

Prayer Guide for March 22-28: Show us our blindness and restore our sight!

Jesus looks at inner attitudes, not external appearance. The “really religious” of Jesus’ day were blind to their sins and so easily passed judgment on others. All of their empty words could not save them. The blind man only had to say, “I believe.” Those options are given to us today also. We have to say, “I believe,” so Jesus can show us where we need to see more clearly.

Scriptures to Read and Ponder

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Songs to Sing

HWB 401 This Little Light of Mine

HWB 517 Open My Eyes, that I May See

HWB 545 Be Thou My Vision

STJ 92 Just as I Am, Without One Plea

STS 65 Abre Mis Ojos (Open My Eyes)

Words of Praise

The Lord is my shepherd! I have everything I need.

God leads me beside peaceful waters and right paths, comforting me through the valleys of despair, and preparing for me a rich feast. I have more than I need.

God anoints me for healing, strengthening, gifting, and blessing. My cup overflows with goodness and mercy.

I will live in the house of the Lord forever. Amen!

Words of Confession and Assurance

God, I confess that I am quick to judge others and not acknowledge my own sins and weaknesses. I confess that I do not always follow your example because immorality, impurity, and greed are sometimes part of my life, and obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes sometimes come from my lips. God, I need your light to shine on me to expose the things I say and do that are not pleasing to you. Forgive me my sin.

(Allow God to bring to mind ways in which you have harmed others through your attitudes, words, and actions. Then receive the forgiveness of God, freely given. Seek to make amends for your sins this week, if you are able.)

Though my heart was once filled with darkness, now I am full of the light of the Lord. This light within me produces what is good and right and true. May the Holy Spirit fill me and move me. May I walk in the light for now I can see.

Thanks be to God!

Questions for Reflection

- Have I ever experienced a time when I felt like, “I once was blind, but now I see”?
- Am I open to God showing me some “blind spots” I might have in my life, where I am not seeing things as they truly are?
- What might I do today to connect with God and affirm God’s presence in my life?

Words of Blessing

May I go through this day knowing that I am forgiven, with the light and power of God living in and through me. May my life today bear witness to the glory of God, so that others will see and declare, “I believe!”

The words of this guide are mostly written in the first person singular (“I,” “me”), for individual use. If you are using this as a couple or as a family or in a group, feel free to change it to plural (“we,” “us”).