

SPIRITUAL BLIND SPOTS

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According to Collins advanced dictionary, a blind spot is an area in your range of vision that you cannot see properly but which you should really be able to see. For example, when you are driving a car, the area just behind your shoulders is often a blind spot.

“If you say that somebody has a blind spot, you mean that they seem to be unable to understand it or to see how important it is. For example, the President has a blind spot on ethical issues. When I was single I never worried about money – it was a bit of blind spot.”

A blind spot is what one doesn't seem to understand or see as important.

Spiritual blind spot is those important biblical truths that the Christian believer ought to understand but does not understand and does not make effort to understand and apply the understanding gained.

Spiritual blind spot is those biblical principles that believers do not give attention to that they ought to give attention. It is important that we take serious what God wants us to take serious. It is important that we commit ourselves as God's people to studying, understanding and disciplining ourselves to apply the understanding gained.

We are going to be looking at six spiritual blind spots that transform our walk with God and make us successful and fruitful Christians as the application of the truths will cause an unceasing flow of God's power and blessings.

1. The covenant relationship of the Christian with God.

The relationship between the believer and God in Christ is a covenant relationship. This means that there is the God part and there is the man part. God will never do what we are supposed to do no matter how much we pray. The believer has covenant responsibilities to God, just as God has covenant responsibilities to us who believe. God makes the promises and gives the conditions for the promises to be fulfilled. God's part is to fulfill His promises when we meet the conditions. To see the promises fulfilled, we must meet the conditions. This means that we are the ones who determine the size of the cup with which God blesses us. Our obedience and faithfulness to the covenant determines what comes to us. Our obedience to the commands and teachings of God determines the blessings that are manifest in our lives.

There are three important truths you must know about God and covenants to be able to appreciate covenant relationship with God Almighty.

1. God does not relate with a man except on the basis of a covenant (*Matthew 11:28-30*).
2. God does not engage a man in a service except on the basis of a covenant (*Jeremiah 1:4,5,17-19*).
3. God does not bless a man except in a covenant.
Deut 28:1-2

28 If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. 2 All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God:

NIV

(Please read verses 3-16)

John 15:7 If you live in Me [abide vitally united to Me] and My words remain in you and continue to live in your hearts, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.

AMP

In the covenant that we have with Jesus Christ we are expected not only to come to Jesus and believe in Him, but to take on His assignment (His burden which is the reconciling of men to God and the expansion of God's kingdom here on earth), and become His students (faithful disciples).

Matt 11:28-30

28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

NIV

The rest promised can only become a full reality and a continuous experience when we:

1. Believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and surrender our lives and burdens to Him.
2. Exchange our burdens with His. While He takes care of us and our worries, we take care of his work and house. We individually get committed to preaching the gospel and winning souls to the kingdom of Christ and using our resources, gifts, talents, training and experience to making sure that the house of God flourishes.
3. Commit ourselves to learning from Him. Take Bible studies serious. Daily meditate on the word of God and commit ourselves to practicing the things that we learn.

There are three other basic truths that you must know to succeed in working with God in covenant:

1. God does not violate (treat with disrespect) his covenant (Ps. 89:34).
2. God will not forget his covenant (Deut.4:31).
3. God will not break (annul) His covenant (Judges 2:1).

God spared Aaron when he and Miriam came together to challenge Moses on the matter of the Cushite woman he chose to marry. God rose in defense of Moses without Moses calling on Him to intervene because it was His part in the covenant He had with Moses. In His judgement, Miriam was struck with Leprosy but Aaron was spared because of the covenant of priesthood with Him. If He had struck Aaron, God would have violated His covenant with him and broken it. This is because a leper cannot be a priest. A former leper cannot be a priest either. But, because He does not forget His covenant, though he was angry with their conduct, He was mindful of His covenant of priesthood with Aaron and spared him. In the same way, God will protect

preserve, provide for and bless you. He will fight for you and take good care of you as He promised for that is His part in the covenant with you the believer. He always keeps His covenant.

Walk with God in total obedience and submission and you will eat the good of the land as He had promised. Always keep your part of the covenant. He will keep His. Remember that your faithfulness to the covenant determines what flows towards you from Him.

2. The power of giving and tithing

Tithing and giving is God's way of making sure there is money and food to run the church and meet the needs of ministry and full time workers. Tithing is God's share of the blessings He bestows upon us. That is the reason why He accused Israel of robbing Him when they did not bring the tithes and offerings to His house.

Mal 3:8-12

8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me.

