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## "THE EYES OF GOD"

God has condescended to reveal Himself in terms that are familiar to us. He is described using human terms such as: *"the ears of God"*, *"the face of God"*, *"The hands of God,"* etc. These descriptive terms are called "anthropomorphisms: Grk. "Anthropos" = "man" and "morphe" = "form"; thus "man forms."

We must not miss the point of this study and that is that we get to know God better, not just know more about Him as an academic exercise, but to know Him intimately. This, God says, delights Him:

*"Thus says the LORD: " Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glorifies glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD."* (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

We can get to know God better by considering "The Eyes of God." This is another human physical characteristic ascribed to God. The eyes reveal much about an individual. Likewise, the eyes of God are very revealing. So let us examine some of the many verses that talk about God's eyes:

### GOD'S EYES REVEAL HIS PIERCING GAZE

Three times in the book of Revelation we read, *"His eyes were as a flame of fire."* (1:14; 2:18; 19:12).

This terminology conveys the all-perceptive nature of divine knowledge which He possesses, that is, His omniscience. His fiery eyes pierce into everything. They reveal His searching scrutiny of everyone and everything. The truth that God knows all and sees all is both comforting and convicting, depending upon whether one is a saint or a sinner!

#### 1. He Sees Universally.

Psalm 14:2 - *"The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God."* (Psalm 14:2)

Zechariah 4:10 says *"the eyes of the LORD which range to and fro throughout the earth."*

Hebrews 4:13 – *"....there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."*

In Don Richardson's missionary biography, *Lords of The Earth*, there is a story of a

missionary named Bill in Papua New Guinea. Bill had several hundred tribesmen working on an airstrip. Whenever he left them, they all sat down. Bill had a glass eye. So one day Bill shouted to them, "Look here! I'm going to go away for a while, but I am leaving one of my eyes on this dump to watch you so that you will keep on working!" Bill then plucked out his glass eye, placed it on a stump and with his one good eye walked away. When he returned sometime later, he found the entire crew still working hard and shuttering!"

No matter where we are or what we are doing, God sees us. If we have come to know Him as our heavenly Father and love Him as we should, we will welcome His surveillance of us and willingly serve Him, not out of fear, but out of love.

## **2. He Sees Individually.**

Job 34:21 – *"His eyes are on the ways of man, and He sees all his steps."*

Psalms 11:4 – *"The LORD's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men."*

Prov. 5:21 – *"For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and He ponders all his paths."*

Prov. 15:3 – *"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good."*

Jer. 16:17 – *"My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity hidden from My eyes."*

The French soldier and statesman Marquis de Lafayette, was imprisoned by the Austrians from 1792 to 1797. He tells about when he was shut up in a gloomy prison. In the door of his little cell was a hole. At that hole, a soldier was placed day and night to watch over him. All the prisoner could see was the soldier's eye, that was always there. Day and night, every moment when he looked up he always saw an eye staring at him. He said, "It was dreadful! There was no escape, no hiding. When I laid down to sleep and when I arose that eye was always watching me. How dreadful!"

If God is your Father, He is always watching over you paternally and protectively not punitively!

## **3. He Sees Internally.**

The Lord reminded Samuel that *"The Lord sees not as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."* (1 Samuel 16:7) God's penetrating gaze reaches into the inner recesses of our being. That is why David wrote in Psalm 139 these words:

*"You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It*

*is high, I cannot attain it.” (Psalm 139:2-6)*

A pastor was teaching a primary Sunday School class of boys and girls and he gave each pupil a piece of paper and asked them to draw a picture of what they thought God looked like. Most of the kids drew a gigantic figure. However, one little girl drew a big eye! When asked why she drew the eye, she said “Well, Mother always says that God is watching us all the time to see if we are good or bad. She says He sees everything!”

One day an astronomer was making observations on the sun just as it was setting, when there came into the range of his telescope the top of a hill 7 miles away. On the hilltop were several apple trees. In one of them were two boys stealing apples. One was picking the apples and the other was watching to make sure that nobody saw them. But there sat the astronomer, 7 miles away, with the eye of his telescope on them, watching their every move and seeing even the guilty expressions on their faces as plainly as if he had been there with them.

Hebrews 4:13 reminds us again that, *“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”*

That sobering truth must work its purifying effect into the depths of our minds for there is no escape from the eyes of the Lord. It is a comfort for obedient Christians to know that the Father is watching over us protectively. However, it is discomfoting for the disobedient to know that God watches over the world universally, individually and internally.

