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*God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.*

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## John 9.

(2013).

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The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

***Teach it, don't demand it.***

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## John 9.

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### Topics.

- Jesus heals a man born blind by putting clay in his eyes.
- As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.
- How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?
- Those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.

**The Previous Chapter:** in the previous chapter Jesus told the Pharisees he is from above while they are from below and their father is the devil. The Jews accused him of having a demon and the Pharisees were seeking to kill him.

**NOTE:** for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

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### Jesus Heals a man Born Blind by putting Mud in his Eyes.

John 9:1-11 ----- <sup>1</sup>As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud (Clay in KJV) with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup>and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam". So he went and washed and came back seeing. <sup>8</sup>The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup>So they said to him "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud (Clay in the KJV) and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight."

**NOTE:** the spiritual message of this miracle is that Jesus came into the world so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind, see notes following (v39-41)

The previous chapter ended with Jesus hiding himself and then leaving the temple because the Jews were picking up stones to throw at him as he is leaving the temple he passes a man who had been born blind from birth. The Jews of Jesus generation believed that disabilities and especially disabilities that were a result of birth were caused by sin (v34). Jesus clearly says that this idea is totally wrong and then says, but the glory of God will be on him.

### As long as I am in the world, I am the Light of the World.

Jesus tells his disciples that they must be healing and proclaiming the Gospel, (the work of God) while it is day, (meaning while he is still on earth) because night is coming (referring to his death). His words, "When no-one can work" (v4) probably refers to the tyranny Rome inflicted on Christians and the aggressive persecution the Jewish religious authorities inflicted on those who followed Christ after his death.

**Jesus Heals the Blind Man:** Jesus spat on the ground and with the saliva and the clay he anointed the man's eyes and told him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam which was a fountain in the city of Jerusalem in the king's garden the man went and returned with his sight.

All who had known the man were stunned; they couldn't believe it was the same man that used to beg. He tells everyone how Jesus had miraculously healed him.

### **Why the Saliva and Clay?**

We might wonder why Jesus uses saliva and clay rather than just say, "Be Healed." At the beginning of this healing Jesus said, "The works of God would be displayed in this blind man." Perhaps Jesus had the man walk through the city of Jerusalem with clay mud on his eyes to attract the people's curiosity so the glory of God manifested in this man would be spoken about throughout Jerusalem especially considering that he had to leave the city because the Jews were about to throw stones at him.

### **It was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes**

John 9:12-27 ----- <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." <sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud (Clay in the KJV) and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud (Clay in the KJV) on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup>So they (the Pharisees) said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." <sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. <sup>21</sup>But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." <sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"

This is absolutely stunning, Jesus heals a man who had been blind from birth and all the religious leaders could focus on was the fact he did it on a Sabbath Day. Some say that Jesus could not be a man of God because he does not keep the Sabbath. This is a perfect example of men who have knowledge of the Scriptures being in ministry, but having no idea what is important to the heart of God they had even told the people if anyone confesses Christ they will be put out of the Synagogues.

**NOTICE:** the blind man's humour, the Pharisees repeatedly ask him, "How did Jesus open his eyes?" and the blind man no doubt fed up with their questions says, "Why are you asking again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"

### **How can a man who is a sinner do such Signs?**

Some said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" The miracles Jesus performed authenticated and testified that he was the prophet to come like Moses, the promised seed of Abraham and of David, Israel's Messiah the Christ the Son of God and Saviour of the world. No man on earth could do the things Christ did without the full power of God flowing through him, thus his sign miracles evidenced that he was approved of God, sent by God, had God's favour and was God's beloved Son and the one Moses and all the prophet spoke of. We know Jesus miracles were to authenticated that he was sent by God the Father because when John the Baptist was in prison he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the one who is to come and Jesus answered them with the following majestic words: -

- Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me (Matthew 11:2-6) (Luke 7:18-23).

It is stated in the Old Testament that the Christ will open the eyes of the blind, heal the ears of the deaf, cause the crippled to walk and the mute to speak with joy (Isaiah 29:1-24) (Isaiah 35:1-10) (Isaiah 42:1-10) all the miracles that Jesus did.

And Jesus when speaking to the Jews said: -

- The works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me and the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard. (John 5:36-37).

### **The Pharisees are disciples of Moses**

John 9:28-38 ----- <sup>28</sup>And they (the Pharisees) reviled him (the blind man) saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshipper of God and does his will, God listens to him. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup>They answered him "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. <sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" (Son of God in the KJV) <sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." <sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

This story beautifully contrasts the heart of the Pharisees with the heart of Christ, the Pharisees consider themselves superior to the blind man because they regard themselves as disciples of Moses and the blind man as nothing, they attempt to intimidate him but the blind man speaks with far more wisdom than they do, their pride is so high they attack him personally by saying who does he think he is to teach them and then accuse he of being born in utter sin and cast him out is it any wonder Jesus said: -

- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness (Matt 23:27).

Even Moses himself would be horrified if he saw men with such callous hearts calling themselves his disciples. Jesus in total contrast upon hearing how the man had been treated seeks him out and shows him the way to God and eternal life.

### **We do not know where Jesus came From?**

When the Pharisees said, "They do not know where Jesus came from," they were not referring to his birth since they believed he came from Mary and Joseph rather they mean they don't know who sent him or what prophet or teacher he comes from whereas the knew that Moses was sent by God.

### **Lessons learnt from this story.**

The healing of the blind man's eyes was a sign to show that Jesus was sent from God, born of God and that God was with Jesus, it should have been enough to prove to the Pharisees who Jesus was ordained of God. God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshipper of God and does his will, God will listen to them. The blind man who has been a beggar most of his life had far more wisdom, insight and understanding than the great religious leaders who studied the scrolls every day. The Pharisees believed they were the righteous and the chosen race and Gentile were born in sin, but it was the blind beggar that Jesus favoured.

## **Those who do Not See may see, and those Who See may become Blind.**

John 9:39-41 ----- <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.

Jesus words, "Those who see may become blind," applies to those who think they see and believe they understand it applies to those who are self-righteous and refers in this context to the prideful, self-righteous scribes and Pharisees who believed they were right with God, but were in reality so far from Him that they were the only people in the entire New Testament that Jesus rebuked. Jesus is saying that by him coming into the world those whose heart attitude is full of self-righteousness, pride, ego and selfish ambition etc., will be made blind to the Good News of the Gospel and the path to eternal life because of their prideful and self-righteous heart.

### **Those who do not see may See.**

Jesus words, "Those who do not see may see," applies to the lowly and humble those who are prepared to listen they acknowledge that they are sinners in this context it refers to the Gentiles and Jews who accepted Christ.

### **If you were blind, you would have no Guilt.**

Jesus words to the Pharisees, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains." Means if they were without understanding or knowledge they would not be held accountable, because those without knowledge cannot be held accountable for what they don't know but because they say, "We see," Meaning they are adamant that they are right their guilt remains.

The same principal applies to a parent and discipline of child. A parent does not chastised a child for doing something wrong when they did not know it was a wrong thing to do rather the parent will teach them the right thing, but if the child refuses to be taught and continues in the wrong behaviour they are chastised, likewise the Pharisees are wrong and defiantly refuse to be taught and pride-fully claim they are right in denying the Lord Jesus Christ and therefore are held accountable and by their own pride made blind to the New Covenant and Good New of the Gospel.

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