and

"there is a sin unto death" (1 John 5:16)

and the beloved James said:

**James 1:14-16 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. 16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.**

As **Dr. R.G. Lee** once said in his sermon *Payday Someday*: "To the individual who goes not the direction God points, a terrible pay-day comes". Sin brings with it its own built in punishment.

**Sin will lead unto death.** It doesn't matter if it is in a Christian or in a non-Christian, the **wages of sin is always death.** But not all suffering is a result of sin.

Jesus told His disciples:

**CONTEXT** John 9:3 .... Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

There are times when suffering is *not* a punishment for sin, but God uses suffering to teach us something. Sometimes, dear friends, the suffering has *nothing* to do with the sufferer. This young man was born blind - not because he or his parents sinned - but because God wanted to use him for a *living example*, a **parable or signpost to display the works of God**. I have noticed when traveling down the highways these new LCD Billboards that present a television like advertisement. They get your attention because the sign is dynamic, the images move.

**This young man was going to be God's Billboard - the works of God were going to be *made manifest* or clearly evidenced in him.**

What were the **works of God** that were going to be **manifest**? Jesus went on to say:

**CONTEXT** John 9:4-5 **I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.**

This young man was born blind so that Jesus could pass by. He was born blind so that the world could see that **Jesus Christ alone was sent of God, and that Jesus Christ represented God**. He was born blind so that the

world could see - in big GIANT LETTERS ACROSS THE BILLBOARD OF THIS MAN'S LIFE - that **Jesus Christ is THE Light of the world**. He alone can bring people from darkness and into light.

I'm sure that some of you are thinking, "That's pretty cruel. Couldn't the **God Who is Love** have found a better way to have shown the world Christ's power and passion? Listen Beloved: God is the Potter and we are the clay. He is to be glorified - not us.

**Psalms 115:1-3 Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake. 2 Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is now their God? 3 But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.**

God is God, and we are not. He chose to use this young man to show the glorious Light of Christ.

## **2. It's Only Dirt Unless The Master Touches It Three Lessons From The Clay**

**ILLUSTRATE** The most expensive ceramic vase in the world was produced in China during the Qianlong period (c.1740). The vase sold for \$83 million at Bainbridge's Auctions, in the west London suburb of Ruislip, to an anonymous Chinese buyer. You know what this pricey vase was before it was a pricey vase? It was only dirt. Listen friend, wood in the hand of the Master Craftsman can become Stradivarius Violins, some valued at upwards of 2 million dollars. Dirt is dirt, and wood is wood. What gives it value is the hand of the Master.

Right after Jesus said that this young man was going to be a living Billboard to show the work of God, we read:

**CONTEXT** John 9:6-7 When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, 7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) ...

This blending of clay is significant, for this is the *only time I can find Jesus using this technique*.

In **Matthew 9:27-29** two blind men chased after Jesus, crying out "**Son of David, have mercy on us**". Jesus asked them, "**Do you believe I can do this?**" They said, "Yes, Lord". Jesus *just touched their eyes* and they were healed.

In **Matthew 12:22** a man who was blind, deaf, and possessed with a demon was brought to Jesus, and He just spoke and he was healed of *three afflictions*.

In **Matthew 20:30-33** two blind men by the side of the road cried out to Jesus, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Thou Son of David". Jesus asked them "**What do you want Me to do?**" They said, "Open our eyes, let us see". The Bible says that Jesus *touched their eyes* and they were healed.

In **Mark 8:23-26** some friends brought a blind man to Jesus. Jesus spit on his eyes, and put his hands on

**him.** The man only had part of his sight restored. Jesus touched him a *second* time and he gained his full sight. Jesus healed many blind people, many with just a word. He didn't need the clay that He used. So why did He use the clay? **There are at least *three* lessons we can learn from the clay.**

**a** Jesus didn't need the clay - He chose to use the clay.

**Isaiah 64:8** But now, **O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.**

**God is the Potter, and we are the clay. Christ the Maker, we the made.** Life is not about us, but about the God Who made us. We did not choose to be born - God chose to give us life.

This blind man did not call out to Jesus to be healed, and the clay did not demand that Jesus grab it. **We love Him because He FIRST loved us (1 John 4:19)**

**1 John 4:9-10** In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that **God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.** **10** Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

**He loved us.** Before we ever knew Him, or ever knew that we *needed* Him, God sought us out. **Jesus seeks you**

**today. Like that blind man you may feel you don't need Him - but He's reaching out to you.**

**b** Clay is cheap, common, and everywhere. It must have the touch of the Master's hand, else it is but dirt. Your life will have only a limited value unless Jesus is in it.

