

Christ & His Bride

Lesson #24

Laodicea: Eye Salve For Spiritual Insight: Rev. 3:18c

July 23, 2025

Rev. 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see.

Rev. 3:18 Therefore, I formally advise you to: buy from Me

- Buy From Me Give your life over to Me, in exchange for
- gold spiritual treasure; transformed Christlike character
- refined by fire made pure by God's grace, and the trials of this present life
- you may be rich have eternal glory in Christ from virtuous merit.

II. Spiritual Vesture

III. Spiritual Vision [cure for lukewarmness & apathy]

- *The Laodiceans were spiritually blind despite their claims of wealth and wisdom.*

Spiritual Blindness: The Bible suggests that without God's intervention, humans are spiritually blind, unable to fully grasp spiritual truths.

Need Eye Salve so they can see: metaphor for the spiritual sight they lack.

- It prevents them from recognizing their true condition.

Eye salve from Jesus symbolizes spiritual insight and discernment.

- Represents the Holy Spirit's work in revealing truth.
- The Holy Spirit grants us discernment.
- He leads me to seek Christ for the spiritual insight and discernment needed to walk in truth and righteousness.

Ps. 119:18, 27, 33, 35-37

¹⁸Open my eyes so I can truly see the marvelous things in your law.

²⁷Help me to understand what your precepts mean.

Then I can meditate on your marvelous teachings.

³³Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.

³⁵Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.

³⁶Turn my heart to Your statutes, and not toward selfish gain. [covetousness]

³⁷Turn my eyes away from what is vanity. [worthless] Revive me with your Word.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Quote: "Minds that are quickened by the Holy Spirit will discern the value of God's Words. When our eyes are anointed with the holy eye salve, we shall be able to detect the precious gems of truth, even though they may be buried beneath the surface."

In various Scriptures, having one's "spiritual eyes opened" refers to gaining a deeper understanding of spiritual truths, often through faith and divine revelation.

This is frequently depicted as a transition from spiritual blindness to clarity, enabling one to grasp God's presence, plan, and purpose.

God opened spiritual eyes for people to see the divine intervention around them

1. *Genesis 21*. Hagar was in a desperate situation.

She and her son, Ishmael, had been sent out to the desert to survive on their own and they were hungry, thirsty, and without a safe place to turn. Watching her child thirst to death was more than she could bear, so she tucked him under a bush and left him, wandering just far enough away that she could no longer hear his cries. But God heard the cry!

Gen. 21:19 *"Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water."*

➤ Hagar wasn't blind; God opened her spiritual eyes to see the provision around her.

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit moved upon the prophets of God, giving them the ability to see in the spirit. Spiritual eyes allow us to perceive spiritual realities, enabling us to see beyond the natural world. God's Word gives us a powerful example.

2. *Elisha the prophet* was with his servant, and an army of their enemies surrounded them.

It looked like certain defeat. The servant panicked and overcame with fear.

Elisha knew by faith what was outside and assured his despairing servant that, though he saw with his physical eyes the enemy surrounding them, they were not outnumbered.

Elisha wanted his servant's eyes to be open to see what Elisha knew to be true.

The mountains were full of horses and chariots of fire surrounding them.

Then Elisha prayed: "Lord, I pray thee, Open His Eyes, that he may see. [*II Kings 6:15*]

II Kings 6:17 And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and behold,

The Mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. [dramatic scene]

The servant's physical eyes couldn't see the angels surrounding them until God supernaturally enabled him to perceive the spiritual reality. Sure enough, the servant's spiritual eyes opened to the realm of the Spirit, and he was able to see the scope of their salvation.

In the same way, when God opens your spiritual eyes, fears and anxieties fade as you become aware of His provision and protection.

When you comprehend spiritual truths, you have "seen" them with the eyes of understanding.

Ps. 34:7 The angel of the Lord encamps round about them that fear Him, and delivers them.

3. Growing in the knowledge of Jesus is often equated with seeing Him more clearly. A classic example of the eyes of understanding in action is found in the story of King Hezekiah.

When the King of Assyria attacked Judah, Hezekiah told the people of Jerusalem:

II Chron. 32:7-8 *Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: for there be more with us than with him. With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles.*

And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

➤ How did Hezekiah know that there were more with them than with their enemies?

