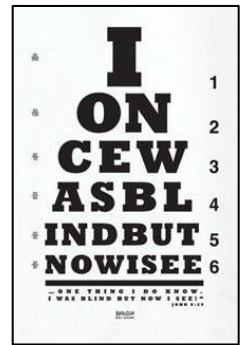


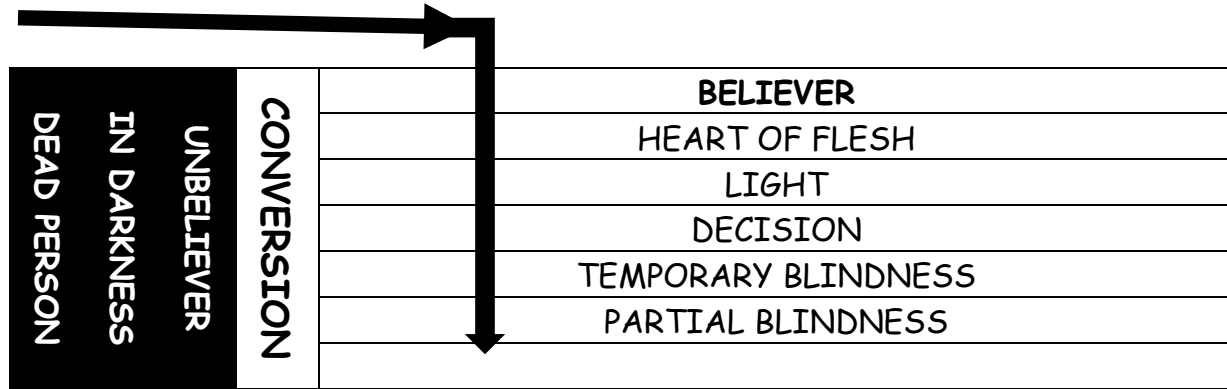


Spiritual Blindness

Everybody's Got it!



Eye Exam #6



A believer is simply someone who has accepted Jesus Christ as his/her personal **Savior from sin's penalty, from being dead toward God, from mankind's inherited darkness.**

1. Refer to the chart above. We were born with a heart of stone. What did God give us so that we could respond to the Light? _____
2. We were born in complete spiritual darkness. What did God do? _____
3. What did we have the opportunity to do next? _____
4. What are our possible responses?
 - ___ No, I do not want God.
 - ___ Yes, I want Him in my life.
 - ___ Not now. Maybe later.
5. Before you became a believer, you were spiritual blind. Me too.
 - a. ___Y___N Before you saw any light from God, you were spiritually blind.
 - b. ___Y___N God could provide light through a person, event, inner desire, etc.
 - c. ___Y___N When you are exposed to God's light (sermon, Bible verse, kind person), you may feel interested even though you do not understand most of it.
 - d. ___Y___N After this exposure to God's Light (however it happened), God can begin to soften your "heart of stone" to a "heart of flesh".

That happened to me. I went to that church down the street (some light); I learned the Bible verses (some light); I won some prizes and was rewarded and loved (some light); I was given a new Bible (some light). That church did not tell me how to find God (become a Christian). A few months later, I watched Bible Graham on the TV (some light); He said he was coming to San Diego soon; I wanted to go (some light). I asked a friend to go with me; he said, "yes" (some light); I asked my friend's father to drive us; he said "yes" (some light).

How incredible! God wanted me to find Him; He shined the light repeatedly. I am so glad He softened my heart so that I would keep looking. I WENT TO THE MEETING. I WENT DOWN ON THE FIELD AT THE END. I PRAYED, "JESUS, I WANT YOU TO BE MY SAVIOR FROM SIN." Remember Job 5:8.

"Seek" = "Lord, I know You want me and are looking for me; I saw Your Light; Here I am."
 "Commit" = "Lord, You are the answer for my life; I am putting all of me in Your hands."

THE DIAGNOSIS OF "PERM"ANENT OR "TEMP"ORARY BLINDNESS

1. __Perm __Temp Eye condition before becoming a believer (responding to Light).
2. __Perm __Temp Judas Iscariot never responded to Jesus' offer of eternal life.
3. __Perm __Temp This kind of blindness is irreversible after you die and if you have not accepted Christ (God's Light).
4. __Perm __Temp A person who becomes a believer never has this kind of blindness again.
5. __Y__N At the moment you accept Christ as Savior, you switch from having permanent spiritual blindness to having temporary/partial blindness.
6. __Y__N Before you became a believer, you were temporarily spiritually blind.

Sorry to split hairs here:

"Blindness" means you see NO light.

"Spiritual blindness" means you have No spiritual light (no connection to God).

"Permanent spiritual blindness" means no connection with God forever.

"Temporary spiritual blindness" means no connection with God UNTIL you make a decision to accept Christ & follow the Light God provides.

"Sight" means light is present & seen by the person; he/she is not blind anymore.

"Partial blindness" is not blindness but rather being visually impaired which could also mean "not seeing things clearly".

"Partial sight" means not to be blind but rather visually impaired which could also mean "not seeing things clearly or not choosing to see things clearly."

Matthew 5:28
Ezekiel 11:19

Jesus said, "Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart".
God said, "I will give the Jewish nation one heart and I will put a new spirit with them; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh [life] and will give them a heart of flesh [new & sensitive heart] so that they may [know and understand God's ways. word and holiness]."

7. __Y__N In Matt. 5:28, our eyes and our heart work together to sin.
8. __Y__N Our eyes and our heart can also work together to please God.
9. __Y__N The word "heart" in the Bible means our inner self (mind, emotions, will).
10. If the eyes send an image to a "heart" of a person who is a believer to look at and then lust after a woman, the entire person needs to process it.
 - a. What might a person with impaired spiritual vision possibly choose to do?

 - b. What might a person with more clear spiritual vision choose to do?

After we accept Christ & follow Him, our old nature (self) and all its bad behaviors continue to pester us even though Christ gave us a new & forgiven nature (self). The image that the eyes send to our heart will pass through both the old nature and the new nature.

The old nature will want to do things in an evil way (even though the person is a nice guy). The new nature will want to do things God's way (this will not be easy but rather a battle).

1. What might happen at this moment? __ You decide to do it God's way; __ You admit that you are weak and might fail; __ God strengthens your conscience to resist; __ God might send a helpful Bible verse your way; __ God might send a friend

If your spiritual vision is clear, you have the opportunity to make the right decision.

If your spiritual vision is blurry, you may not be seeing clearly enough to make the right decision.