

Single Eyed
Week 4 of 'Burning From The House' Series
Pastor Cameron Brice | Sunday, July 24th 2022

“No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light. The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness. Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness. If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.” - Luke 11:33-36 KJV

- *“When he has lit a candle...”*

- Anytime we read the words light or lamp in the Bible we can automatically assume the use of fire or flame.

- This context of this fire is the light or fire of Jesus being lit in our hearts by grace, through faith. This is the fire of His love lighting the fire in our own hearts that we talked about in week 2 of this series. When we hear the gospel of Jesus the light of God shines on our heart, and if we choose to believe in that gospel, the light that shines on us becomes the light that can shine in us.

- *“...puts it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light.”*

- I use the words “can shine” because we have a choice in the matter of whether or not we will let the light of Christ illuminate our life and shine on those around us.

- We are so free in Christ that even after allowing us to choose Him in salvation, He continues to allow us to choose Him after being born again. We decide whether that fire will burn in our house or not, and this is largely determined by how we keep that fire burning.

- *“The light (lamp) of the body is the eye...”*

- Eye - Ophthalmous - Eye, sight, understanding, the eye of the mind or soul.

- Jesus’ use of the word eye has physical, mental and soulful implications here. He wants us to consider what we look at physically, as well as what we think and meditate on. He is showing us that what we look at, think about and meditate on is directly linked to the fire or light burning inside of us. He does this by explaining that our eye is a light or a better translation would be lamp.

- Light - luchnos- A portable lamp fed with oil. A small vessel holding olive oil and a wick, used for lighting a house.

- Translations that render luchnos as candle or simply light, do a disservice to the picture Jesus is trying to paint for us in this metaphor. Why? Because what we fuel a lamp with truly matters!

- Jesus wants His disciples to know the things we look at, think about and meditate on become the fuel for the flame of our hearts. Yes It is God's job to light the flame in our hearts, but it's our job to keep it burning with what we look at, think about and meditate on. This is why Jesus goes on to say...

- *"therefore when your eye is single, your whole body also is full of light.."*

- Single - Haplos - good, right, healthy, simple, single rather than double.

- When we are looking at the right thing, thinking about the right thing and meditating on the right thing we are feeding the fire within us with the right thing. This causes us to shine brightly, illuminating our lives and the lives of those around us.

- This reminds me of what Pastor David taught last week about Jesus having His mind set on heaven. Jesus was looking at, thinking about and meditating on what the Father was doing and saying (John 5:19). This made Him living proof that when we think rightly, we burn brightly with the light of heaven. Jesus carried a blazing light that emanated through His character, His actions and His supernatural lifestyle. This is the type of light Jesus is teaching as available to us in this scripture.

- Full of light - Photeinos - Radiant, luminous, illuminating, splendid, lustrous, completely void of darkness, or light-giving.

- This means that when we look at, think about and meditate on the right thing our whole bodies become radiant with splendid light. But, this also works in the opposite direction. We need to be mindful of the darkness that comes into our lives when we are looking at, thinking about and meditating on the wrong things.

- *"...but when your eye is evil, your body also is full of darkness."*

- Jesus uses the same word for eye in this statement as He does before to show us that when we look at, think about and meditate on the wrong things is fuels a deep darkness in our lives.

- Evil - Poneros - depraved, wicked, useless, worthless, toilsome, bad, of poor quality.

- This evil is more than wickedness, it is also uselessness or of poor quality. When we

look at, think about and meditate on things that are low in quality, it fills our bodies and lives with darkness.

- Full of darkness - Skoteinos - blinding darkness, obscure, gloom, covered with darkness, miserable, ignorance.

- Jesus shows us that we control the narrative that fuels or extinguishes the fire in our minds! He doesn't conclude this teaching with, "don't worry! I'm in control of your eye." He warns us!

- *"Take heed therefore that the light which is in you be not darkness."*

- We need to follow the command of Jesus and other early church apostles to direct our minds to the right things!

- "Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth." - Colossians 3:1-2 NASB2020

- Set - Phroneo - to think intentionally or on purpose. To direct towards.

- Looking at, thinking about and meditating on things above, or things that will fill us with radiant light, happens on purpose. We must intentionally direct our minds to heavenly things in the right moment.

- This is one of the most important aspects of this reality. If we want to burn with radiant light, we need to look at, think about and meditate on the right things, and most importantly, at the right times. Intentionally turning our minds to heavenly thoughts is most effective if we do so when we are tempted to think useless or dark thoughts.

- We can think that God heals and that healing is a part of heavenly reality, but it matters most that we do so when there is sickness.

- We can believe that we have access to the love of God, but it matters most when we are faced with a situation when it is hard to love.

- We can believe that God wants to send revival, but it matters most when it looks like all hell is breaking loose in our city.

- We can believe that God is a good Father, but it matters most when we our trauma is triggered.

- We need to steer our thoughts when they are veering away from heaven's thoughts! This is hard for us in our society, because we are so used to having our thoughts steered for us. Things like TV, social media, music, advertising, and marketing all work to direct our minds without our consent. Many people have utterly lost control of their thought life, but we need to be intentional in taking it back. When we do our whole bodies will become full of light!