

Eyesight and Spiritual Insight

The Eyesight for humans is considered one of the most important senses. It is not only a means to observe the surrounding environment and a source of perception, but also it is the commander of man's journey. And it is able to direct the human in any direction.

Therefore, our Lord Jesus stresses that ***"The lamp of the body is the eye."*** (Luke 11:34), and warned us not to quench the light in our lives lest we live in total darkness.

Just as the eye may contaminate the life of some, such as David the prophet, or may lead to their total destruction, like the case of Lot's wife, the eye also can be the cause of blessings in the life of people. For instance, the eye which is open to God's word, or the eye that reflect and meditate on God's work, or the merciful eye for the needy, or the eye that gazes at the sky which leads man in prayer.

Let's not forget that the eyes of a Christian is sanctified with the Holy Myron to be enlightened with the knowledge of God, because ***"For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ"*** (2 Corinthian 4:6)

This means that a spiritual insight was created in us by faith, baptism, and Myron. This insight grows in its abilities just like the physical eye does. The physical eyes begin to distinguish between light and darkness, then gradually acquire the ability to recognize people and colors, and then reaches the level of sophistication which allows it to recognize the alphabet of a language and the harmony of colors, etc. Likewise, when the spiritual insight is nourished by the divine wisdom from the Bible, when it is sanctified with prayer and meditation, and when it is nurtured by the teachings of the church and the Fathers, this insight becomes trained to discern between what's useful and what's harmful. Those who acquire spiritual insight are described by the Bible as ***"those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."*** (Hebrews 5:14)

As the abilities of this spiritual insight grows with spiritual nourishment and the enlightenment of the teachings of the Bible and the church Fathers, it can also be weakened by neglecting the means of grace, laziness, allowing sin to enter the heart, or opening the eyes to the defilement of the world.

Therefore, let's sing with Psalms, saying :

✠ ***"My eyes are always toward the Lord, for He will pluck my feet out of the trap."*** (Psalm 24:15 - Prayer of the first hour)

✠ ***"Unveil my eyes and I shall perceive wonders in Your law."*** (Psalm 118:18 – Midnight prayer, third passage)

✠ ***"I lift my eyes to You, who dwell in heaven... Our eyes look to the Lord our God until He shall have compassion on us."*** (Psalm 122 – Vespers prayer)

✠ ***"Turn away my eyes that I may not see vanity; Give me life in your way."*** (Psalm 118:37 - Midnight prayer, fifth passage).

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