The clay had no value until Jesus spat on it, and worked it into what He willed. The blind man, though loved by his friends and family, was in a hopeless situation until Jesus touched him. The clay's only ABILITY is its availABILITY.

Like this blind man, every person born is born separated from God and without spiritual light. We are *all born blind, all sinners, all separated from God by our very natures.* Clay is but clay, dirt, of no value to God.

**Romans 3:23** For **all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God ...**

But **God stooped.** We fell, but God stooped. We sinned, but God stooped. **Jesus bent down and took clay.** Those of us who have believed on Jesus as Lord and Savior are now priceless works of God. **We are freed from our sin ....**

**Romans 3:24-27** **Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth to be {the satisfactory payment} through faith in his blood ....**

**to serve a risen Savior.** We are not saved by our works, for the Scripture says:

**Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

We are saved to serve the Lord! After Jesus made clay of His spittle and worked it into the man's eyes He told him:

**CONTEXT** John 9:7 ... **Go, wash in the pool of Siloam,**

**C** Listen to me very carefully. God knows your hearts. He sees you as an open book. **True faith always involves obedience to God.**

This man did not immediately see Jesus. He was still blind, but told to **go wash in the Pool of Siloam**. If he had not obeyed, he would still be blind. Inward saving faith is *always* proved by outward, obedient faith.

**James 2:18-20 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. 19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. 20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?**

The **devils believe and tremble**. There are many who profess Christ as Savior. They **believe and tremble**, just

as the devils do. Then there are others who **just believe, but do not even tremble**. The Apostle does not commend nor recommend such a faith, but instead says **faith without works is dead**.

"Why must I go to Siloam and not some other pool?" Because Jesus said so. "Why must I head to Canaan and leave Egypt?" Because Jesus said so. "Why must I be baptized?" Because Jesus said so. "Why must I give of myself and my income?" Because Jesus said so. Why must I go to Church and *participate*? Because Jesus said so.

Jesus said:

**CONTEXT Next Chapter** John 10:14-15 **I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. 15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.**

The sheep know the Shepherd. **I am known of mine**. Jesus laid His life down for is sheep. We are saved by faith - this is internal and unseen by others - but saving faith always *follows the Lord* - and this IS SEEN by others.

**CONTEXT Next Chapter** John 10:27-28 **My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.**

Did you notice that? **My sheep hear MY voice, and**

**THEY FOLLOW ME.** Saving faith is following faith. Saving faith is obedient faith. When did the blind man receive his sight? Look at your context:

**CONTEXT** John 9:7 .... **He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.**

When did he receive sight? When he obeyed the Lord. He could not see Jesus - he was blind - but he moved in faith, trusting what Jesus said. He had BLIND FAITH.

Blind faith is not stupid faith, nor is it uninformed faith. It is a faith that hears Jesus and responds to Him. No friends, we are not saved by our works - but once saved, we work.

**ILLUSTRATE** As a Pastor I have had the sad duty of burying very many of my friends and loved ones over the years. One thing I have always been impressed by is that - no matter how well the funeral parlor does at preparing the body for burial - **the body without the spirit is dead, inanimate - it really doesn't look like the living person did.** That's because the body is just the shell that holds the real you. One day you will leave this shell behind, but that which is you shall go to another place to dwell in eternity.

**James 2:26** For **as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.**

The living body has a living spirit within it, and because of that the body moves and works. The living faith has a

living Christ within it, and because of that the faith moves and works.

**Illustrate By Scripture** How are the sheep separated from the goats? (Matthew 25:35) By their works. How is the wheat separated from the tares? (Matthew 13:26) Though both wheat and tares grow together at this time and may look the same, they are known by their produce. How is the good tree known from the corrupt tree? (Matthew 7:17) By its fruit. **The good tree bringeth forth good fruit, but the evil tree evil fruit.** Those who are saved are saved by Christ's hands, are in Christ's care, and respond to Christ's command.

