

# **I Can See Clearly Now**

These are the lyrics to a song titled, "I Can See Clearly Now" by Johnny Nash and it was recorded back in 1972. Wow! "Back in" seems like yesterday but I am sure to our younger members it is ancient history. The lyrics speak for themselves as to the meaning. It was popular back during my summer life guard days and I actually fit in a bathing suit back then.

I can see clearly now the rain is gone

I can see all obstacles in my way

Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind

It's gonna be a bright, bright sun shiny day

It's gonna be a bright, bright sun shiny day

I think I can make it now the pain is gone

All of the bad feelings have disappeared

Here is that rainbow I've been praying for

It's gonna be a bright (Bright), bright sun shiny day

As we just read in the essay, The Light of the Body, Helen Keller said, “Of all the senses, sight must be the most delightful.” How true and wonderful that statement is. To enhance this statement was the follow-up line describing sight as the “most delightful of human experiences, *especially “when the light that comes from above opens our eyes to see God* and His plan for all humanity.” What a blessing! God has a way of illuminating our eyesight, not only to the things of His Creation but an insight and understanding to the Spiritual matters that guide us in our walk to His Kingdom and growing in the likeness of His Son, Jesus Christ. Having good spiritual eyesight will aid us in avoiding stepping on the landmines Satan puts in our path.

Having worn glasses for a decade or two I can tell you just how important good eyesight truly is. I was blessed to have cataract surgery last year and had the “new lenses” installed. Wow! Talk about seeing clearly! My vision is now 20/15 and I do not need reading glasses (yet). The clarity is awesome. But this is only through my physical eyes and there is so much more to life than that which is visible. How can we see the spiritual things of God?

**2 Corinthians 5:7-** “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

**2 Corinthians 4:18-** “While we consider not the things *that are* seen, but the things *that are* not seen. For the things *that are* seen *are* temporary; but the things *that are* not seen are eternal.”

Walking by faith does not mean we put on a set of blinders or a blindfold and stumble our way through life. Certainly not, although it seems like so many choose this course. Walking by faith is to accept and live every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (you all know the scriptures). We trust in God, His guidance and seek His will and way in everything we do. It is not pick and choose or a multiple choice option. All or nothing. We have our eyes wide open not only to the physical realm but to the spiritual side of life as well.

**1 Corinthians 2:14-** “But *the* natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand *them* because they are spiritually discerned. However, the one who is spiritual discerns all things, but he himself is discerned by no one. For who has known *the* mind of *the* Lord? Who shall instruct Him? But we have *the* mind of Christ.”

Remember the “WWJD” (What Would Jesus Do) bracelets that were popular awhile back? They should read “WDJD” (What Did Jesus Do). Seeking to be like Him in thought, action, and deed, we will progress to grow in His image.

**1 Peter 4:1-2-** “Consequently, since Christ has suffered for us in *the* flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind because the one who has suffered in *the* flesh has finished *living* in sin. *To this end: that* he no longer live his remaining time in

the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.” To attempt to walk in faith without seeking Jesus Christ and God’s Word is simply to walk with your eyes *wide shut*. You *may* know the Word but you *will never know* God. That personal relationship with God is vital to knowing Him. We know the conversation that awaits those who miss the mark in this matter: “And He shall say, ‘I tell you, I do not know you or where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of unrighteousness.’”- **Luke 13:27**.

Remember, walking by faith is not an easy journey. Our faith will be tested and tried along the way, but fear not.

**James 1:2-4**- “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you are beset by various trials, Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. But let endurance have *its* perfect work, so that you may be perfect and complete, not lacking in anything.”

Last week we talked about the image we hold of ourselves in “Magic Mirror.” We know that God sees us for who and what we truly are. We can discard our mirrors and the images we think of ourselves and concentrate and focus our eyesight on the spiritual things of God. God knows our true hearts. **Luke 16:15**- “And He said to

them, “You are those who justify themselves before men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is an abomination before God.

**Proverbs 16:2-** “All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirits.” We may think we are seeing clearly but there still may be a small veil blurring our vision.

**Proverbs 17:24-** “Wisdom *is* before him who has understanding, but the eyes of a fool *are* on the ends of the earth.”

**Proverbs 21:2-** “Every way of a man *is* right in his own eyes, but the LORD ponders the hearts.”

**Isaiah 5:21-** “Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!” Staying humble and of a contrite heart will overcome the self-pride and detour us away from the consequences.

The “seeing” must involve *your heart and motive*. Trying to impress God with works and “getting noticed” floats like a lead balloon.

**Matthew 6:1-** “Beware *that* you do not bestow your alms in the sight of men in order to be seen by them; otherwise, you have no reward with your Father Who *is* in heaven. Therefore, when you give *your* alms, do not sound the trumpet before

you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may have glory from men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward.”