➤ God did not grant him a prophetic vision like Elisha's servant had.

- Hezekiah's understanding of God's promises and his faith in the Word allowed him to perceive this spiritual reality. His firm belief became the eye that allowed him to "see" into the spiritual realm and change the course of the battle.
- 4. Prophet Isaiah could not see God [though he had been speaking on His behalf for so long], until his eyes were opened.
- Isa. 6:1 In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple.
- From that day, his life and ministry were never the same.
- He became the Messianic messenger.
- 5. It would be a terrible tragedy for the enemy to know who you are, when you do not know who you are yourself. If you don't know who you are, you will fail repeatedly in life like Jacob was failing until he cried unto the Lord who revealed to him that he is a prince and not a supplanter [Gen. 32:28].
- May our eyes be opened to see who we are in Jesus Christ.

Overcoming Spiritual Blindness

Eph. 1:17 I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge [your growing knowledge] of Him:

In the Greco-Roman world, "knowledge" [gnosis] was a coveted philosophical ideal.

The New Testament writers elevate and transform the concept.

Instead of an elite, speculative pursuit, epignósis becomes God's gracious gift, accessible to all believers and anchored in revelation rather than human speculation.

1. Revelation precedes understanding; God must first disclose Himself.

Knowledge = #1922 epignósis = full knowledge, discernment = knowledge gained through first-hand relationship; denotes an experiential, relational, and transforming knowledge.

2. Epignósis is relational. It centers on knowing the Person of Christ.

Paul's prayers repeatedly ask God to supply believers with fuller epignósis so that:

- Initial faith blossoms into Mature Discipleship.

John Stott: Nothing is more important for a mature Christian Discipleship than a fresh, clear, true vision of the authentic Jesus Christ.

3. Epignósis reshapes conduct.

II Cor. 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;

old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Col. 3:10 and have put on the new [spiritual] self who is being *continually* renewed in true knowledge in the image of Him who created the new self [AMP]

4. Epignósis is transformative; authentic knowledge always bears fruit in character.

Col. 1:9-10 For this cause we also, since the day we heard about you, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that you might be Filled With the Knowledge Of His Will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

¹⁰ [so] That ye might Walk Worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; [with deeper faith, clearer insight and fervent love for His precepts]

Growth in epignósis leads to growth in holiness, fruitfulness, endurance, and gratitude.

5. Epignósis exposes error while empowering obedience.

Phil. 1:9 captures the balanced Christian life: And this is my prayer:

that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and every discernment.

- Love #25 ἀγαπάω = for the believer, preferring to "Live Through Christ"
Embrace God's will and obey them through His power
- Love that is not informed by Epignósis becomes sentimental.
- Knowledge that is not conditioned by love becomes proud.
- Paul unites the two, preserving both warmth and orthodoxy.

6. Epignósis is progressive.

Believers move from initial insight to ever-deepening comprehension.

II Peter 1:2 May God give you more and more grace and peace

as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord. [NLT]

II Pet. 1:3 By His divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life.

We have received all of this by coming to know Him, the One who called us to Himself
by means of His marvelous glory and excellence.

II Pet. 1:4-7 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises,
that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature,
having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

⁵But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue,
to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance,
to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

II Pet. 1:8 For if these things are really yours and are continually increasing,
they will keep you from becoming ineffective and unproductive
in your pursuit of knowing our Lord Jesus Christ more intimately.

II Pet. 1:9-11 For whoever lacks these *qualities* is blind—shortsighted [closing his spiritual eyes
to the truth], having become oblivious to the fact that he was cleansed from his old sins.

¹⁰Therefore, believers, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing
you [be sure that your behavior reflects and confirms your relationship with God];
for by doing these things [actively developing these virtues], you will never stumble
[in your spiritual growth and will live a life that leads others away from sin];

¹¹for in this way entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
will be abundantly provided to you.

Powerful Truth: My relationship with Christ is both the origin and outcome of Epignósis.

Epignósis is therefore both the fountain and the flow of Christian life—received by grace,
deepened through communion with God, and manifested in love, holiness, and perseverance.

