

## Dangers of what you see

**Satan's plan from the beginning was to get us to see...seeing to our demise** - Gen 3:1-7 - Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "**Did God really say**, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or **you will die.**'" 4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For **God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**" 6 When **THE WOMAN SAW** that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

**Though we know the truth, looking at how things seem can cause us to slip** - Ps 73:1-2 - 1 **Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.** 2 But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.

**For example; Things will seem unbalanced and unfair** - Ps 73:3-5 - 3 For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. 4 They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. 5 They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills.

**We not only see what seems to be unfair we see their arrogant attitude** - Ps 73:6-12 - 6 **THEREFORE** pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence. 7 From their callous hearts comes iniquity; the evil conceits of their minds know no limits. 8 They scoff, and speak with malice; in their arrogance they threaten oppression. 9 **Their mouths lay claim to heaven,** and their tongues take possession of the earth. 10 **THEREFORE** their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance. 11 They say, "How can God know? Does the Most High have knowledge?" 12 **This is what the wicked are like** — always carefree, they increase in wealth.

**The ultimate danger is us allowing what we see to distort how it really is** - Ps 73:13-15 13 **Surely in vain** have I kept my heart pure; **in vain** have I washed my hands in innocence. 14 All day long I have been plagued; I have been punished every morning. 15 If I had said, "I will speak thus, "I would have betrayed your children.

**We cannot understand and we become distorted in our understanding. We must gain true understanding through God** - Ps 73:16-20- 16 When I **TRIED TO UNDERSTAND** all this, it was oppressive to me 17 **TILL I ENTERED THE SANCTUARY OF GOD; THEN I UNDERSTOOD THEIR FINAL DESTINY.** 18 Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin. 19 How suddenly are they **destroyed**, completely swept away by terrors! 20 As a dream when one awakes, so when you arise, O Lord, you will despise them as fantasies.

**When we give strength to our frustrations we are in a very dangerous place. This is why we must stay in the Lord** - Ps 73:21-24 - 21 **When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, 22 I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.** 23 Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. 24 You guide me with your counsel, and **afterward you will take me into glory.**

**When we have the right focus, what we see has no effect on us** - Ps 73:25-28 - 25 **Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.** 26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. 27 Those who are far from you **will perish; you destroy** all who are unfaithful to you. 28 But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.

### What to learn in a nutshell

**We tend to get led astray based on how we see it** - Prov 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but **in the end** it leads to death. (also prov 16:25)

**However we have the complete answer right in front of us** - 2 Cor 5:7 **We live** by faith, not by sight.

**\*No Matter what "we see" (perceived as good or bad) if it goes against what "HE says", it is wrong!**

**This is not just an answer it's the ONLY answer** - Prov 3:5-7 - 5 **Trust in the Lord with all your heart** and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and **he will** make your paths straight. 7 **Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord** and shun evil.

**We must follow Jesus's lead** - Matt 4:1-7 - Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." 4 Jesus answered, "**IT IS WRITTEN:** 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:" "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." 7 Jesus answered him, "**IT IS ALSO WRITTEN:** 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"...