### **GOD’S EYES REVEAL HIS PLENTIFUL GRACE**

There was a song made popular by the Statler Brother’s Quartet years ago with the following lyrics:

*“Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord,  
Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord  
And he landed high and dry,  
And he landed high and dry.”*

Well, that is more than a song – that is Scripture! Having briefly described the wicked world in which Noah lived prior to the flood, God’s Word states, *“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.”* (Genesis 6:8)

I have had some harrowing boating experiences such as high winds, giant waves and unexpected nautical emergencies. However, I have not been closed up in a barge with hundreds of animals, reptiles and birds for a year and ten days as was Noah. In addition he was boating blind, not knowing where he was or where he was going. Don’t you know that he and his family were glad that God was keeping His eye on them and giving them grace to endure the ordeal.

And although we will never be called upon to “take animals two by two” and sail away to an unknown destination, the same God, Who watched over Noah and his family, watches over

us at home or abroad; asleep or awake, in automobiles, airplanes, yes, and boats, keeping His eye upon us, ready to provide His all-sufficient grace to meet any and all experiences and emergencies that we may face.

His plenteous grace is demonstrated in several ways:

### **1. Grace is Seen in His Patience.**

God said to disobedient and rebellious Israel:

*"I will judge you according to your ways, and I will repay you for all your abominations. My eye will not spare you, nor will I have pity."* (Ezekiel 7:33,4)

Later in Ezekiel 20:17 the Lord said, *"Nevertheless my eyes spared them from destroying them, neither did I make an end of them in the wilderness."*

How long-suffering and patient the Lord had been and still is toward his people even today!

### **2. Grace is Seen in His Protection.**

When the Israelites were crossing the Red Sea with Pharaoh's army in hot pursuit, we read,

*"Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians."* (Exodus 14:24)

The God Who watched His people and protected them as they walked between heaped up walls of water, delivering them from their enemies, watches over His people today. He not only watches over us but walks with us, never leaving nor forsaking us!

*"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him."* (II Chronicles 16:9)

### **My Heavenly Father Watches Over Me**

*"I trust in God, I know He cares for me  
On mountain top or o'er the stormy sea  
Though billows roll He keeps my soul  
My heavenly father watches over me."*

## **GOD'S EYES REVEAL HIS PROVIDENTIAL GUIDANCE**

### **1. How To Be God-Guided.**

*"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye."* (Ps.32:8)

If we are in fellowship with our heavenly Father we will be looking into His face and watching for Him to direct us. Two frequently quoted verses about guidance are:

*“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” (Prov.3:5-6)*

But do you know the very next verse? *“Do not be wise in your own eyes.” (Prov. 3:7)*

To be guided by God we must resist the urge and inclination to rely upon our finite human wisdom and choose rather to seek and submit to divine wisdom. Since the Lord guides us with His eyes we must watch His eyes!

## **2. How Not To Be God-Guided.**

*“Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you.” (Psalm 32:9)*

To be self-guided, be stubborn like a horse or mule; be self-sufficient, act as if you know more than God! Some Christians are so self-sufficient that they never consult God for guidance unless and until they have made a complete mess of their lives and then they call out to God to deliver them and then spend the remainder of their lives harboring a deep-seated resentment toward God because He did not stop them from self-destructing.

**Illust.** A country father, who was too lazy to plant a garden, would steal from his neighbor's fields. One day he said to his young son, “Bring your wagon and follow me.” They walked down the country lane and came to the neighboring farmer's corn field. The father walked off the road into the corn field and pulled and filled the boy's wagon with ears of corn. Walking back to the road, he paused and looked up the road then down the road and then said to his son, “Come on son, let's go home.” The boy, trudging along behind pulling the wagon, reached up and tugged on his father's sleeve and said, “Dad, you looked up the road and down the road, but Dad, you forgot to look up!”

## **CONCLUSION:**

We speak of “The All-Seeing Eye of God” and it is true that God sees all, nothing escapes His purview. That knowledge should be a corrective for aberrant behavior; an inducement for holy living and a solace and comfort to those who are guided, guarded and graced by the Shepherd and Bishop of their souls. (1 Peter 2:25)

One day a child was visiting in the house of a very elderly lady who had a framed saying on the wall of her room with these words, “You God See Me.” She said to the child, “When you are older, people will tell you that God is always watching you to see when you do wrong, in order to punish you. I do not want you to think of it in that way, but I want you to take this framed saying home, and I want you to remember all of your life that God loves you so much that he cannot take his eyes off of you!”

***“His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.”***