Eph. 1:18 And [I pray] that the eyes of your heart [the very center and core of your being] may be enlightened [flooded with light by the Holy Spirit], [AMP]

➤ Enlightened #5461 phótizó

The New Testament verb rendered "light," "give light," or "enlighten" occurs eleven times and consistently portrays the gracious action of God that dispels darkness—whether cosmic, moral, intellectual, or eschatological.

➤ It is always divine or divinely-mediated activity:

the Father, the Son, the Spirit, or God's messengers impart clarity, revelation, and life. The word never describes human self-enlightenment; it is received, not achieved.

Matt. 6:22 The lamp of the body is the eye.

If therefore your eye is good [clear], your whole body will be full of light.

Ps. 119:18 Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.

➤ Spiritual illumination produces moral clarity and integrity; the enlightened heart yields an enlightened life.

➤ Preaching and teaching should aim not merely at information but at Spirit-empowered illumination that awakens sinners and builds saints.

Eph. 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the Hope Of His Calling, and what is the wealth [riches] of His glorious inheritance in the saints. Illumination is not confined to initial faith. Paul prays that believers may have "the eyes of your hearts enlightened" to grasp the Hope, Riches, and Power that are theirs in Christ.

Hope = #1680 Elpis To anticipate, usually with pleasure

expectation (abstractly or concretely) or confidence -- faith

Hope in Scripture is a confident, Spirit-wrought expectation that God will fulfill every promise He has made in Christ.

➤ My Hope rests on the character of God.

Heb. 6:18 so that by two unchangeable things [His promise and His oath] in which

it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled [to Him] for refuge would have strong encouragement and indwelling strength to hold tightly to the Hope set before us. [AMP]

➤ My Hope is secured by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

I Pet. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to

His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a Living Hope

through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Apart from Him Gentiles were without hope and without God in the world,

but in union with Him believers possess an imperishable inheritance.

Jesus Christ Himself is called "our hope"

His resurrection validates every promise.

His indwelling presence is "the hope of glory."

Eph. 2:12

I Timothy 1:1

I Peter 1:21

Colossians 1:27

The prophets speak of a future restoration, resurrection, and kingdom. themes that reappear explicitly in Acts 24:15 where Paul affirms "the same hope in God ... that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked."

Consider: While Faith looks back to the finished work of the cross and Love acts in the present, Hope stretches forward toward the Consummation of Redemption. [Love p. 4;#5]

Rom. 5:3-4 Suffering refines hope. Tribulation → perseverance → proven character → hope

Rom. 5:5 Because God has poured His love into our hearts, hope does not disappoint.

- Hope, therefore, is not an optional add-on to the gospel; it is its inevitable fruit.

Rom. 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time

are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Rom. 8:24-25 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope;

for why does one still hope for what he sees?

²⁵But if we hope for that we don't see, then do we with patience wait for it.

The climactic focus of New Testament hope is the visible, glorious appearing of Jesus Christ:

Titus 2:13 Looking for the Blessed Hope and glorious appearance of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This hope is neither vague nor conditional; it is guaranteed by the same grace that brought salvation [Titus 2:11].

I John 3:3 And everyone who has this hope set on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

I Pet. 1:13 So prepare your minds for action, be completely sober [in spirit—steadfast, self-disciplined, spiritually and morally alert], fix your hope completely on the grace [of God] that is coming to you when Jesus Christ is revealed. [AMP]

Pray for hope's increase: Rom. 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Believe = #4100 pisteuó = to entrust one's spiritual well-being to Christ

Eph. 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened;

that you may know what is the Hope Of His Calling.

Calling = #2821 klésis portrays God's gracious summons that brings people into relationship with Himself and draws them into His purposes. The word occurs eleven times, consistently describing an initiative that originates in God and moves toward transformed living.

From Salvation to Daily Service, the NT treats this calling as both Decisive & Enduring.

- The calling is more than a doorway; it charts a lifelong path.

Eph. 4:1 urges, Walk in a manner worthy of the calling you have received.

Phil. 3:14 pictures Paul "press[ing] on toward the goal to win the prize of God's heavenly calling," blending present pursuit with future reward.

The call stretches from eternity past to eternity future.

- Phil. 3:14 and Heb. 3:1 label it "heavenly," pointing to ultimate consummation.

II Thess. 1:11 prays that God will “count you worthy of His calling” and fulfill every good resolve, ensuring that present sanctification flows into eschatological reward at Christ’s return. Rooted in eternity, realized in Christ, and applied by the Spirit, this calling summons believers to live now in the light of an unshakeable, heavenly hope.

