

When Spiritual Eyes Open — The Battle Begins

By System Import | Sermon | March 14, 2026

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It often starts quietly. It's not a thunderclap or a vision in the night. It's a subtle, unsettling *shift* in your perception. It's a feeling of "wrongness" in a place everyone else finds comfortable. It's a sudden inability to enjoy the same conversations, the same media, the same leaders that you used to. A "check" in your spirit. A sense of dissonance. And with that new, jarring clarity, comes a profound, crushing loneliness. You begin to feel like an alien in your own life, out of step with the world and sometimes, most painfully, out of step with the church. You are not going crazy. You are not becoming "judgmental" or "negative." What you are experiencing is the single most terrifying, world-altering, and glorious event in a believer's life: your spiritual eyes are opening. And before we dive in, if this message is already stirring something in you, hit the subscribe button and stay connected to God's Word daily, because this is the validation you have been praying for.

For most of our lives, we walk in a state of "blissful ignorance." We are like civilians living in a warzone who have become deaf to the sound of distant bombs. We are aware of the *seen* world —our jobs, our families, our finances, our problems. But we are almost completely blind to the *unseen* world, the spiritual reality that the Bible insists is *more real* than the physical one. We are unaware of the angelic armies, the demonic principalities, and the spiritual warfare that is constantly raging around us and *for* us. We are, in short, spiritually blind. And in that blindness, there is a strange kind of peace. Life is simple. But then, through prayer, through the Word, through a crisis, the Holy Spirit begins to turn up the light. He begins to "open the eyes of your heart," as Paul prayed in Ephesians 1:18.

This opening of your eyes is not the *end* of your journey; it is the *beginning* of your *real* one. It is your induction day into the army of God. It is the moment you are taken from the "civilian" ranks and given a "frontline" commission. And the first thing you realize when your eyes are open is this: you are in a *battle*. The "peace" you had before was not true peace; it was the "peace" of unawareness. The battle has *always* been raging, but you just became *aware* of it. You can now see the *source* behind the symptom. You see the spirit of pride behind the charismatic leader. You see the spirit of fear behind the angry outburst. You see the spirit of division behind the gossip. You see what others don't... and that is the exact moment the enemy, who thrived on your blindness, turns his full attention toward you. When your spiritual eyes open, the battle *for you* ends, and the battle *through you* begins.

Number 1: The "Aha!" Moment - Seeing the Unseen Reality 2 Kings 6

The most perfect, powerful illustration of this "awakening" is found in 2 Kings, chapter 6. The prophet Elisha is in a city, and the king of Aram has sent a vast, terrifying army with horses and chariots to surround the city and capture him. In the morning, Elisha's servant wakes up, goes

When Spiritual Eyes Open — The Battle Begins

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outside, and is gripped by paralyzing fear. He sees the **seen** reality. He sees the "problem." He sees the thousands of enemy soldiers, the chariots, the spears. His five senses are screaming, "We are doomed! It's over! The battle is lost!" He runs to Elisha, in a panic, and cries out, "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?"

This servant is a picture of the believer with **closed** spiritual eyes. He sees only the **circumstance**. He sees only the enemy's strength. His reality is defined by the threat. And in this state, he is completely powerless, undone by his fear. He is a civilian, not a soldier.

Elisha, the man whose "eyes are open," is in perfect peace. He is not moved by the Aramean army. Why? Because he sees a **greater reality**. He sees the **unseen**. He responds with one of the greatest lines in all of Scripture: "Don't be afraid. Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 2 Kings 6:16. The servant must have thought he was crazy. He's looking at Elisha, looking back at the army, and he sees two of them and thousands of **them**. The math doesn't work.

And then, Elisha prays the prayer that every one of us needs to pray for ourselves and for each other: "LORD, open his eyes so he may see." 2 Kings 6:17. This is the prayer that begins the battle. "Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

This is the moment. This is the "spiritual eyes open" event. What changed? The **circumstances** did not change. The Aramean army was still there. The **threat** was still there. What changed was the servant's **perception**. He was given "sight" into the **unseen realm**. He finally saw the battle from God's perspective. He saw the angelic army, the "chariots of fire," the **true** balance of power. He saw that his side was not just "winning"; his side had **already won**. The "problem" was laughably small compared to God's **provision**.

