

# Becoming What God Intended Ministries



August 2018

Dear Missions Director,

We have had an exciting past few months. As you've read in the previous newsletter, Christine and Florence were here with us from Asia for almost three months. They, along with 16 other volunteers, worked on translating the newest, revised version of the *Head to Heart* discipleship program. We are so excited about the new revision and we wanted to share a sneak peak with you, our friends and supporters. Below you will find an excerpt of Session 2: Adam's Eyes which emphasizes, "How we see, is how we live."

Before we do, you might be asking, "what's new in this revised *Head to Heart* version?" After just one year, hundreds of people in the US and Asia have gone through the first version. Many of the participants shared how the material has helped them breakthrough barriers prohibiting them from sensing God's love and experiencing a rich, vibrant Christian life. We asked them if they had any feedback and here are some of the changes made as a result:

## What's New in *Head to Heart*?

- **The readings are now only 5 pages.** We have re-written and revised each session to have laser-beam focus on the purpose of each session.
- **Videos are now 30 min as opposed to 1 hour.** All of the videos have been re-recorded. They are now short yet remain highly impactful.
- **New Chinese Translations.** Each session has been completely translated by volunteers who have had years of experience in this material. Two of the translators are professional translators lending their expertise to this cause.
- **There are now only 3-4 reflection questions.** Participants can go more in depth and reflect on the questions at the end of each session.
- **Less large group time, more small group time.** With the videos being now only 30 min. participants can spend more time in their gender-specific small groups.

*Head to Heart* is the product of 30 plus years of ministry and careful study. Being very familiar with Discipleship material, we have never seen the likes of such a thorough, all-encompassing discipleship program that consistently brings about positive, life transforming results. We would be thrilled if you would join the thousands of past participants that have experienced the Father's affection and start a group today.

Your financial support and prayers have enabled us to bring these life-changing truths to Christians around the world. We thank you for helping us carryout the mission of Christ.

**Join us September 28-30** for our annual *Head to Heart* Training. If you are interested in taking a group of people through the Head to Heart Discipleship Intensive or if you want to survey its contents this training is for you. We will go over the following:

- Live teaching of all 22 sessions: summary and focus for each session
- Purpose of False Pictures & Life Map Exercises & ways to encourage participants
- What the role and goal of a Group Leader is and how to coordinate a facilitator meeting
- How to coordinate the group meeting and setting group norms & expectations

For more information or to register visit: [www.WhatGodIntended.org/Events](http://www.WhatGodIntended.org/Events)

Your co-worker in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Eckman'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Eckman

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Excerpt from *Head to Heart* Session 2: Adam's Eyes

Eyesight is incredible. Eyesight is incredible because for us it affects everything; it perceives everything that exists. Nothing falls outside of its domain. Everything is under its perception. Of all the senses, eyesight is king. Everything is under its dominion. Touch is limited to what is within the range of our finger; hearing responds to what vibrates through the air and crawls while eyesight soars; smell hardly goes beyond a room; taste even less.

Eyesight is also important in the Bible. When we look at Scripture, eyesight is a metaphor for spiritual perception. In some ways it is one of the most important metaphors in the Bible. Eyesight, the ability to see, and light which creates sight are central to the story of the Bible. In fact, the ability to see encompasses the entire story of redemption. From the beginning of humanity's Fall to the culmination in Revelation 22, how things are seen carries the arc or progress of the story. Let's look at the beginning of the great story.

The essence of the Fall is described in Genesis 3. The central element in the story of the Fall involved Adam and Eve's eyes. Notice how many times seeing is emphasized.

*And the serpent said to the woman, "You shall not surely die. For God knows that from the day you eat from it your eyes will be open, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:5)*

The serpent emphasized that how eating of the fruit will completely change how things are perceived. And he gave God as an illustration of how powerful this change will be. Simply by looking, God can discern what is good and what is evil, what is beneficial and what is damaging. His mere glance discerns all which is good and evil. If they ate of the fruit, they too will see reality instantly, but in a totally different way than before they ate.

So after considering what the serpent had just said, she turned her gaze to the Tree to examine the fruit.

*When the woman saw that the Tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that it was desirable to make one wise, she took . . . (Genesis 3:6)*

Note again the issue is how things were seen. God's glance at the Tree concluded the Fruit was poisonous, deadly. Eve's perception, now unmoored or detached from God's judgment, was that the Tree was truly good or beneficial. As she looked, her perception was linked to her perspective. Her perception saw only goodness, and her perspective became convinced she would become wise. Her evaluation of things, her perspective, was dependent on her perception of things, her sight.

*Then, she gave the fruit to Adam to eat, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. (Genesis 3:7)*

In those three verses we have the essential reality of the Fall underscored. In simplest terms, the Fall was a change in seeing or perception.

Obviously, they had not been walking around with their physical eyes closed. Instead something fundamental had happened to them - a profound shift in the heart, a basic change in the processing of the mind.

My entire life I have had poor eyesight. So I have gone from one misadventure to another in my ability to see. In first grade I got glasses so I had the wonderful experience of finally seeing the blackboard. As a young adult I got contacts and I could finally see leaves on trees, and people's complexions. After two major eye procedures and two cataract surgeries, contacts went away and only reading glasses were needed once in a while. That journey showed me that poor eyesight affected everything.

What happened to Adam and Eve was worse than poor eyesight or blindness. Poor eyesight blurs the image yet a true image is behind the foggy vision of the person. Blindness creates no distortion, but the change within Adam and Eve was worse than blindness and poor eyesight. They saw clearly as if in the light of day, but all they saw was a lie. Even though everything looked exactly the same, everything was profoundly changed.

### How Adam saw everything

Their new way of seeing affected everything. The same way blindness or declining eyesight would affect all. It changed their perception of themselves, God, and the world. Looking at the exact same things as before, they saw every detail strangely altered. The greatest effect of the Fall and mentioned first is the change in perception. As they looked upon reality, they saw four massive changes in perception. The first change was how they saw God.

**End of excerpt from Session 2: Adam's Eye's. Watch out for the continuation of "Adam's eyes" in next month's newsletter.**