Jeff Syverson: Spiritual Wisdom & Understanding: “His power brings great endurance and patience and joyful thanksgiving for all that God has done for us.

These are qualities that are especially needed when we go through the trials of life.

It takes our eyes off the problems and enable us to put our hope in God and His promises.”

Eph. 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the Hope Of His Calling, and what is the wealth [riches] of His glorious inheritance in the saints.

Consider: The subject of my future inheritance in Christ’s Millennial Kingdom is a major theme in God’s Word. There are ~1518 verses in the OT and hundreds in the New that speak about His Coming Kingdom and the importance of my being able To Inherit It.

Consider: The Bible speaks of inherit or inheritance in 2 ways.

1. Strong’s 2816 = kleronomEO = Inheritance By Birth or Sonship Inheritance

a. This inheritance belongs to me simply because I am a born-again child of God & I am an heir.

b. I am justified, the Holy Spirit of God resides in me. I have God Himself as my inheritance.

Gal. 4:6-7 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

c. This sonship inheritance is unconditional and automatic. I will always be a son.

d. This inheritance is a free gift - NO WORKS. [Rom. 4:1-4; 11:5-6; Eph. 2:8-9]

e. This inheritance GUARANTEES me eternal Life; open to all who will accept it.

➤ Eph. 1:11, 14; Heb. 9:15 = Our works are not mentioned.

f. This inheritance gives me entrance to His Kingdom.

Titus 3:7 That being justified by his grace,

we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

I Pet. 1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

2. Strong’s 2817 = kleronomIA = Inheritance From The Lord

awarded by divine lot, i.e. the portion God assigns

Note: After our justification, the Holy Spirit spends the rest of our lives cleansing, renewing and sanctifying us for positions in the coming Kingdom.

Sanctification is NOT AUTOMATIC. I must humble myself and surrender to the process which can only be done by the Holy Spirit working in me through the active, living Word of God.

The New Testament affirms again and again the principle of reward according to works.

➤ Some Christians will obtain an extra portion of spiritual possession or blessing.

➤ Given by the Lord because of faithfulness, obedience and perseverance

The extra portion of the inheritance: Relates To The 1,000 Year Kingdom Reward

- Earned inheritance [meritorious reward] which entitles one to positions, rewards, authority and blessings in the Millennial Kingdom

Col. 3:24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the Reward Of The Inheritance;
For You Serve The Lord Christ. [works are noted]

- This inheritance is conditional because there are requirements.

Rev. 2:26 he that overcomes, and keeps my works unto the end,
to him will I give power over the nations

Rev. 21:7 He that overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

My Belief: People who are justified ENTER the Kingdom.

People who are justified and obedient to sanctification ENTER and INHERIT the kingdom.

SALVATION- Sonship Inheritance	REWARDS-Inheritance From The Lord
Past - I John 3:2	Future - Rev. 22:12
Free - Eph. 2:8-9	Earned - I Cor. 3:8
Can't Be Lost - John 10:28-29	Can Be Lost - II John 1:8
Same For All - Rom. 3:22	Differ Among Christians - I Cor. 3:12-15
For Those Who Believe - John 3:16	For Those Who Work - I Cor. 9:27

Eph. 1:19-20 and [so that you will begin to know] what the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His [active, spiritual] power is in us who believe.

Believe = #4100 pisteuó = to entrust one's spiritual well-being to Christ

These are in accordance with the working of His mighty strength ²⁰ which He produced in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places,

Am I willing to be changed by the Lord? Will I heed His counsel to buy of Him:

1. Gold refined in the fire to prove my faith genuine
2. White garments of justification and sanctification to be properly clothed
3. The eye salve of the Holy Spirit to have my spiritual eyes opened

Consider: If heeded, the counsel of Jesus is the cure to overcome my lukewarmness and apathy.

These are in preparation to be the Bride of Jesus Christ.

Powerful Truth: If I allow Him to do His work in me, I will overcome.

Powerful Promise: To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne,
as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

Lord, empower us by the Holy Spirit to have eyes to see.

II Cor. 4:18 "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen.

For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal"

The King is coming for a Bride who has made herself ready and is watching for His return.