

Believe

JOHN

[MESSAGE](#)[STUDY GUIDE](#)[GROUP MATERIAL](#)[SONGS](#)

Spiritual Sight Grows Through Suffering

Bible Reading: John 9:8-38

[Watch LIVESTREAM at 10am](#)

The Narrative

- A. Interrogated by neighbours – 9:8-12
 - 1. Jesus is absent from this part of the narrative
 - 2. Man's first opportunity to tell his story, not his initiative
 - 3. Not clear about who Jesus was (a man called Jesus) – had not yet seen him
- B. Interrogated by Pharisees – 9:13-17
 - 1. First how he received sight.
 - 2. Then what do you say about him (who is he)
 - 3. Man responds – He's a prophet
- C. Parents questioned – 9:18-23
 - 1. Due to unbelief of Pharisees
 - 2. Confirm he was born blind; don't know how he received sight
 - 3. Defer to their son due to fear
- D. Further interrogation – 9:24-29
 - 1. "Give glory to God" – tell the truth because you are lying
 - 2. "This man is a sinner."
- E. The man's long speech – 9:30-33
 - 1. Jesus has disappeared and left the man on his own.
 - 2. Man repeats the facts of gaining his sight
 - 3. He taunts them

1. I told you already – you won't listen
2. Do you want to become his disciples too?
4. An amazing thing
 1. You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes
 2. God doesn't listen to sinners
 3. God listens to the God-fearing and those who do his will
 4. Never before has a person born blind received sight
 5. This man (Jesus) is from God because he did this.
5. Result – cast out
 1. You were born in sin
 2. You were blind due to sin.
 3. Cast out of society, excommunicated
6. Jesus finds the formerly blind man – 9:35-41
 - A full progression in the man's faith: a man > a prophet > from God > the Son of Man > Lord > finally belief and worship

Application

- A. This incident is about more than a physical healing
 1. It is really a story of whether or not one has spiritual sight.
 2. We are all born without spiritual sight.
 3. The Pharisees who claim to see are actually blind because they do not believe Jesus to be the one sent by God.
 4. Lack of spiritual sight equals not believing and this is sin. – 9:41
 1. Admitting we are blind is the first step toward seeing
 2. Refusing to believe keeps people in spiritual blindness and darkness
- B. Faith/belief is progressive
 1. It is a gift
 2. And it is something to be worked out/developed
 3. Faith and sight develop and grow: Man – prophet – from God – Son of Man – Lord – believe and worship
- C. Faith grows amidst trials and adversity
 1. Through suffering and trials we gradually come to fuller faith
 2. The crucible of a fiery trial
 3. Healing which produces faith may lead to opposition and suffering
 4. Faith grows through testifying
 1. Jesus physical presence is not with us
 2. We are left to speak and testify for him.
 5. Warning: Some people's faith grows while other people become harder by continued resistance.
 1. Some have so many arguments against believing they put themselves in a corner.
 2. It is a refusal to believe.
 - "The same sun which melts wax hardens clay. And the same Gospel which melts some persons to repentance hardens others in their sins." ?Charles H. Spurgeon