

# 2020 Calendar

Jan 19-25 Progressive Gospel Meeting

Feb. 16th Pulpit Swap

Mar 7, 14 SMBC Work Day

Apr 4<sup>th</sup> Paoli Bible Bowl

Apr 4, 11 SMBC Work Day

Apr 9-12 Lads to Leaders Convention

April 26 (SMBC Spring Singing)

May 16th SMBC Rally Day

May 17th Pulpit Swap

May 18-28 Sojourners SMBC

June 21-26th SMBC AA2 (Brent & Randy's Week)

July 5-11 SMBC Senior Week 1 (Larry's week)

Aug 16th Pulpit Swap

Sept 19th Board Meeting

Sept 27th SMBC Fall Singing

Oct 3rd Nationwide Doorknocking Day

Oct 10, Nov 7 SMBC Work Day

Nov 15th Pulpit Swap

# 20th Progressive Gospel Meeting

Jan 19-25      7:00 p.m nightly

## 20/20: Lord, Open My Eyes

Sun Singing @ Fredericksburg—2:00 – 3:30

M Palmyra	B. Donoho	I Was Blind But Now I See
T Kansas	G. Circle	Fix Your Eyes
W Big Spring	J. Harkness	Living By Faith, Not By Sight
Th F'burg	L. Collins	Lord, I Want To See
F Paoli	M. Purkhiser	Sight For The Blind
S M'burg	L. Sawyer	Don't Lose Your Focus

Dessert Fellowship following Sat night.

### **Area Mission Works:**

Potters Children's Home

In Search of the Lord's Way

Gospel Minutes

House to House, Heart to Heart

Church of Christ Disaster Relief

### **Online Resources**

[www.wvbs.org](http://www.wvbs.org) (World Video Bible School)

[apologeticspress.org](http://apologeticspress.org) (Christian Evidences)

<https://gbntv.org> (Gospel Broadcast Network)

### **Churches in Fellowship**

Big Spring   Corydon   Crawford Co.   Crossroads

Fredericksburg   Fort Hill   Hamburg Pike   Kansas

Martinsburg   Monroe   Northside   Paoli   Salem

Scottsburg   South Liberty

## **I Was Blind, but Now I See**

John 8:12 (NKJV) Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

### **"Who Sinned?"** John 9:1–5

What did the disciples see when they saw the blind man?

What did Jesus see?

Is suffering caused by a specific sin?

How can a man sin before he is born?

We may suffer early consequences of our deliberate sins.

But, not everything that happens is because of a sin.

Greatest suffers are not to be looked upon as the greatest sinner.

Thus, it's possible to see and yet be blind to what is going on around us.

### **The Witness' Own Testimony.** John 9:6-12

After applying the dirt with His spit Jesus sends him to the pool of Siloam.

Notice: Jesus never told the blind man that He was going to heal him.

What's it like to have never seen anything and now seeing everything.

The Neighbor's question, "How were your eyes opened?"

### **Spiritual Blindness** John 9:13-34

They brought him to the Pharisees... Why?!

John helps us understand vs 14. Sabbath day.

The 'criminal' acts. Jesus broke 3 of their rules.

Blinded by Facts? (John 9:15ff)

Did a miracle really occur? Call in the parents.

The former blind man's story does not change... but he does get bolder.

'Showing' the Pharisees the truth... (vss 30-33)

**What does it mean to be spiritually blind?** (John 9:35-41)

After finding him, Jesus asked him "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

Jesus summed up who was blind, who could see. (vs 39)

"There are none so blind than those who will not see."

When one asked, "Are we blind also?"

**Conclusions & Consequences**

Describe the colors of a sunset to a blind person.

Illuminate on red, yellow, purple, orange.

There are more than one kind of blindness.

We all have blind-spots; areas we don't see ourselves as others, or as we really are.

**Fix Your Eyes – Focus on Jesus**

**INTRODUCTION:**

- A. Hebrews 11 – “The Golden Chapter of Faith,”  
“The eXtreme Faith League Hall of Fame”
  - 1. Look at how many times the sense of sight is referenced (vv. 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 13, 14, 23, 26, 27)
  - 2. We may not see God, but we “see” God through the evidence that He presents (Romans 1.20; 8.24-25)
- B. vv. 39, 40 - “...apart from us they would not be made perfect.”
  - 1. You have an important role to play in this race! (1 Corinthians 9.24; 2 Timothy 4.7; Hebrews 12.1)
  - 2. “[And] THEREFORE...” - Emphatic Conclusion
- C. What is our role in this race?