"But you ask, 'How do we rob you?'

"In tithes and offerings. 9 You are under a curse — the whole nation of you — because you are robbing me. 10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. 11 I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the Lord Almighty. 12 "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty.

NIV

Tithing is a covenant principle that provokes the power of God for wealth creation. It is God's way for divine provision and abundance.

1. On the believer's part, it is his "thank you" offering for God's support and help in work, business and provision. It is an acknowledgement of the role God played in the provision. It is also a "seed" for greater provision.
 2. On God's part, it is what he needs to open the flood gates of heaven and pour out more blessings and anointing to make wealth. It commits Him to protecting the resources of the believer – He will always stand up for the believer when the devourer comes against him in one way or the other.
- The believer has no right to ask God to arise and rebuke the devourer when he has not tithed. We only qualify to receive help in this area when we bring our full tithe to God.
 - Give full tithe. Your tithe is a tenth or 10% of what you receive. It can be above but must not be below. Anything below is not a tithe.
 - Give regularly and not only when you hear an exhortation on tithing and giving.
 - Give joyfully with excitement and commitment.
 - Give with understanding and cheerfully without grumbling.

- Do not think that when I give, I am making the pastor richer.
- Do not concern yourself with what the money is used for. Just give. Let the store house managers manage it and account to God. Never take on the responsibility God has not given you. The consequences are always grave.

2 Cor 9:6

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

NIV

Luke 6:38

38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

NIV

Do not only tithe, give to the work of God. Give to men of God especially your pastors who labour in your life spiritually. Give to those in need. Remember that each time you, give, it is God you are giving to and He will pay you back.

3. The significance of walking in unity with one's spouse.

When God created man, He declared that it is not good for the man to be alone, and decided to make a suitable helper for him (Gen 2:18). God's plan was that the couple should fit into each other's life so they will work as a team and stay united. The Bible declared that the two shall be one flesh. It is unfortunate that today many people in marriage do not make great effort to make sure they live in unity. Many marriages are falling apart. This grieves the heart of God. To experience the fullness of God's plan for your life, it is important that you strive to be united with your spouse. Work as a team. The benefits are enormous.

Matt 18:19-20

19 "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

NIV

Eccl 4:9-12

*9 Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their work:*

*10 If one falls down,
his friend can help him up.*

*But pity the man who falls
and has no one to help him up!*

*11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.
But how can one keep warm alone?*

*12 Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.
NIV*

Deut 32:30

*30 How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?
KJV*

Luke 11:17

*17 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall.
NIV*

Unity increases the power and authority that is available to a couple. Unity strengthens the marriage and home. Unity keeps the devil away from the home. The prayers said together by a couple has greater power than the one said individually. Unity is so powerful that God said that as one people speaking the same language there is nothing that we purpose to do that will be impossible to us (Read Genesis 11: 1-9).

- Do whatever is necessary to keep your marriage and family united.
- Do away with the wrong things in your life that your spouse is always complaining about. Make corrections when and where necessary for peace to reign.
- Get help if you need it.
- Give attention to peace and unity.
- Plan together and execute your plans together.
- Hide nothing from each other. Trust and confide in each other.
- Be each other's best friend.
- No matter how far you have drifted from each other, prayerfully work on coming together and getting united. Swallow your pride and ego and let humility take over.
- Forgive your spouse of whatever he or she has done to you that is responsible for the gap.
- Make sure that you are not cheating or denying each other sex. Keep the bedroom active.
- Pray and work together. You will achieve more and experience more favour from the lord. The power and authority that will be available to you will be tremendous.

4. The power of the human thoughts.

Many do not yet know the power of the human thoughts. Those who have been told or heard it preached do not give attention to watching over their thoughts to keep evil away.

Prov 27:19

19 For as in water face answers to face, so the mind of man reflects the man.

RSV

The mind of man is a powerful force within man. What a man focuses his mind on is what he manifests. Thoughts are alive and have power to influence, direct the course of a man's life and control him totally. A man's thoughts make him a success or a failure. It generates faith or unbelief depending on what is being contemplated. The thoughts of a man makes him sin though he is born again. The thoughts of the believer make him unable to manifest love, forgiveness, the character and life of Jesus Christ in him. It is so powerful that God said we should give priority attention to it, and guard it continually. A man's life is a reflection of his thoughts.

