

“Blind Flying or Flying Blind?”

I. INTRO:

- A. Tell **story** of 2nd grader from chapel this morning.
- B. Prayer: *“Not by my might, nor by my power, but by the Spirit!”* Lord, forgive us for not using the good mind You have given us. Please help us to **think, talk, & live** more & more like You.
- C. **Show #1** Why do some people spiritually “get it” & others don’t?
Why can some animals see better at night than humans?
- D. **Show #2** The **tapetum lucidum** [*TaPETEem LuCEEDum*] (*Latin* "bright tapestry") is a layer of tissue in the eye of many animals. It acts almost like a mirror at the backs of their eyes. It reflects visible light back through the retina, increasing the light available to the photo-receptors. This improves vision in low-light conditions. Their eyes shine back with bright, white light [**Show #3**]. The tapetum lucidum contributes to the superior night vision of some animals.
1. We humans do not have this layer in our retinas. If you shine a flashlight in a person's eyes at night, you don't see any sort of reflection.
 2. The flash on a camera is bright enough, however, to cause a reflection off of the retina - what you see is the **red color** from the **blood vessels** nourishing the eye.
 3. **Key?** These nocturnal animals are **equipped** with something others aren't.
 - a) What are Christians **equipped** with that all unbelievers aren't?
- E. What is the difference between **Blind Flying & Flying Blind?** **Show #4**
1. **Blind Flying** means - ignorantly moving forward never knowing when you are going to hit something.
 2. **Flying Blind** means - using **instruments** for flying an aircraft because you cannot see through clouds or mists etc.
 - a) **Flying by the seat of your pants** means - is when your **hope** is in hope; or your **faith** is in faith; **which** makes about as much sense as **sleeping rocks dreaming!**

II. BLIND FLYING OR FLYING BLIND!

- A. Winston Churchill advised, "If you have an important point to make, don't try to be **subtle** or **clever**. Use a **pile driver**. Hit it **once**. Then come back and **hit again**." (Pile driver at our frwy entrance)
1. **Show #5** Paul does that here...his point?...**Christ & Him crucified!**
 2. Paul slams down his pile driver & hits it once...**The Power of God**; again...**The Wisdom of God**; again...**The Spirit of God**; again...**The Spiritual Discernment of God**; again...**The Mind of God**.

- B. **Show #6 #1 The POWER of God!** (1-5)
- C. (1) Paul came armed to Corinth with that *crazy/foolish sounding gospel* (1:18).
1. He didn't **depend on** eloquence & intellectual brilliance. [though he had both]
 - a) Paul knew: art, music, philosophy, culture, the poets, & about his world around him, **but** when it came to presenting the gospel he had a *1-track-mind!*
 2. You can **have** both, even **use** both, **just don't depend/rely** on either!
- D. **Show #7** Here in Murrieta today...the gospel still “works”! - It still **is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes**...as Paul said in Romans 1:16.
- E. CM saints...we must find the task of evangelism **too big for us; humanly impossible!**
1. Your faith must be in **the power of God!** (read 5)
- F. **Show #8 #2 The WISDOM of God!** (6-11)
- G. (7) **Handcrafted for the saved:** This involves God's wise plan to bring believers into the glories of heaven. (8) **Hidden from the unsaved:** Had they known the truth, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
- H. (8) **Spiritual depth perception comes from experiential knowledge** of God, **not just intellectual comprehension** of truths about Him. (Swindoll)
- I. (9) **Paul refers to Is.64:4.** Neither Scripture is speaking of *Heaven*, 1st of all.
1. **The context has nothing to do with heaven.**
 2. The context (vs.10,11) plainly refers it to **spiritual insights** that were once a mystery or **hidden** (7) **but** are now **revealed**(10,11).
 - a) Some of those blessings are described in Eph.1:3-14 where the blessings of *salvation* were **prepared by the Father, carried out by the Son, and applied by the Spirit.**¹
- J. (10) **2-sided wisdom: Wisdom is like an Iceberg. Show #9**
1. **Visible** - Human wisdom; what is tangible/touchable; what is learned of our natural world through observation and experimentation. In preaching it is what can be explained/heard/understood.
 2. **Invisible** - Gods Wisdom; this is the deep side; where God takes the word & plumbs it down under the surface currents to where He can minister it to our hearts & souls.
- K. **Show #10 Charles Spurgeon** told the story about a woman who said to **Joseph Turner** while he was painting (famous landscape painter, 1700's), “**Why do you put such extravagant colors into your pictures? I never see anything like them in nature.**” - “**Don't you wish you did, Madam?**” he said.²