**Matthew 6:5-** “And when you pray, you shall not be as the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, in order *that* they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward.”

**Matthew 6:16-** “And when you fast, do not be as the hypocrites, dejected in countenance; for they disfigure their faces in order that they may appear to men to fast. Truly I say to you, they have their reward.”

Walking by true faith will help us to see clearly. **Proverbs 3:21-23-** “My son, do not let them depart from your eyes; keep sound wisdom and discretion, And they shall be life to your soul and grace to your neck. Then you shall walk in your way safely, and your foot shall not stumble.”

The wisdom and discernment will manifest *if* we are following God’s Word to the letter and are guided by His Holy Spirit. We receive this precious gift at baptism but sometimes we can get caught up in the self and stifle God’s Spirit and put on a pair of dark glasses again.

**Galatians 3:11-** “Therefore, *it is* evident that no one is being justified before God by means of works *of* law; because *it is written*, “The just shall live by faith.”

**John 3:21-** “But the one who practices the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be manifested, that they have been accomplished by the power of God.” If we love God first and foremost, the practice of truth becomes part of being.

It can be difficult for some to walk by faith. It is vital we put off the flesh and seek to see through spiritual eyes. Failing to change our vision from carnal eyes will distort our perspective on God’s Word and may cause us to miss the mark.

**1 Corinthians 3:3-** “For you are still carnal. For since envy and contention and divisions *are* among you, are you not carnal? And *are you not* walking according to human *ways*?” ***If*** we are weak in our faith, it may cause the envy, contentions and divisions mentioned. Unity and oneness occur when everyone deems others more important than themselves and we see through the eyes of Christ. We must act out of love and loyalty to Jesus Christ and living within God’s Law.

**2 Peter 1:2-8-** “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in *the* knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, According as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us by *His* own glory and virtue; Through which He has given to us the greatest and *most* precious promises, that through these you may become partakers of the divine

nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in *the* world through lust. And for this very reason also, having applied all diligence besides, add to your faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; And to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, endurance; and to endurance, godliness; And to godliness, brotherly love; and to brotherly love, the love *of God*. For *if* these things exist and abound in you, they *will cause you to be* neither lacking effort nor lacking fruit in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Seeking to have clear spiritual vision will enable us to produce good fruit. Slipping back into our old self and losing sight of what we were called from will hinder our spiritual growth.

**2 Peter 1:9-10-** “But the one in whom these things are not present is *spiritually* blind—so shortsighted *that* he has forgotten that he was purified from his old sins. For this reason, brethren, be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure; because *if* you are doing these things, you will never fall at any time.”

Jesus Christ is by far the greatest optometrist ever! He opened the eyes and hearts of mankind for all eternity.

**Isaiah 42:6-7-** “I the LORD have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand, and will keep You, and give You for a covenant of the people, for a Light to the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness out of the prison house.



**John 9:39-** “And Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world so that those who do not see might see, and those who see might become blind.”

Praise God for His mercy!

Having been made to see clearly is but one aspect of sight. I would be remiss if I did not mention the most important aspect of sight and that is, His Sight. As we walk in faith and with Him, are we pleasing in His sight?

**1 John 3:22-24-** “And whatever we may ask we receive from Him because we keep His commandments and practice those things that are pleasing in His sight.

And this is His commandment: that we believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and that we love one another, exactly as He gave commandment to us. And the one who keeps His commandments is dwelling in Him, and He in him; and by this we know that He is dwelling in us: by the Spirit which He has given to us.”

**Hebrews 13:20-21-** “And *may* the God of peace, Who raised our Lord Jesus from among *the* dead—that great Shepherd of the sheep—through *the* blood of *the* everlasting covenant, Perfect you in every good work in order that you may do His will; accomplishing in you that which *is* well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to Whom *be the* glory into the ages of eternity. Amen.”

Someone once prayed for me that I might open my eyes. To have anyone pray for me anytime is a blessing. But the opening of my eyes was accomplished way

before I was born and far beyond my doing. It was done by the grace and mercy of God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

**John 9:10-11-** “Then they said to him, “How were your eyes opened?” He answered and said, “A Man called Jesus made clay, and applied it to my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash’; and after I went and washed, I received sight.”

I did not receive any clay on my eyes and I did not wash in the pool of Siloam. However, I was washed in the Blood of my Savior Jesus Christ, baptized, and filled with the Holy Spirit of the Living God. Through living His Word and the revelation of His Truth, 20/15 vision has never been so clear.

**Matthew 11: 25-26-** “At that time Jesus answered and said, “I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent, and have revealed them to babes. Yes, Father, for it was well pleasing *in Your sight to do this.*” I am no Bible Scholar but I can see clearly now. Amen.

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