

Natural and Spiritual Sight

2 Kings 6:1-23; 8:1-24



Sight plays a big role in the story of Elisha and the Syrians. Choose an experiment that helps you think about natural and spiritual sight and the uses they

each serve in our lives.

Experiment 1: Blind Journey

For this experiment, you will need a willing volunteer and something to use as a blindfold. Start by thinking of a safe place indoors or outside where you could lead someone who is blindfolded, but where they might not know where you were going. Blindfold your volunteer and carefully lead them along your route. When you reach your destination, ask them if they know where they are. Switch roles, and let them lead you blindfolded. Was it hard to tell where you were going? Imagine how much harder it would be if you were to try this experiment in an unfamiliar place.

We can imagine what it might be like not to see because we can see. What is like for us to have spiritual sight? One way to think of this is to have knowledge that lets us know things we cannot actually see. Elisha had miraculous knowledge of where and when the Syrians were going to attack Israel, even though he had not seen them. He knew because the Lord gave him the knowledge. Although this kind of knowledge is only rarely revealed to people by the Lord, there are circumstances when what we know is more important than what we actually can see.

Experiment 2: Natural Evidence

For this experiment, look at a tree or plant. List all the parts you can see (e.g. leaves, bark). Did you see the whole picture? What other parts are essential to any plant, even though we can't see them most of the time? Can you think of some other examples where the appearances—what we see with our natural eyes—can blind us to the truth?

The Writings state, “Thought from the eye closes the understanding, while thought from the understanding opens the eye” (*Divine Love and Wisdom* 46). This may sound confusing, but it is saying that the things we see with our natural eyes sometimes deceive us, unless we are thinking about what we know to be true, not just what we see physically.

We know about roots because we have learned about them or seen them. If we had never seen roots or been told about them, just looking wouldn't tell us that they were there. The same is true of spiritual things. We cannot know about them unless someone teaches us or unless we learn about them by reading the Lord's Word.