

Our Eyes – Guiding Principle

Happy New Year! This year, as we are led prophetically, is about *ʿayin*. It is a Hebrew word, meaning an eye (Strong H5869). Eyes are referring to perspective; perspective on how we see lives; perspective on how we evaluate things. Eyes are referring to our interest and attractedness. If we see a large display with many different things, different people may focus their eyes to different things, according to what they are interested in. Eyes are one of the strongest inlets / channels for things outside to come into our lives, and what pass through will influence us in making decisions on how we would live. Let's learn together and from each other as we go through the discussions below.

Background

The background of the story below was when things were getting better and better, problems came up. We normally think ... one day my life will be better and all problems will disappear. Not so. As we see here, the herdsmen were quarrelling and now the strife had gone up until it affected the relationship between Abraham and Lot. They just couldn't go along together anymore; they would separate and go to their own ways. But where to go?

Lot's Eyes (Gen 13:10-13)

(Ask these questions: How did Lot make decision? What's wrong? What should he do?)

Lot was given a choice. He was at a crossroad. It was an important decision – his business, his family, his settlement and his future. What did he do? He lifted up his eyes and saw the Jordan Valley ...

All of us at one point of time in our lives would face the same choices. Naturally, we would do the same way as Lot. We will use our physical eyes, our common sense.

However, do we lift up our eyes to the Lord and ask Him first? Do we see the situation from the eyes of the Lord? If Lot has done so, the Lord would have told him what he thought about that region. Immediately in verse 13, the Bible wrote "the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD". All men are sinners, but these men were great sinners.

If we look back, how many times did we do right in making decisions? In seeking God first and patiently wait until He reveals to us His wisdom. The Bible did not write this but maybe Lot followed Abraham's customs in praying. But his eyes on the Jordan Valley ... so green and well watered ... had swayed his heart swiftly. He just can't wait to go there.

The decision seems very obvious. It can't go wrong. It would be profitable. The facilities are good. The potential is overwhelming. But we know the end of all these things. Lot had to run for his life with his family. His wife even could not make it. All things he earned there vanished in one night when the judgement came down from heaven.

Pro 3:7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

When we humble ourselves and we choose to fear the Lord, we will receive His wisdom and understanding (Pro 9:10).

Have we faced similar situations? We may have our own “Jordan Valley near Sodom”. This year we may face another one or even a few of them. Today, let us learn and settle within our hearts that we will not act foolishly by following our sensual choice and be deceived by the lure of world. Rather, our eyes will look up to the Lord and act wisely according to His will.

Abraham’s Eyes (Gen 13:14-18)

It is very interesting that the Lord gave His promises on the land to Abraham right afterwards.

- It is after the quarrel was over. Do we have any quarrels or disputes?
- It is after Abraham humbly gave the choice to Lot. Are we willing to if it is God’s will?
- It is after seemingly He lost the best option. Lot just chose the best portion! He just got the leftover.

(Ask these questions: If we were Abraham, would we give the choice to Lot? Consider that Lot snatched the land from Abraham, how would we react if we were Abraham? Disappointed, discouraged, hopeless, angry, revenge, etc.?)

But Abraham has a different perspective. He had followed God’s calling since the beginning. In Heb 11:8-10 we can read, he went out by faith, not knowing where he was going. He lived in tents ...for he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. In verse 14-16, we can see that he was looking for a place to be called home. He could have gone back to where he came from to stay there and build his home. But the Bible says that he is looking for a better one ... not just a better place in another country, but he settles his eyes to a heavenly one! And it is said that God has prepared a City for them!

In verse 18, after he received the promise, he moved his tent and there he built an altar to the LORD. It was written many times, where he went, he built an altar to the Lord. He sought and worshipped the Lord. He walked so close with the Lord and God reveals His secrets to him (Psa 25:14). Gen 18:17 says “And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;”

Wouldn’t it be great if the Lord shows us His plan, even His secrets? We will have understanding and insights about things in the world and will be able to walk carefully and choose wisely. Have spiritual eyes that are open with wisdom and understanding from heaven.

Our Eyes

We have read two figures above. There are many other figures in the Bible that we can learn from. But if our life stories are written, which one would be more similar to? Lot’s eyes or Abraham’s eyes. (Is there anyone in your COOL would like to share experiences / testimonies?)

In 2 Cor 4:16-18, Paul wrote about outer nature and inner nature, troubles and glory, and then he said that he looked not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.