

I see something you don't see...

How We Can Train Our Spiritual Eyes / Walking Through Life with Open Eyes

Sermon by Marion Jaensch, October 25, 2026 / Free Christian Church of Kiel / Translated with DeepL

Today's sermon is about **our inner eyes** and how we can develop an open perspective on spiritual realities.

I know that many in our congregation have already had experiences with this—such as hearing God's voice in concrete ways or perceiving His work with their inner eyes.

This is fostered by our commitment to being open to the work of the Holy Spirit and His gifts.

Nevertheless, I believe that the Lord wants to lead us as a congregation as a whole to a new level in the prophetic realm.

Perhaps you also remember the traditional children's game: "I spy with my little eye—and it's..."

- We used to play that quite often when I was a child. We'd quickly scan our surroundings carefully, so that it wouldn't be too easy for the other player.
- I found it especially fun to choose something so inconspicuous, almost hidden, that it was hard to guess.
- From an early age, I was a highly visually oriented person with a passion for colors, shapes, and materials. Sometimes this even drove my parents crazy. I'm just such a creative type!
- Cultivating my vivid imagination has always fascinated me—a trait that later served me well during my art studies as a sculptor.

These days, photography is my favorite hobby, especially with subjects like seagulls, sheep, and ships...

When I was recently photographing a seagull again, the results of the shoot inspired me to take a closer look at the question, "What do we actually see?"

- and for me, this isn't just about the visible realm; I want to build a bridge to the invisible spiritual world into which we, as believers, are transported and in which we live.

Here's a series of photos for you:

- In the **first photo**, you can see a seagull over the fjord.
- The **third photo** shows the seagull after a successful catch.
- Here is the **second photo**, which I couldn't see with the naked eye but which my cell phone perfectly captured as a snapshot:

As I looked at it, I just thought: Oh, cool—how beautifully this seagull is dancing over the water—like a conductor—it almost reminds me of an angelic being.

The photo stirred in me a longing for our Heavenly Father to open our spiritual eyes so that we may see what He sees, so that we may come to know Him more for who He is, and so that we may grow in our relationship with Him.

To do this, we need to realize that as children of God—if we belong to Jesus—we're equipped with **two pairs of eyes**: physical and spiritual.

Perhaps you've never thought about this before either?

Our natural, physical eyes are limited to seeing in the visible realm, while with our inner eyes we can perceive the supernatural, invisible world—which is beyond our understanding.

In the midst of everyday life, we can perceive spiritual realities through the eyes of our hearts. Since God is Spirit, we, as His children, also live between two worlds—a visible and an invisible one. I think that's really powerful!

- I recommend Pastor Lars Jaensch's sermon series on this topic: "Between the Worlds"

Since 1993, there's been a TV advertising slogan: "You see better with the second channel!" Adapted to my sermon: "You see better with your **second pair of eyes!**"

Is it God's will, then, that we have open eyes of the heart? For me, my

1st eye-opener: Jesus came so that people might see

Part of Jesus' mission in this world is to enable the blind to see. Here's a Bible passage from Luke 4:18–19. Jesus reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 61:1–3) in the synagogue.

*Luke 4:18–19 (Elb) 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty **to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind**, 19 to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."*

The aspects of his mission here usually have a figurative or dual meaning. This is also true of the statement: "**that the blind may see again.**"

On the one hand, it refers physically to the healing of actual blindness. But it also refers spiritually to the healing of spiritual blindness and delusion, so that people may turn from darkness to light and have their eyes opened to the Kingdom of God.

Let's take a closer look at the manual for our lives—the Bible.

For me, another

2 . eye-opener: The Bible is a *spiritual* picture book!

As I reflected on how God speaks to us humans and what distinguishes His language, the rich imagery of the Bible immediately came to mind—imagery that paints a picture of an invisible, supernatural world for us.

- Through images, visions, prophetic impressions, and dreams, the Bible provides insights into spiritual realities—not mere fantasies.
- Did you know that nearly a third of the Bible consists of prophetic images, visions, descriptions of future events, and vivid dreams? That’s pretty amazing!

The **most important** thing to remember is that biblical revelations, visualizations, and prophetic images always have one goal: they reveal the nature and greatness of God, His beauty and character, His plans and purposes, and they always point to Jesus—Jesus alone! To see Him.

They lead us into an intimate relationship with God so that we can come to know Him more

and more. So how do I sharpen my vision for the invisible?

A third eye-opener that has been very helpful to me is the realization that the invisible is more real than the visible.

3. Eye-opener: The invisible is more real than the visible.

Have you ever heard the saying, “I only believe in what I see...”

Invisible things can be real even if our physical eyes cannot perceive them—for example, electricity: You can’t see it, but its effect is evident when a light bulb glows.

We must be aware of the spiritual, invisible world in order to understand spiritual things.

In 2 Corinthians 4:16, Paul encourages the Corinthians not to let their outer selves be worn down, since their inner selves are being renewed day by day. The passage then continues in

2 Cor. 4:17–18 (ELB) 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all (SCH2000) 18 since we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

Four words in verse 18 that I’d like to briefly contrast:

- **The visible** is **temporary!** That is, material things are subject to decay and the passage of time; they are fleeting, and therefore limited.
- **The invisible** is **eternal!** Since it does not consist of matter, it is not transitory but enduring. It is unlimited, beyond space and time.

The invisible and the visible are not equivalent realities on the same plane; they are comparable to light and darkness. Light is always stronger and drives out darkness.

The invisible/eternal belongs to another dimension and is not subject to the laws of the transient material world.

- Thus, the **invisible** is regarded as the essential, the true, the meaningful, and the enduring, since it is beyond the passage of time.