This is what happens to you. The moment God opens your eyes, your **problems** don't disappear. But your **perspective** is revolutionized. You stop seeing the "army" of your addiction, your debt, your family dysfunction, your sickness. And you start to see the **source** behind it, the demonic "rulers and authorities" that are fueling the problem. But you **also** see the "horses and chariots of fire"—the power of the Holy Spirit, the authority of Jesus's name, the angelic host, the cloud of witnesses—that are **with you**.

And this is precisely **why** the battle begins. Because the servant, **before** his eyes were open, was neutralized by **fear**. He was no threat. The servant, **after** his eyes were open, was filled with **faith** and **confidence**. He was now a threat. The enemy **loves** when you are blind and afraid, focused only on the **seen** army. He **hates** when your eyes are opened and you realize

When Spiritual Eyes Open — The Battle Begins

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his army is outnumbered by the chariots of fire. The opening of your eyes is his declaration of war against *you*, because you just traded your fear for a faith that can move mountains.

Number 2: The New Target - Why You Become a Threat

Before your eyes were open, you were not a threat to the kingdom of darkness. You were, in spiritual terms, a "civilian." You might have been a good person, a kind Christian, but you were blind to the *real* battle. You prayed "passive" prayers: "God, bless me. God, help me." You were easily manipulated by your circumstances. You were tossed "back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching" Ephesians 4:14. You were, in short, manageable. The enemy had you contained, neutralized by your own blissful ignorance.

The *moment* your spiritual eyes open, everything changes. You are no longer a civilian. You are a *soldier*. You are no longer *passive*; you are *aware*. You are no longer just *influenced* by the spiritual realm; you are an *influencer* *in* the spiritual realm. This "sight" makes you profoundly dangerous to the enemy for several reasons.

First, you can no longer be easily deceived. The enemy's primary weapon is *deception*. His entire kingdom is built on *lies*. He comes as an "angel of light" 2 Corinthians 11:14. He uses "wolves in sheep's clothing" Matthew 7:15. His whole strategy is to make *evil* look *good* and *good* look *evil*. But now, your eyes are open. You have the gift of *discernment*. You can *see* the "wolf" under the "sheep's clothing." You can *feel* the "lie" inside the "truthful" sermon. You can *sense* the spirit of control behind the "loving" gesture. You have become a "lie detector," and this makes his primary weapon useless against you.

Second, you have become a "Watchman." God has given you "sight" not just for your own protection, but for the protection of the *Body*. You are the "watchman on the wall" Ezekiel 33 who can see the enemy's attack "while it is still far off." You are the one who senses a spirit of division trying to enter your church. You are the one who feels a "check" in your spirit about a new, popular teaching. You are the one who can warn the "king" of the enemy's ambush. The enemy *hates* this. You are his "spoiler." You are the "alarm system" that ruins his element of surprise.

Third, you move from "defensive" to "offensive." Before, your prayers were just pleas for help. *Now*, your prayers are *weapons*. Because you can *see* the *specific* spirit at work, you can *pray* with *specific* authority. You stop praying, "God, please help my marriage." You start praying, "In the Name of Jesus, I bind the *spirit of strife* and *division* that is attacking my marriage. I plead the blood of Jesus over my home." You move from "carpet bombing" to "laser-guided" spiritual warfare. This is what the enemy fears.

When Spiritual Eyes Open — The Battle Begins

By System Import | Sermon | March 14, 2026

Because you are now a "lie detector," a "watchman," and an "offensive warrior," the enemy **must** shift his strategy. He can no longer **ignore** you. He can no longer **deceive** you. His only remaining option is to try to **discredit**, **isolate**, and **silence** you. The battle **begins** because **you** just became a high-value target. Your "sight" is the proof of your anointing, and your anointing is what the enemy has been assigned to destroy. If this message inspires you, don't forget to subscribe for more Bible insights every week.

