

Near-Sighted - cont.

come nearsighted? Well, their spiritual eyesight fails.

Some Christians fail to truly love God and others by putting them before self (Romans 13:10). They fail to suppress the flesh (Matthew 26:41). They fail to consider the many long-term consequences of their actions (Galatians 6:8-9). They fail to focus on the eternal life hereafter (Hebrews 9:27; 10:31; 12:1-2). Their failures in these areas of their life lead to nearsightedness and their nearsightedness leads to sin.

How This Condition is Fixed

If we find ourselves with the condition of nearsightedness, what can we do to fix it? May I suggest that we do what Peter said to do: add the seven "Christian graces" to our faith.

Virtue (character) will keep us true at all times. Knowledge will guide us by God's word, not man. Self-control will keep us from selfishness. Patience will help us through the crisis moment. Godliness will remind us to fear God, not man. Brotherly kindness will limit our actions to what is good. Love will not allow us to hurt ourselves or others. - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- You have a right to do as you please so long as you please to do what is right.
- The pleasures of sin are for a season, but the wages of sin are for eternity.
- The devil can deform us, but Jesus can transform us.
- Anyone can receive advice, but only the wise listen to it and profit from it.
- Love others with a faith unfeigned.

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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

March 28, 2021



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

For many years since my high school days I have been nearsighted. This is a common eye problem and easily corrected. I can see clearly up close, but not far away, so I wear glasses or contacts.

Did you know that the idea of near-sightedness is actually mentioned in the Bible? It is. The Apostle Peter mentions it in 2 Peter 1:9:

“For he that lacks these things is blind, seeing only what is near, having forgotten the cleansing from his old sins.”

The words, “seeing only what is near” (ASV), come from one Greek word *μυωπάζων* (*muopazon*), meaning short-sighted (NASV) or nearsighted (NIV). This Greek word is the origin for our English word “myopia”, or nearsightedness.

Spiritual Near-Sightedness

Peter is talking about a Christian who sees, spiritually speaking, only what is near and forgets his cleansing. He does not want to look back to his past cleansing and he does not want to look forward to his future growth and adding to his faith. He wants to look at just the here and now.

Many people in the world have had a problem with thinking only of the present and neglecting everything else. Some Christians are the same. They are near-sighted, “seeing only what is near” (2 Pet. 1:9). Let’s consider some Bible examples of nearsightedness.

Old Testament Examples

Adam and Eve were nearsighted (Genesis 3). Eve saw the fruit that was right in front of her and disobeyed God. Adam saw his wife’s actions that were right in front of him and disobeyed God.

Esau was nearsighted (Genesis 25). He considered only the hunger that he had at the moment and sold his birthright.

Moses was nearsighted (Numbers 20). He was frustrated with the Israelites who were right in front of him and he disobeyed God.

Achan was nearsighted (Joshua 7). He saw and took the spoil of Jericho that was right in front of him and he disobeyed God.

David was nearsighted (2 Samuel 11). He saw a beautiful woman that was right in front of him and he lusted and committed adultery with her.

New Testament Examples

Peter was nearsighted (Matthew 26; Galatians 2). He experienced pressure that was right in front of him and he denied the Lord. Later, when pressured again, he acted hypocritically,

The prodigal son was nearsighted (Luke 15). He saw his father’s inheritance that was right in front of him as something to squander and so he wasted it.

Ananias and Sapphira were nearsighted (Acts 5). They saw what they thought was a benefit right in front of them and so they lied.

Simon was a nearsighted (Acts 8). He saw a gift and a power right in front of him that he wanted and so he asked for what did not belong to him.

Demas was nearsighted (2 Timothy 4). He saw an attractive world right in front of him and how it looked good to him, and so he forsook Paul for what he thought was better.

How This Condition Comes About

How is it that a Christian can be-