**DISCUSSION:**

**I. THE FOCUS of the WITNESSES (Hebrews 12.1a)**

- A. The Possibilities (11.1-7)
  - 1. The Creator
  - 2. Trusting Him
    - a. Pleasing God to overcome death
    - b. Seeking God to receive the reward
    - c. Believing God to see things never seen before
- B. The Promises (11.10-14)
  - 1. “...welcoming them from a distance...”
  - 2. Seeking a country of their own.
- C. The Power (11.23-27)
  - 1. The beauty of a child – more powerful than the king’s edict
  - 2. The reproach of Christ – greater than the king’s treasures

3. The faith of the faithful – more convincing than the king’s wrath

## **II. DISTRACTIONS (Hebrews 12.1b)**

- A. Throw off every Encumbrance
  1. Worldliness? (Luke 8.7, 14; 18.18-27)
  2. The Law! (Hebrews 10.1-4)
- B. Remove every Entanglement – Sin
  1. OTOH, Jesus does the work (Heb 10.12-14)
  2. OTOH, we have a responsibility (Heb 10.19-27)
- C. Run with Endurance
  1. Don’t focus on the dangers, temptations, traps, etc. (1 Timothy 6.9-10)
  2. Instead, focus on the path you want to take (Philippians 4.8)

## **III. FOCUS ON JESUS (Hebrews 12.2)**

- A. Author (Used of the great heroes of cities – Matthew 5.14; Hebrews 13.14)
  1. The Trailblazer (Acts 3.14-15)
  2. Founder (Hebrews 2.10)
- B. Finisher
  1. Protector (Hebrews 12.2)
  2. Combining the two: Jesus is... (Revelation 22.13)
- C. Example
  1. Endurance (Hebrews 12.3; 1 Peter 2.20-25)
  2. Rewarded
    - a. For the joy set before Him (Romans 8.18)
    - b. Seated at the right hand of God (Matthew 25.34)

## **CONCLUSION:**

- A. We Focus on Him (Hebrews 2.9-18)
- B. “We walk (run?) by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5.7)

## Living By Faith, Not By Sight

2 Cor 5:1-10 Walk by faith, not by sight – Trusting God

Intro: Acts 1

Walking by sight: Show me and I will believe

Walking by faith: Trust Me, and I will show you

2 Cor 5:6-9

I. Trust by reasoning Isaiah 1:18-20

A. Naaman 2 Kings 5

B. Moses Hebrews 11:24

II. Trust by experience (Hindsight is 20/20)

A. Noah Genesis 5-7, Hebrews 11:7

B. Abraham Genesis, Hebrews 11:8-10, 17-19

Challenge Malachi 3:10

## Do You Want to See?

(Luke 18:35-43 - Matthew 20:29-34)

Introduction: 1. Every day we are bombarded with questions. Some questions are asked to us directly, some are implied, but everyday we answer hundreds of questions. Some are more important than others. Some questions that require an answer from us have little effect on us, and on our lives. Some however, are very important, and how we answer those questions will impact our lives greatly! Answering these hundreds of “daily” questions take time. The questions we feel are unimportant, can be answered quickly. Some, the more important questions will take more time to answer, we like to think about it we like to go through it in our minds - we do that because we know how important the answer is to that question. So we think about it and ponder it.

2. We need to spend time answering those important questions because of how much they affect us, and while we need to put our minds to the questions, and know the importance of some questions, we still need to answer them - we cannot leave the important questions unanswered because we are afraid of the answer - we need to answer the question and then take the action that the answer leads us to. Important questions must be answered, because they are important, and usually the quicker we can come to the conclusion and start taking action to those questions the better off we are.

3. There are some questions, big questions, life altering questions, that we know how to answer and can answer them quickly, because the answer is obvious. We long to answer them, and even though they may be big questions we know the answer right away. This is where desire comes into play. We can answer those questions quickly, even though they are weighty questions, we can answer them because we KNOW what we want. The answer is obvious, and we desire to have the answer

come to reality. In fact the answer is so obvious the questions seems to be a bit silly to even ask.

4. It seems that Jesus is asking one of those questions here. He comes up to a blind man, or a couple of them, how many is not really important, the important thing is the question, and why Jesus asked this question.

We need to ask ourselves questions, and answer some of those questions - and then we will have decided what we are going to do in light of the answers that we give to questions. And some of the answers are obvious, but we still drag our feet in answering them and taking action. Jesus here will ask a question and the answer is obvious, — or so it seems.

#### I. What is desire

- Websters will define desire like this: “To long for, or hope for.” In his 1828 dictionary Webster will give a more detailed definition, “An emotion, or excitement of the mind directed to the attainment or possession of an object from with pleasure, sensual, intellectual or spiritual is expected.”
- Why do we have desire; why do we WANT for something/anything?