¹ Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (1 Co 2:9–10). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

² Daily Bread February 28, 1999

1. **It was a sufficient answer.** He saw them, even if she did not!
 - a) In a similar way, believers in Christ can see many spiritual truths that unbelievers simply cannot recognize. When we are born again, the indwelling Holy Spirit gives us understanding of the “**deep things of God**” (2:10).
 - b) **With the help of the Spirit, we can apprehend the truths of the Word of God and appreciate their beauty and significance.**
 - c) **We can see wonderful things in Scripture that are completely unnoticed by those who are flying spiritually blind.**
2. Like the psalmist, we should pray, “**Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law**” (Ps.119:18).
 - a) Scriptural insight is available only to those with spiritual eyesight.
3. **The Spirit of God enables the people of God to understand the Word of God.**

L. **Show #11 blank** What has God revealed to you (in scripture)?

1. **Lately? In your devotions? I'm talking deep spiritual insights** [at least deep to you; ohhh!]
 - a) **I.e. Eccentric** (out of + center) [Jesus comes on the scene & says He is the center!]
 - (1) Gal.2:20 (msg) **I identified myself completely with him. Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me.**

M. (11) You can learn things about me by **observing me** or by what people **say about me**; **but** you can't know what is going on in my **mind** or my **spirit** **unless I choose to reveal it to you.**

1. **Only I know what I'm thinking!** (besides my wife she's pretty good at it)
2. Likewise, only the Spirit of God knows the mind of God.

N. **So far Paul has used his pile driver twice:** Power & Wisdom.

1. Remember the **Jews** sought Signs signs(**power**) & the **Greeks** **wisdom**(1:22).
2. Both **power** & **wisdom** can be found in **Jesus** (1:24).
3. **Wisdom** & **Power** must go together for a **balanced Christian Diet!**

O. **Show #12 #3 The SPIRIT of God!** (12)

P. (12) **Show #13** French scientists have succeeded in causing **chickens** to sound like **quail**. Researchers took tissue from the part of the **Japanese quail brain** thought to control the bird's call, and they **implanted it** in the brains of **5 chicken embryos**. The experiment worked. Researchers say the hatched chicks sounded like quail.

1. **Here's a far greater miracle:** God has “**implanted**” the mind of Christ in those who have accepted His Son as their Savior.

2. **Vs.12** tells us that the Spirit of God has **taken up residence in us**.
 - a) In some mysterious way we now have a capacity for divine wisdom that no **scholarly degree** or **natural experience** could ever provide.
 - b) Having the mind of Christ enables us to see life increasingly from God's perspective.
3. This **doesn't** mean that we can think on God's level and instruct Him (v.16). But it **does** mean that we have a **new capacity** to **think** and **talk** and **act** more and more like Christ Himself.
 - a) God wants his children to be "in the **know**" not "in the **dark**."

Q. **Show #14 #4 The SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT of God!** (13-15)

- R. (14) **The Natural Man** is unsaved, he belongs to the world...& is happy in it.
1. He **can't** received the things of the Spirit (the Word) because he doesn't have spiritual discernment.
 2. The natural man **can** enjoy reading the majesty of the **Old King James** language of scripture; admire & feel the charm of the stories; even have a feeling of religiosity as he reads it. But he can't "know" the scriptures!

S. **The Spiritual Man** is a believer who is controlled by the Spirit.

1. He is a man of **discernment** & is able to **judge** & **evaluate** things with God's insights.

T. **Show #15 #5 The MIND of God!** (16)

U. The believer has the mind of Christ!

1. Phil.2:5 **Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.**
2. 1 Pet.4:1 **since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also w/the same mind**
 - a) **This means** that **the Spirit**, through **the Word**, helps the believer **think as Jesus thinks**.
 - b) **True faith** stands on the rock of Revelation **not on** the sands of human philosophy!³

V. If the **natural man** can't understand anything of **the Spirit**...how will this changed your evangelism? (pray more)

1. "The church has never had **better machinery**, yet it also has never been so **helplessly ineffective** in meeting the problem of its day." (Alan Redpath)

W. **Show #16 end**

³ Alan Redpath, The Royal Route to Heaven.