You need mind management to keep your relationships stable and full of fun. You need mind management to keep your mind from discouragement and overcome the challenges of life, business, career and academics. You need mind management to keep your marriage exciting and happy. You need mind management to get along well with your colleagues, bosses, subordinates, management, and stay focused on the job. You need mind management to stay motivated on the job and in your chosen career. You need mind management to handle the difficult assignments you are given and deliver on time successfully despite the difficulties you face and pressures and unpleasant remarks from your superiors. You need mind management to separate your personal life from your work life. You need mind management to deal with the negative attitudes, unkind words and remarks, wrong criticism, and false accusations of people towards you. You need mind management not to fall in love with the wrong person; for love is a product of affectionate thoughts towards a person. You need mind management to live long and healthy, be happy, cheerful, and impact people positively. You need mind management to stay focused and not be distracted by what is happening in other people's life or what they are doing. Broken focus is the real reason why many fail in life. You need mind management to be cheerful in the midst of challenges of all kinds, and not be anxious, worried, depressed or fearful. You need mind management to fulfill destiny and accomplish greatness in life.

Prov 4 :23

23 Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts.

GNB

5. The power of words.

The Bible teaches us that there is power of life and death in the tongue of man and only those who know, understand and love it will use it wisely to create the type of fruit they want and be enriched by it.

Prov 18:20-21

20 From the fruit of his mouth a man's stomach is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied. 21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

NIV

Words are seeds, and with time, they bring forth fruit, that with time become mature for harvest and they are harvested again by the speaker. Each time you speak, bear in mind, it is seeds you are planting. The lack of knowledge in this area has made a lot of people to destroy their lives – they are always using the negative power in their mouth to close down their

heavens and make their own lives difficult without knowing it. You will always harvest back into your life what your mouth has spoken.

So many of us know this, but we don't give it attention. We still curse and abuse our children. We speak negatively so much that it never crosses our minds that it may come to pass in our lives. The truth is that it does come to pass. Stop handing your life to the devil through wrong words.

Matt 12:37

7 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

NIV

Jesus Christ our Lord taught us that we shall be acquitted (discharged and set free) by the words of our mouth, and we shall be condemned (damned, ruined, bankrupt, afflicted, tormented and imprisoned) by the words of our mouth. What you say should matter to you from today. My advice is that you choose your words carefully no matter the condition you find yourself. Say only what you want to see and not necessary what you are seeing. Do not speak based on how you feel or present circumstance. Do not let emotions determine your words. Let your knowledge of God's word determine what you say and how you say it.

6. The need for forgiveness.

Forgiveness is an essential part of love. Being people of love with the love nature of God in Christ, loving and forgiving offenders should not be difficult. Unfortunately, forgiveness is very difficult for many believers. The Church of Jesus Christ is filled up with people who are constantly changing from one church, cell group, fellowship to another because of offence and unforgiveness. Husband is holding something against wife. Wife is holding something against husband. Children are unhappy with parents and parents are swearing never to have anything to do with their own children. Pastors fight members and members are fighting pastors and tearing the church apart. Pastors fight pastors. There is a lot of bitterness in the church which ironically is a church built on love. Our nature in Christ is love.

Matt 6:14-15

14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

NIV

The issue of forgiveness is so important that Jesus taught us that if we do not forgive others who offend us, we will not be forgiven. You can imagine how many Christians who are assuming they are forgiven their sins simply because they ask God to forgive them, meanwhile they have refused to forgive the one who offended them. If you do not forgive your offender, your Heavenly Father will not forgive you. If you want God to forgive you each time you offend Him, then forgive each time you are offended no matter the offence committed against you, or who the offender is.

Matt 18:21-35

21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? 22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, until seven times: but, until seventy times seven. 23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. 24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. 28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. 29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. 32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: 33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? 34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. 35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

KJV

God will hand you over to the “tormentors” if you do not forgive your brother from your heart was the conclusion of Jesus. Practice forgiveness. Forgive as God in Christ Jesus has forgiven you. When you forgive, if you remember the incident, you don’t feel pain anymore. If you still feel pain each time you see the person or remember what happened, it is a sign you are still bitter and you have not really forgiven. Ask God to heal you and help you forgive completely. Practice this and your life will never be the same.

CONCLUSION

Understanding these spiritual blind spots is essential. What you do not yet understand, make effort to study more on it. Read more about it. Buy books on the subject. Buy teaching CDs and listen to be more enlightened.

Give attention to practicing them. Do not just know and understand, practice. Live in the consciousness of the new and sound knowledge that you have and better your life. The grace of God be upon you to practice these truths in Jesus name.