

In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

"You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them."

But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

Matthew 13:14-17 (NIV)

SPIRITUAL VISION: A CLARITY OF PURPOSE & COMMITMENT TO FOLLOW THE PATH GOD HAS SET OUT FOR YOU

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

John 14:23-27 (NIV)

- OBEDIENCE BUILDS STRENGTH AND COURAGE
- OBEDIENCE COVERS US UNDER GOD'S PROTECTION
- OBEDIENCE PRODUCES PATIENCE AND APPRECIATION
- OBEDIENCE CLARIFIES PRIORITY
- OBEDIENCE GETS US ON TRACK WHEN WE FALL OFF

• WHY I DON'T OBEY GOD

- Doesn't align with my natural instincts
- I don't make time to ask God
- I have forgotten His commands
- I have abused His grace and I no longer fear Him. My fear of short term pain holds me back from long term healing
- I am stuck in a cycle of sin
 - Isolation
 - Temptation
 - Sin
 - Satisfaction
 - Shame
 - Isolation

• HOW TO GET IN A ROUTINE OF OBEDIENCE

- Ask God to reveal to you areas where you need to obey

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 139:23-24 (NIV)

• COME TO YOUR SENSES AND TURN TO HIM

When he came to his senses, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants." So he got up and went to his father.

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son."

But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate.

Luke 15:17-24 (NIV)