Number 3: Tactic #1: The Battle for Your Mind The Gaslighting Campaign

The very first battleground, once your eyes are open, is your **mind**. The enemy knows he cannot **close** your spiritual eyes the Holy Spirit opened them, so he will do the next best thing: he will try to convince you that what you are "seeing" is not **real**. He will try to make you think you are **crazy**. This is a targeted, spiritual gaslighting campaign.

You will suddenly feel like the "odd one out." You'll be in a room where everyone loves the new guest speaker, and your spirit is screaming, "Warning! Pride! Deception!" You will share your concern with a friend, and they will look at you like you have three heads. They will say, "What are you talking about? He's amazing! You're just being negative."

The enemy will use the voices of **other people** even other Christians to invalidate your "sight."

You will be labeled:

- * "Judgmental"*
- * "Negative"*
- * "Divisive"*
- * "Unloving"*
- * "Too sensitive"*
- * "Holier-than-thou"*

This is a deliberate, demonic assignment to make you **doubt your own gift**. The enemy wants to isolate you in your perception, making you feel like you are the **only one** who sees it. He wants you to think, "Maybe I **am** crazy. Maybe I **am** just being judgmental. Maybe this 'discernment' is just my own pride." If he can get you to **mistrust** your "sight," you will **silence yourself**. You will stop sounding the alarm. You will mute your own gift out of fear of being rejected.

We see this tactic used against **Jesus Himself**. When Jesus, with His perfect "sight," discerned the **true source** of the Pharisees' power and called them "a brood of vipers," what did they do? They gaslit Him. They told the crowds, "He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?" John 10:20. They tried to convince everyone that the **only one** with perfect clarity was, in fact, the **only one** who was "mad." They called the Light "darkness."

When Spiritual Eyes Open — The Battle Begins

By System Import | Sermon | March 14, 2026

This is the battle you are in. The enemy will use people in your life—especially controlling or narcissistic people who are masters of gaslighting—to make you question your own sanity. This is why you *must* be anchored in the Word of God more than in the *opinions of people*. You must learn to trust that "check" in your spirit. You must find your validation *vertically* from God, not *horizontally* from people. The battle for your mind is the first wave of the attack.

Number 4: Tactic #2: The Battle for Your Calling The Isolation Campaign

If the enemy cannot make you *doubt* your "sight" through gaslighting, his next tactic is to *neutralize* your "sight" through isolation. He will try to make you so lonely that you *give up*. He will try to "Micaiah" you.

This is one of the most painful and clearest pictures of the "seer's" burden, in 1 Kings 22. The evil King Ahab wants to go to war, and he gathers 400 prophets. All 400 of them prophesy in perfect, positive, uplifting unity: "Go, for the Lord will give it into the king's hand!" It is a 400-to-1 consensus. The "vibe" is amazing. Everyone is in agreement.

But the godly King Jehoshaphat, who has a little "sight" himself, feels that same "check" in his spirit. He says, "Is there not a prophet of the LORD here... that we may inquire of him?" King Ahab sneers with pure hatred, "There is still one... Micaiah... but I *hate* him because he *never* prophesies anything *good* about me, but *always bad*."

This is the cry of the undiscerning heart. "I hate the person whose 'sight' disturbs my comfort." They bring in Micaiah, and he is the *one* dissenting voice. He is the *only one* whose eyes are open. And he sees the *truth*. He sees a *lying spirit* has been sent by God to deceive the other 400 prophets. He sees the battle for what it is: a *trap*.

And what is his reward for his "sight"? What is his payment for being the *only one* telling the truth? "Then Zedekiah... went up and *slapped Micaiah in the face*... And the king said, 'Put this fellow in prison and feed him with nothing but bread and water of affliction until I return safely.'"

This is the isolation campaign. When your eyes are open, you will often be the *one* voice against the *four hundred*. You will be the one in the church meeting who has to say, "I know everyone is excited, but I have no peace about this. I see a spirit of pride here." You will be the one in the family who has to say, "I know everyone loves this new person, but I see a spirit of manipulation."

