

The Mt. Olive Worship Experience
"40 Days in the Word"...Open My Eyes
Pastor Barry Morton

Intro: (Video of 2 Tim. 3:16)

Read 2 Tim. 3:16-17

It says that "All scripture is God breathed." The Bible is God-breathed. It is a book that is INSPIRED by God! It's NOT just a good idea! It's NOT a nice suggestion! It is God's INSPIRED Word to us! And it has the power to change lives! How do we know...

(Read Testimonies)

They are beginning to see things differently! They are beginning to look at life differently! They are new perspective on life! They are gaining God's point of view on life and it is RADICALLY changing them!

My prayer weeks before we started 40 Days in the Word and every day since we have started is that your eyes would be opened! Because I believe that God desires to OPEN YOUR EYES to start seeing what God wants you to see! Listen to this...

Read Eph. 1:18-19

What does it mean to have the EYES OF HEART opened? Here it is, when you say yes to Jesus and decide to follow HIM...decide to develop a relationship with Him...God gives you senses that are NOT of this world. You know when you are born physically everything you learn comes from the 5 senses...hear, taste, touch, smell, and sight.

But when you are spiritually BORN AGAIN God gives you SPIRITUAL EYES and all of the sudden you start to see things about life you didn't see before and you start to FEEL things you never felt before. These are the eyes of your heart...the spiritual senses!

(Seeing the BELONG, BELIEVE, BECOME on hat in college)

My physical eyes saw just words on a hat BUT my spiritual eyes...the EYES OF MY HEART...saw something different! Now, first what I want to do is tell you WHY it's important to have EYES OF OUR HEARTS opened!

1 I can gain a new perspective on issues in life

Let's look at a story in Luke 24. This is the story that happened on the day that Jesus rose from the dead...the very first Easter Sunday!

What had happened is over the past seventy-two hours a lot had happened. Jesus had been arrested. He had been whipped and beaten and tortured. He had been crucified. He died. And they buried Him in a tomb!

All of the disciples are crushed. They feel their dream is finished... "We thought this guy was God! We thought He was the Messiah. And now that they have killed Him, they're probably going to kill us!" They are confused...and they are OVERWHELMED with grief!

Then on Easter morning some women go to the tomb and they find the tomb empty! The body is gone and the angels tell them HE HAS RISEN!! So they go back and they tell the disciples and Peter goes to see the empty tomb for Himself! And the scripture says that when he saw it...he was so OVERWHELMED he still didn't know what happened!!!

Then a little later a couple of Jesus' disciples are walking on the road to Emmaus AND they're GRIEVING as they walk! All of the sudden Jesus shows up and appears to them and starts walking with them. But they are so focused on their GRIEF they don't even recognize HIM. He is right in front of them and they don't even SEE HIM!! Let's start there...

Read Luke 24:15-24

He is walking right there with them and they can't see that it is HIM!

Read Luke 24:25-27

You see, a lot of people think the Old Testament is about Israel and the New Testament is about Jesus...WRONG! It's all about Jesus from cover to cover. This is a Jesus Book! The first part of the Bible...The Old Testament...tells you HE is coming in analogies and in prophecies and in statements and in predictions. He is all through the Old Testament!

Then we find in the Gospels the story of Jesus...then in the book of Acts we see where Jesus goes back to heaven and the church begins to grow...IT BECOMES A CHURCH ON THE MOVE! Then all the letters after that tell us how we're suppose live! It's all about Jesus!

Read Luke 24:28-31

Their eyes are opened and JESUS is right there! He is right there! He has been there all along! The very person they were talking about...HE was there! The very person they were LONGING for...HE was there!

Read Luke 24:32-34

When their eyes were opened and they saw HIM it changed everything! It turned their grieving into JOY!!! YOU SEE...

I don't know what problems some of you are facing in your life right now. But I know that in a room with this many people...there are some folks who have a problem where you're saying, "Frankly I don't see any way around this. There is NO answer to this problem...I just can't see the solution!"

If that is you, you need the eyes of your heart to be opened! Because when the eyes of your heart are opened then you WILL see the TRUTH that there are literally resources from GOD that are right in front of you!

OR maybe you have some things you've wanted to do in your life. You've wanted to start a business, or start a family, or get out of debt, or you've had some dream you've been trying make progress on but you just seem to keep bumping up an invisible wall! You're going, "I don't get it. I'm trying my best. I'm doing the best I can but I don't seem to be making any progress!"

If that is you, you need the eyes of your heart to be opened! Because when the eyes of your heart are opened then you WILL see the TRUTH that maybe it isn't the right time...HIS time for now OR maybe HE is trying to keep you from making a serious mistake because HE has something better for you down another path! BUT you will never SEE THAT and you're going to keep hitting your head up against the wall until the eyes of your heart are opened!

OR maybe you've had a great loss this past year! You may have lost a loved one. You may have lost your health. You may have lost your job OR you may have lost an important relationship and you are grieving!

You need the eyes of your heart to be opened! Because when the eyes of your heart are opened then you WILL see the TRUTH that Jesus has been walking with you every step of the way! You have never been alone! You have never been by yourself! Jesus is right there...BUT you won't be able to see that until the eyes of your heart are opened!

So how can we get the eyes of hearts to be opened? Let me give you four things...

1 I must begin a relationship with Jesus Christ

That's the starting point! If you don't have this one then you will continue to be spiritually blind and don't have any hope of seeing things from God's point of view! You've got to get the connection first. You can't just know about Jesus...you've got to know HIM! You've got to have a relationship with HIM!

2 I must cleanse my heart of sin and conflict

You can't get the eyes of your heart opened if your body and mind are full of junk! That's why Jesus says in Matthew 5:8, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God!"

Now, that doesn't mean perfect! None of us are perfect! What it does mean is that we are constantly checking ourselves...DAILY...to see if there is any sin or conflict in our lives that we need to confess and get rid of!

3 I must read the Bible because the Bible is truth

Read Hebrews 4:12

Why? Because it is LIVING and ACTIVE!

Then it says, "It is sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." The Word of God has the power to cut right to the heart of any issue we may be facing in our life...it has the power to point out what's wrong in my life...and it has the power to point to EXACTLY what I am missing in my life and point to what it is that I TRULY need!!

Read Psalm 119:18

The truth is there! We just have to ask in faith for God to open our eyes so that we may see it!