### **3. Faith In Jesus Will Profoundly Impact Your Life**

**FOCAL** John 9:21 ... **he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself.**

**CONTEXT** John 9:25 ... **one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.**

When this young man was healed, it set off a firestorm in his neighborhood. The neighbors were confounded. They asked, "**Weren't you the blind beggar that used to sit at the Temple gate? What happened? How is it that now you are able to see?**" You know how this man answered? He just told what Jesus did for him. He said:

**CONTEXT** John 9:11 .... **A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight.**

Now that may not be *good theology*. I suppose if you go to Eastern, Western, Northern, or whatever Seminary they'll teach you the "Theological Way" to tell others about Jesus. But you know what - this is the BIBLE WAY. Just tell others what Jesus did for you.

If you are saved, you have a witness. You **are of age**. Just tell others what Jesus did to YOU. If you don't have a witness then you've got another problem!

When the self righteous Pharisees came up looking for an explanation as to how this man now had sight, he didn't get into their foolish debates. The Bible says:

**Psalms 107:2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;**

If you're saved, then Christ has given you sight. **Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.** If you are saved, Christ has brought you into the Family of God. **Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.** If you are saved, that great enemy DEATH has been beheaded. Death cannot see you. Your eyes are opened, but death's eyes are blinded by the Light that is Christ. **Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.**

and let the lost debaters debate among themselves. This young man held on to his testimony. When the Pharisees asked his parents what happened, they said "**he is of age, ask him**". Your momma and your daddy don't need to speak for you. **You are of age, if you are born into**

**Christ's Kingdom.** Speak for yourselves, saying:

**CONTEXT John 9:25 .... this one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.**

You have an unshakable testimony. You know what God has done for you. You know that you have moved from darkness and into Light. You know that you previously had no concern for God, but now look to Him as your Father, your Savior, your Redeemer, and your Friend. As this young man held on to his testimony, he was rewarded by meeting Jesus face to face.

Those who have a testimony will one day see Jesus face to face. This man held to his testimony before he every saw Jesus - then Jesus came to him.

**CONTEXT John 9:35-38 ... Dost thou believe on the Son of God? 36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? 37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. 38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshiped him.**

Those who are saved **worship the Lord**. Like the clay, they are washed away so they can see Jesus. The Pharisees died in their sin. They rejected Jesus, and the Lord told them:

**CONTEXT John 9:41 ... If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.**

**ILLUSTRATE** Three ladies at a restaurant were given a menu. Each one reached for, and put on a pair of glasses. "I really only need mine for close reading," explained the first. Remarked the second, "I only use mine when the light is bad." The third confessed, "I rarely wear mine - except when I want to see."

Like the third lady, I need Jesus all the time. So do you. So do you. A popular song says:

**I know you're there  
I feel your love through my despair  
You speak the words that ease away the pain  
My heart is free, my eyes are clear  
My soul is healed  
Now that you have got a hold on me  
My feet may venture to the ground  
But you will never let me down  
I can't hold it in  
My soul is screaming!  
..... I'm into Jesus**

May God touch your hearts with His Word.



**FOCAL Read Together** John 9:21 ... he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself.

John 9:1; John 9:39

### 1. God Is God, And I Am Not

John 9:1; John 9:2; 1 Corinthians 11:30-32; Romans 8:6; Romans 6:23; Romans 6:16; 1 John 5:16; James 1:14-16; John 9:3; John 9:4-5; Psalms 115:1-3

Sin will lead unto death. It doesn't matter if it is in a Christian or in a non-Christian, the wages of sin is always death. But not all suffering is a result of sin.

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### 2. It's Only Dirt Unless The Master Touches It Three Lessons From The Clay

John 9:6-7; Matthew 9:27-29; Matthew 12:22; Matthew 20:30-33; Mark 8:23-26

This blending of clay is significant, for this is the *only time I can find Jesus using this technique.*

**a** Jesus didn't need the clay - \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 64:8; 1 John 4:9-10

**b** Clay is \_\_\_\_\_

The clay had no value until Jesus spat on it, and worked it into what He willed. The blind man, though loved by his friends and family, was in a hopeless situation until Jesus touched him. The clay's only ABILITY is its availABILITY.

Romans 3:23; Romans 3:24-27; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 9:7

**C** True faith always \_\_\_\_\_

James 2:18-20; John 10:14-15; John 10:27-28; John 9:7; James 2:26

When did he receive sight? When he obeyed the Lord. He could not see Jesus - he was blind - but he moved in faith, trusting what Jesus said. He had BLIND FAITH.

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Psalms 107:2; John 9:25; John 9:35-38; John 9:41

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