And the reward? You will be *slapped* verbally, emotionally. You will be called "divisive." You will be "un-invited" from the meetings. You will be "put in prison" isolated. This is the battle for your calling. The enemy is trying to make the *cost* of your "sight" so high that you *choose* to be silent

When Spiritual Eyes Open — The Battle Begins

By System Import | Sermon | March 14, 2026

next time. He wants you to **regret** your gift. He wants you to **choose** the "unity" of the 400 lying prophets over the **isolation** of the one true seer. This is a painful, lonely battle, and it is the one that takes out more "watchmen" than any other. If this message inspires you, don't forget to subscribe for more Bible insights every week.

Number 5: Tactic #3: The Battle for Your Past The Familiar Spirits

When your eyes open, the battle doesn't just begin in the "future" with new threats. It also re-ignites the battles from your **past**. The enemy, knowing he can no longer deceive you with **new** tricks, will now try to **destroy** you with **old** wounds. He will launch an attack using "familiar spirits."

This term is often misunderstood. It doesn't just mean a demon that is "familiar" with you. It means a spirit that operates through **familiar patterns**, **familiar people**, and **familiar weaknesses**. Now that your spiritual eyes are open, you will suddenly be able to **see** the spiritual **source** of the dysfunction you have lived with your whole life. You will look at your family and see, for the first time, the "spirit of anger" that has been passed down. You will see the "spirit of fear" that has controlled your mother. You will see the "spirit of addiction" that has warred against your father.

This "sight" is a revelation, but it is also the **beginning** of the battle. The enemy has had a "foothold" Ephesians 4:27 in these familiar areas for **decades**. He considers it **his** territory. And when **your** eyes open, and you, the "light-bearer," suddenly show up in that "dark" place, you are a **direct threat** to his generational stronghold.

The battle begins because you are the "Daniel" in the lion's den. You are the "David" in Saul's palace. You are the one God has "seen" and "anointed" **within** the dysfunctional system, and you are the one He has chosen to be the **cycle-breaker**. The enemy will now use these "familiar" people and "familiar" spirits to wage an intense, personal war against you. They will use the **people you love most** to wound you the **deepest**. They will use the **triggers** you've had since childhood. They will whisper the **same old lies** "You're worthless," "You'll never be good enough" that have always worked on you.

This is the "King Saul" assignment. Saul, driven by a "familiar" spirit of envy, jealousy, and fear, relentlessly hunted the anointing on David. He **loved** David one minute when David was "blind" and just playing the harp and **hurled a spear** at him the next the moment David's "light" and anointing became a threat. This battle with "familiar spirits" is perhaps the most painful of all, because it's not against a stranger; it's against the "Saul" in your own house. It's the battle for your **past** and your **lineage**.

When Spiritual Eyes Open — The Battle Begins

By System Import | Sermon | March 14, 2026

Number 6: Your New Assignment: The "Sight" Is Your Weapon

So, yes, the battle begins. The enemy attacks your mind, your credibility, and your past. It's a terrifying, multi-front war. And you may be asking, "Why? Why would God open my eyes if it just makes me a target?" Here is the glorious, empowering truth: God didn't open your eyes to make you a **target**; He opened your eyes to make you a **warrior**.

Your "sight" is not a **vulnerability**; it is a **weapon**. It is, in fact, the **targeting system** for your **real** weapon. Before your eyes were open, your prayers were like "carpet bombing." You'd pray, "God, please bless my church... God, please help my family." They were good, but general.

But **now** that your eyes are open? You can **see** the target. Your prayers become "laser-guided." You stop praying, "God, bless this meeting." You start praying, "In the name of Jesus, I bind the **spirit of pride** and **performance** that is trying to operate in this worship service." You stop praying, "God, help my kids." You start praying, "I cancel the assignment of the **spirit of fear** and **anxiety** that is tormenting my child." You stop praying, "God, help my pastor." You start praying, "I cover my pastor's mind and bind the **spirit of confusion** and **discouragement** that is trying to silence him."

This is what it means to "bind and loose" Matthew 18:18. You cannot **bind** what you cannot **see**. Your "sight" is the gift of **discernment** that allows you to **identify** the enemy's plan, **name** it in accordance with the Word, and **dismantle** it with the authority of Jesus.

