

## THE TESTIMONY OF A CHANGED LIFE

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John 9:1-7

1. Here John records a wonderful miracle that Jesus performed, along with the reaction of various people to that miracle.
2. John recorded these miracles, or signs, for a specific reason. John 20:30-31  
Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.
3. John wanted people to be saved, but He also wanted them to know for sure that they were saved, so he later wrote 1 John.  
These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:13
4. John taught that those who are saved can know they are saved by looking objectively at their own changed lives.
  - a. By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. 1 John 2:3-6
  - b. The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates (fails to actively love) his brother is in the darkness until now. 10 The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11 But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes. 1 John 2:9-11
  - c. No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. 1 John 3:9-10
5. Saving faith is life changing faith.
6. We see that demonstrated in the life of the man Jesus healed.
7. The chapter begins with these words, "As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth."
8. What do we see as we go about our daily lives?
9. How do we view the people we rub elbows with?
10. Jesus saw a man with potential; someone through whom the works of God might be displayed.  
NOTE: No one other than Jesus would have ever viewed the original disciples as potential world changers.
11. The disciples did not view the man in the same way Jesus did, and asked, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or His parents, that he would be born blind?"
  - a. I am not sure what they meant by the first part of their question unless they believed that the man had somehow sinned in the womb.
  - b. Their second suggestion at least makes some sense whether we agree with it or not.  
NOTE: Many children are born with birth defects due to the sinful and irresponsible choices of their parents, but that was not the case in this situation as Jesus clearly stated in verse 3.

12. The disciples were simply stating the commonly held Jewish perspective that if someone suffered sickness or misfortune it was because of sin.

NOTE: That was clearly the perspective of Job's three friends as they tried to rationalize what had occurred in Job's life.

13. Jesus did not even attempt to explain the relationship between sin and its ills, rather He saw the man's situation as an opportunity to display the mercy, the grace, and the power of God.

14. Too often we are tempted to focus on people's failings, rather than believing in God's ability to totally transform their lives.

### **I. The man's condition.**

A. He had been blind since birth.

B. He could not change his condition; he could only cope with it and do the best he could.

C. He was dependent on the generosity of others who simply saw him as a beggar. 8

### **II. The man's cure.**

A. In this instance Jesus chose to use means because He was not only demonstrating God's power, but He was also throwing down a challenge to the organized religion of His day.

B. He made clay on the Sabbath Day, which was clearly forbidden in the Traditions of the Elders, and applied the clay to the man's eyes.

C. At this point the man did not know anything about Jesus, but his cure did involve a measure of faith because he had to do what Jesus told him to do in order to be healed.

NOTE: It is a great day in a person's life when they learn to actually start doing what Jesus tells them to do.

D. He went to the pool of Siloam, washed, and came back seeing.

### **III. The man's testimony.**

A. To his neighbors.

1. Because of Jesus this man was a changed man.

2. The change was evident to everyone who knew him.

3. So much so that some wondered if he actually was the same man. 8-9

4. The man shared with his neighbors what he knew to be true.

a. He kept saying, "I am the one."

b. When asked how he received his sight he simply answered the questions he could answer, and did not answer the questions he could not answer. 10-12

B. To the Pharisees.

1. When asked, he shared his testimony with the Pharisees who immediately set out to discredit Jesus and the wonderful miracle He had performed.

2. Some stated, "This man is not from God, because by making clay He did not keep the Sabbath."

3. Others asked, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" 13-16

4. Unable to resolve their disagreement they turned to the former blind man for a possible explanation. 17

5. We see his awareness growing because he suggested, "He is a prophet."

6. Unconvinced the Pharisees sent for the man's parents to confirm that he had, in fact, been born blind.

7. His parents, not wanting to be thrown out of the synagogue simply confirmed that the man was their son and that he had been born blind. 18-23

8. The Pharisees called the man back and tried to get him to disassociate himself from Jesus. 24-34

9. Notice the man's growth in both understanding and boldness.
  - a. He responded, "I may not know everything about this man, but He changed my life and I am going to follow Him."
  - b. When asked to repeat his testimony he challenged the Pharisees as to whether they might want to become Jesus' disciples as well.
- 10 Then the former blind man turned theologian and confronted the Pharisees with their own teaching.
  - a. "You, claim to be the authorities, and yet you do not know where this man is from or how He did what He did."
  - b. "According to what we have believed God does not hear sinners, rather He only hears the God-fearing and obedient."

NOTE: Because people believe something, and even teach it as truth, does not mean that it is in fact true.

  - c. "What has happened to me, as far as we know, has never happened before."
  - d. "If this man were not from God, He could do nothing."
11. The Pharisees responded by excommunicating the man so he could no longer enter the synagogue or the Temple.

#### **IV. The man's conversion.**

- A. Jesus heard about what had happened to the man, found him, and asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
- B. The man, having committed himself to follow Jesus said in effect, "You show me who He is and I will believe in Him."
- C. When Jesus identified Himself as the Messiah the man professed His faith in Jesus and worshipped Him.

#### **APPLICATION**

1. There is no record that:
  - a. The neighbors became believers.
  - b. The parents became believers.
  - c. The Pharisees became believers.
2. There is every indication that the formerly blind man did become a true follower of Jesus Christ.
  - a. He grew in understanding.
  - b. He grew in boldness.
  - c. He identified with Jesus.
  - d. He openly worshipped Jesus.
3. Our verbal witness will have credibility if it is accompanied by the testimony of a changed life.