How often do we cling to the visible in our judgments, evaluations, and assessments? That seems to be human nature.

Let's move on to a

4th eye-opener: God sees what people do not see

One of God's names in the Old Testament is **El Roi**—a God who sees. A God who sees me. God is Spirit and is not limited to the visible world; He sees more deeply and also knows the future.

Here is a Bible passage from the Old Testament: When the prophet Samuel received the commission from God to anoint one of Jesse's sons as king, he was initially impressed by what was visible.

*1 Sam. 16:6–7 6 And it came to pass, when they came in, that he saw Eliab and said, "Surely the LORD's Anointed stands here before the LORD!" 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature; For I have rejected him. For [the LORD does not look] at what man looks at. For man looks at the outward appearance, **but the LORD looks at the heart.**"*

- None of the seven sons present is the chosen one.
- At Samuel's request, David, the youngest son who was tending their sheep, was brought in and appointed king by God because God saw his heart.

What do we focus on in the face of challenges and difficult circumstances? For

me, another

5th eye-opener: A glimpse into the unseen leads to fearlessness

Why does the Lord want to open our eyes?

If we focus only on the visible difficulties during crises, we can quickly be overwhelmed by anxiety and fear. That is not God's plan for our lives.

He wants us to recognize His work, His plans, and His greatness so that we can act accordingly.

Here's a brief biblical example: In 2 Kings 6:15–18, the prophet Elisha and his servant are surrounded by an enemy army. The servant sees the threat and is afraid. Let's read from verse 16.

*2 Kings 6:15–18 16 But he (Elisha) said, “**Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.**” 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, “**O LORD, please open his eyes so that he may see!**” Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of fiery horses and chariots surrounding Elisha. 18 And they came down toward him. And Elisha prayed to the LORD and said, “Strike this army with blindness!” So He struck them with blindness according to Elisha's word.*

In response to Elisha's prayer, God opens the servant's eyes. He sees the mountain filled with fiery horses and chariots surrounding Elisha, which restores his courage.

Perhaps you're currently facing major challenges, illness, or a crisis? Pray for open eyes and trust in God's presence and His intervention. God is greater, Jesus is the Victor, and He is with us and for us.

Another eye-opener for me is:

6. Eye-Opener: Jesus Saw What the Father Did

Jesus **saw** faith and unbelief in people. You're wondering how?

- By their expectations, their reactions, and their attitudes.
- Faith can indeed be seen.

Through spiritual gifts such as prophetic speech, words of knowledge, and words of wisdom, Jesus reached many people, for example,

- the skeptical Nathanael, whom he had already seen under the fig tree—which convinced him and led him to accept Jesus.
- The woman at Jacob's well, where Jesus revealed things about her life and she called him a prophet.

I could go on to list many more examples of what Jesus saw and did.

But what fascinates me most—and what I want to learn from—is that Jesus limited Himself in what He did.

- John 5:19–20 describes the close relationship between the Father and the Son: The Father shows the Son what He does, and the Son acts accordingly. We read about this in

*John 5:19–20 19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of His own accord, but only **what He sees the Father doing**; for whatever the Father does, that the Son also does. 20 For the Father loves the Son and **shows Him all** that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, so that you may marvel.”*

Jesus did not act out of blind impulsiveness, but **looked** to the Father and did only what he saw the Father doing.

The Kingdom of God is about recognizing God's will through an intimate relationship with Him and allowing heavenly resources to take effect.

Perhaps you're wondering, "What does all this have to do with me?"

- Jesus is our role model, and we can follow in his footsteps, learn from him, act just as he did, and see how the Kingdom of God is spreading right here among us.

Now I'd like to take you along—in a very practical and personal way—on my journey with God.

When I receive a prophetic word for people or a situation during a worship service or in another setting, there are usually two different ways it happens:

- Sometimes I suddenly receive a prophetic impression without having to , and then
- there are often moments when, in dialogue with God, I simply ask Him certain **questions**. I always find it fascinating to see how God responds.

You just have to ask the right questions: for example,

- Heavenly Father, what do you want to do today?
- Whom do you want to bless?
- To whom do you want to reveal yourself?
- Who needs encouragement?
- Whom do you want to heal?
- Holy Spirit, what gifts do you want to bestow?

The motivation behind this is always God's love for each one of us.

And then I wait and, very often, experience how the Holy Spirit shows me things He wants to do.

This varies greatly and takes many forms.

- Sometimes I see situations a person is in,
- or specific parts of the body when it comes to healing.
- Or figurative, metaphorical impressions that describe a circumstance in the person's life

Prophetic ministry is like a treasure hunt!

One goal of the prophetic ministry is **to discover and uncover** the **treasure** God has placed within people.

It's like a **treasure hunt** where God reveals the hidden treasure through prophetic assurance and encouragement, and people come into their destiny and calling.

I always picture a beautiful mosaic covered in dust and dirt, which an archaeologist patiently and carefully unearths—for all to see.

Let us all be treasure hunters!

In 1 Corinthians 12 and 14, Paul encourages the Corinthians to strive for the gifts of the Spirit, especially the gift of prophecy.

Prophetic speech or prophecy is meant to

- edification,
- encouragement,
- admonition, and
- comfort,

to strengthen the entire congregation.

Let us, as a congregation, strive together toward this and grow in it, to honor God and give Him space to reveal Himself, so that we may come to know Him better.

Let us pray together, according to Ephesians 1:17–18.

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for giving us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that we may know you. Enlighten the eyes of our spirit/heart so that we may know what is the hope of your calling and what is the riches of the glory of your inheritance in us, the saints.