Look at Paul in Acts 16. He is being followed by the slave girl. She is saying **good things**: "These men are servants of the Most High God!" But Paul, whose eyes are open, is "greatly annoyed." He doesn't see a "confused girl"; he **sees** the **spirit**. His "sight" gives him the target. And he doesn't pray for **her**; he speaks to **it**. "I command **you**, in the name of Jesus Christ, to come out of her!" Acts 16:18. **That** is the battle. **That** is the authority. **That** is why the enemy fears you. Your "sight" is the gift that turns you from a "prayer-victim" into a "prayer-warrior."

Number 7: How to Fight - Living as a Child of Light

The battle has begun. You have been gaslit, isolated, and attacked. But you now see that your "sight" is your **weapon**. So how do you **live**? How do you fight this war every day? The Apostle Paul gives us the "rules of engagement" in Ephesians 5.

He says, "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord." Ephesians 5:8. This is your new **identity**. You are not "in" the light; you **are** the light. This is **who you are**. And because of **who you are**, this is **what you do**: "Live as children of light."

When Spiritual Eyes Open — The Battle Begins

By System Import | Sermon | March 14, 2026

How do you "live as a child of light" in this new battle?

1. You Walk in the Light v. 8-10: You live a life of **holiness** and **integrity**. The enemy **hates** light. When you walk in purity, your **life itself** becomes a passive form of spiritual warfare. It's like walking into a dark room with a blazing flashlight. The darkness just **flees**. You "find out what pleases the Lord." Your obedience becomes your armor.

2. You Expose the Darkness v. 11-13: "Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them." This is your **active** warfare. This is your "sight" in action. How do you "expose" them?

** First, by *refusing* to participate. When everyone is gossiping a "deed of darkness", your *silence* and refusal "exposes" it.*

** Second, by *speaking* the truth in love Ephesians 4:15. This is the "Micaiah" moment. It's the scary part, but it's part of the calling.*

** Third, as we saw in Section 6, by *praying* against the spiritual forces behind the deeds.*

** Verse 13 says, "But everything *exposed by the light* becomes visible, and everything that is illuminated *becomes a light*." This is the glorious promise. Your "sight," when you use it, **turns the darkness into light**. It breaks the spell.*

Finally, Paul gives us the command for the "awakened" soldier: "This is why it is said: 'Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'" Ephesians 5:14.

This is the message. The opening of your eyes **is** your "wake up" call. You have risen from the "dead" sleep of spiritual ignorance. The battle has begun, and the command is not to "go back to sleep." The command is to **rise up**. The battle begins because your **light** has come. And when you stand up and **live** as the child of light you are, Christ **shines on you** and **through you**.

Conclusion

Today, we have looked at the profound, jarring, and glorious truth: When your spiritual eyes open, the battle begins. We learned this is not a **punishment**, but a **promotion**.

We saw that this "awakening," like Elisha's servant, is the moment we see the **unseen reality**. We discovered that this "sight" makes us a new threat to the enemy, as we are no longer "blissfully ignorant" but **aware** of the real battle.

We exposed the enemy's three primary counter-attacks: the gaslighting campaign to make you doubt your **sanity**, the isolation campaign to make you doubt your **credibility**, and the attack of familiar spirits to make you doubt your **past**.

But then, we took back our power. We learned that our "sight" is not a burden; it is our divine

When Spiritual Eyes Open — The Battle Begins

By System Import | Sermon | March 14, 2026

targeting system, turning our prayers into powerful, "laser-guided" weapons. And finally, we learned how to fight: to live as "children of light," whose very lives **expose** the darkness and **enforce** the victory of Christ.

If you are in this place today—feeling alone, feeling crazy, feeling the weight of what you see—be **encouraged**. You are not a victim. You are a **warrior**. The enemy does not attack territory he doesn't fear. The battle raging around you is **proof** that God has anointed you, gifted you, and **trusted** you to be His watchman in this generation. Do not be afraid of what you see. The one who is **with you** is infinitely greater than the one who is in the world.

Before you go, make sure to subscribe, like this video, and share it with someone who needs encouragement today. And join us next time as we uncover another powerful truth from God's Word.