#### II. What we do when desire meets up with opportunity

- When desire meets opportunity we thrown into a crossroads - decisions must be made.

#### III. What is Jesus really teaching here?

- This is the most important question that can ever be put to us, and while the answer is so obvious from a physical standpoint it is just as obvious from a spiritual one.
- This is not about physical eyesight it is about spiritual eyesight
- This is not about physical healing is it about spiritual healing

## VI. What does healing bring?

- Salvation - home in heaven
- The healing of sight that Jesus brings, takes us to a life with a spiritual focus - takes us to spiritual growth - allows us to SEE what this life is truly all about!

### Conclusion:

1. What to do when desire meets with opportunity
2. Jesus has given us the opportunity
3. Now the decision is on us - and the real question that we must ask is: Do we want to SEE?!
4. Jesus gives us opportunity to see - and to continue to see.

## **"Sight for the Blind"**

*"He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoner and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,..."* Luke 4:14

A--Blindness has a way of bringing on desperation.

1. There's something about a desperate moment that gives us an opportunity to see things when otherwise we're not really interested.
2. There's something about desperation that causes us to be open.
3. Humble desperation is what invites the power of God to be demonstrated in our lives

B—Gods plan verses reality

1. We were created in the image of God.  
**Genesis 1:27**
2. The garden of Eden was a picture of perfection. **Genesis 2:9**
3. No blindness, no desperation
4. In a moment sin changes God's plan for mankind. **Genesis 3:6**
5. God provides our only hope. **Isaiah 40:31**

C—2 Kings 5 Story of Naaman—degrees of  
blindness and desperation

1. The first level-Realization that a challenge lies ahead. **V.1**
2. The second level-Openness to the Godly counsel of other people. **V.2**
3. The third level-Willingness to ask for help from others. **Vs.9-11**
4. The fourth level—Readiness to obey God **V.14**

God is calling us out of our blindness and desperation and into His mission. His Spirit and His Life live inside of each of us. We have been reconciled to God through the power of reconciliation. He has cured our spiritual blindness and has the power to take away our desperation!

## Lord, Open My Eyes—Don't Lose Your Focus

Proverbs 4:20-27—“My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words. 21 Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; 22 for they are life to those who find them and health to one's whole body. 23 Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. 24 Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. 25 Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. 26 Give careful thought to the[c] paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. 27 Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.”

20/20 vision— term used to express normal visual acuity (the clarity or sharpness of vision)

Solomon—his life; 1 Kings 11

- Devoted
- Divided
- Disobedient

Son—teaching

- Focus

- Path

Locked In

- Direction—
- Educated—
- Distractions—
- Support—

Fix your eyes



# Songs:

## **Open the eyes of my heart, Lord**

Chorus: Open the eyes of my heart,  
I want to see You X2  
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You X2  
To see You high and lifted up  
Shinin' in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy  
Chorus  
As we sing holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy

## **Open My Heart**

Open my heart to what you know So I can stretch, so I can grow  
My feelings toss me to and fro open my heart to what you know

Open my eyes to what you see to understand what I should be  
My feelings get the best of me open my eyes to what you see

Open my ears to what you hear so I can keep you very near  
My feelings make it so unclear open my ears to what you hear

Open my heart to what you know so I can stretch, so I can grow  
My feelings toss me to and fro open my heart to what you know  
Open my heart to what you know

## **Open our eyes, Lord**

We want to see Jesus. To reach out and touch him  
And say that we love him Open our ears, Lord  
And help us to listen Open our eyes, Lord  
We want to see Jesus

## **My Eyes are Dry**

My Eyes are Dry	But what can be done
My faith is old	For an old heart like mine
My heart is hard	Soften it up
My prayers are cold	With oil and wine
And I know how I ought to be	The oil is You, Your Spirit of love
Alive to You and dead to me	Please wash me anew
	With the wine of Your Blood

## **O Be Careful Little Eyes**

O be careful little eyes what you see X2  
For the Father up above is looking down in love  
So, be careful little eyes what you see

O be careful little ears what you hear X2  
For the Father up above is looking down in love  
So, be careful little ears what you hear

O be careful little tongue what you say X2  
For the Father up above is looking down in love  
So, be careful little tongue what you say

O be careful little hands what you do X2  
For the Father up above is looking down in love  
So, be careful little hands what you do

O be careful little feet where you go X2  
For the Father up above is looking down in love  
So, be careful little feet where you go

O be careful little heart whom you trust X2  
For the Father up above is looking down in love  
So, be careful little heart whom you trust

O be careful little mind what you think X2  
For the Father up above is looking down in love  
So, be careful little mind what you think