

NEWS AND VIEWS
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*“Southern Baptists with the Full
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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“I could have died!! He must be blind!!” I heard myself say these words to myself the other day when someone ran through a red light while I was traveling through a green one. Death and blindness. Is there a connection? How are these two concepts connected?

Blindness can be caused by many things. It can be temporary or permanent. It can be progressive in its onset and sight is lost little by little. Blindness can come upon someone in an instant or one may be blind from birth. Imagine someone never seeing what most sighted people take for granted. The one who is born blind has a totally different reality. The world “looks” different to them.

Spiritual blindness is the worst and most painful kind of blindness. But many of those who are spiritually blind feel no pain at all. In fact, they feel very little. They go through life in a state of numbness. To enjoy the blessing of God we must first be alive. Too many of us are walking around spiritually blind, which comes from being spiritually dead. Consider the visit from a man with an inquiring mind who came to Jesus by night. As he opened the conversation in John’s Gospel, Chapter 3, Jesus steered the subject into what God wanted to talk about...deadness and blindness...

Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3)

Jesus told the religious leader Nicodemus that unless a person is born again, they are unable to see the kingdom of God. Being spiritually dead blinds us to the work of God in this world and the universe beyond. When we admit that we are blind and want to see, God is on the verge of glorifying Himself. He loves to give life to the dead and sight to the blind. Let’s share some thoughts today about death and blindness.

I. BEING BORN AGAIN IMPLIES A DEAD PRESENT CONDITION. *Born again* is a term that many have discredited in our culture. Sometimes people try to discount the reality of the concept by equating those born again with some form of fundamentalist agenda or religious extremism. But that doesn’t change what Jesus said. He said that the ones who want to see the kingdom of God must be born again. The dead must be enabled to live. That’s pretty fundamental and extreme from God’s viewpoint.

II. A DEAD MAN MUST BE BORN AGAIN TO LIVE AGAIN. Only God can give life to the dead. Nicodemus was a well-connected and uniformly respected man. But he was a spiritually dead man. He was living the life of keeping the law. Dying spiritually while he was living physically. Jesus said that the kingdom of God was there waiting for the one who was born again. It would be like the blind seeing for the very first time. Dead men don’t do much living. They must be born again.

III. A BLIND MAN CAN BE BORN AGAIN. Physical blindness or any other bodily affliction is no barrier to being born again. A lame man, a leprous man, a dead man, a blind man, and a religious man can be born again. A spiritually blind man can be enabled to see spiritual things by the activity of the Holy Spirit. And each time this happens, a new reality is encountered. The ones who are born again are never the same. A blind man can be born again...but...dead men can never see...the kingdom of God.

IV. A DEAD MAN WILL NEVER SEE. No amount of medical miracles can allow a dead man to see. Is it your desire to see the kingdom of God? Then you must be born again...and live to tell the story. Once I was blind...but now I can see...

Are you living in the reality of being born again...can you see the Kingdom of God?

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam