

## Doctrine of Blindness

1. Blindness is the inability to see physically or spiritually.
2. In order to see, a person must have light and sight. Without sight light is of limited value to the blind person. This is true physically and it is true spiritually.
3. Sometimes physical blindness comes as a form of divine judgment upon sin.
  - Men. *Genesis 19:1 11 And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.*
  - Animals. *Zechariah 12:4 In that day, saith the Lord, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness.*
4. Blindness is under the sovereign control of Almighty God.
  - *Exodus 4:11 And the Lord said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? Have not I the Lord?*
5. The Lord God can, and will, inflict blindness on individuals for a variety of reasons.
  - As a form of divine discipline. *Deuteronomy 28:28 The Lord shall smite thee with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of heart:*
  - As a way to manifest the works of God. *John 9:2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? 3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.*
6. Elisha prayed for physical blindness to fall upon the enemies of Israel. His prayer was answered.
  - *2 Kings 6:18 And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the Lord, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.*
7. God has blinded the nation of Israel, in part, “*until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.*”
  - *Romans 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.*
8. The spiritual blindness of heart results in darkness in spiritual understanding. The mind is blinded.

- *Ephesians 4:18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:*
  - *2 Corinthians 3:14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.*
9. It is said of some unbelievers during the days of the ministry of Jesus that they could not believe because God caused spiritual blindness.
- *John 12:37 But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: 38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? And to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? 39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, 40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. 41 These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.*
10. The elect obtain salvation, but the rest were, and are, blinded.
- *Romans 11:7 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded.*
11. In addition to the state of being spiritually blind according to nature, in addition to being spiritually blinded by God, Satan also blinds the minds of men.
- *2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*
12. Hatred is a powerful emotion that causes a person to walk in moral and spiritual darkness.
- 1 John 2:11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.*
13. Those who do not persevere in the sphere of saving faith are said to be spiritually blind.
- *John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

- *2 Peter 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*