**1 Peter: The Eyes and Face of the Lord**

1 Peter 3:10-12

**Context**

**1 Peter 3:8-12**—*To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;****9****not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.****10****For, “The one who desires life, to love and see good days, Must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit.* ***11****“He must turn away from evil and do good; He must seek peace and pursue it.* ***12****“For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, And His ears attend to their prayer, But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”*

If we are to love and see good days, we must understand what God has said regarding how we get there.

**How do we love and see good days?**

1. **Think correctly, v8**
2. **Act correctly, v9**
3. **Focus correctly, vv10-11**
4. **Motivated correctly, v12**

***12****“For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, And His ears attend to their prayer, But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.*

**Psalms 34:15-16**—*The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous And His ears are open to their cry.* ***16****The face of the Lord is against evildoers, To cut off the memory of them from the earth.*

1. *The eyes of the Lord*
   1. Identifies the sovereignty of God
      * + 1. He rules over all

**Psalms 90:2***—Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.*

**102:25-27***—“Of old You founded the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.* ***26****“Even they will perish, but You endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed.* ***27****“But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end.*

**Daniel 4:35***—“All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand   
Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’*

**Ephesians 3:11***—This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord*

1. He sees all

**Job 28:24***—“For He looks to the ends of the earth  
And sees everything under the heavens.”*

**Proverbs 5:21***—For the ways of a man are before the eyes f the Lord, And He watches all his paths.*

1. He knows all

**Psalm 147:5***—Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.*

**Romans 11:33***—Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!*

1. He holds people accountable for their behavior

**Genesis 2:16-17**—*The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;****17****but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”*

**Romans 1:20***—For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.*

1. He threatens punishment for disobedience to the unbeliever

**Ezekiel 18:4***—Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die.*

**Romans 6:23***—For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

* 1. The primary focus here isn’t so much on God’s judgment but on His providential care for His own
  2. The phrase is used repeatedly in the OT to refer to that tender care

**Proverbs 5:21***—For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the Lord, And He watches all his paths.*

**Zechariah 4:10***—For who has despised the day of small things? But these seven will be glad when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel—these are the eyes of the Lord which range to and fro throughout the earth.*

* + - * 1. It does sometimes have a judgmental aspect to it

**Amos 9:8***—“Behold, the eyes of the Lord God are on the sinful kingdom, And I will destroy it from the face of the earth; Nevertheless, I will not totally destroy the house of Jacob,” Declares the Lord.*

**Proverbs 15:3***—The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.*

* + - * 1. But most often in relationship to His omniscient awareness of all that happens to us in our daily lives

**Psalm 139:1-6***—O Lord, You have searched me and known me.* ***2****You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar.* ***3****You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.* ***4****Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O Lord, You know it all.* ***5****You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.* ***6****Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it.*

1. *Looking toward the righteous*
   1. Purpose: to attend to the prayers of His people
      1. *Prayer* (deesis)—prayer, supplication, request; need, indigence, want, privation, penury; a seeking, asking, entreating, entreaty to god or to man[[1]](#footnote-2)
      2. Prayer is crying out to God to meet our needs

**Psalm** **5:2***—Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God, For to You I pray.*

**Matthew 7:7***—Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*

**Philippians 4:6***—Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

**1 John 5:14-15***—This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.****15****And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.*

* 1. God is fully aware at every moment of our every need
     1. Such truth ought to bring the believer great joy and confidence
     2. God is always watching and waiting to hear—and answer—our prayers

**1 Peter 4:7***—The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.*

**Psalms 50:15***—Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me.*

**Psalm 65:2***—O You who hear prayer, to You all men come.*

**Psalm 138:3***—On the day I called, You answered me; You made me bold with strength in my soul.*

**Romans 8:26***—In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words*

**Hebrews 4:16***—Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

1. In contrast, the *face of the Lord is against those who do evil*
   1. *Face of the Lord*—judgment and condemnation

**Genesis 19:13***—for we are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the Lord that the Lord has sent us to destroy it.*

**Lamentations 4:16***—The presence of the Lord has scattered them, He will not continue to regard them; They did not honor the priests, They did not favor the elders.*

* 1. “Eye” refer to His all-seeing omniscience
     1. Omniscience—derived from the Latin "omnis" (all) and "scientia" (knowledge), signifies the state of possessing all knowledge.
     2. As the divine One, He knows everything that is, was and will be, and has access to all possible knowledge
     3. Metaphorically—the eyes of the mind, the faculty of knowing[[2]](#footnote-3)

**Matthew 6:25-26**—“*For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?****26****Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?*

* 1. “Face” is often associated with anger and displeasure

**Isaiah 54:8**—“*In an outburst of anger I hid My face from you for a moment, But with everlasting lovingkindness I will have compassion on you,” Says the Lord your Redeemer.*

**Ezekiel 39:29**—*I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I will have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,” declares the Lord God.*

**2 Chronicles 7:14***—and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.****15****Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place.*

**Psalm 76:6-8**—*At Your rebuke, O God of Jacob, Bothrider and horse were cast into a dead sleep.* ***7****You, even You, are to be feared; And who may stand in Your presence when once You are angry?* ***8****You caused judgment to be heard from heaven; The earth feared and was still*

* 1. God’s wrath is against those who do evil

Although base men may seem to prosper, Psalm 73 shows what it means to have Yahweh set his face against them.[[3]](#footnote-4)

***Psalm 73:1-20****—Surely God is good to Israel, To those who are pure in heart!* ***2****But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling, My steps had almost slipped.* ***3****For I was envious of the arrogant As I saw the prosperity of the wicked.* ***4****For there are no pains in their death, And their body is fat.* ***5****They are not in trouble as other men, Nor are they plagued [*[*f*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ps%2073&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-15026f)*]like mankind.* ***6****Therefore pride is their necklace; The garment of violence covers them.* ***7****Their eye bulges from fatness; The imaginations of their heart run riot.* ***8****They mock and wickedly speak of oppression; They speak from on high.* ***9****They have set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue parades through the earth.* ***10****Therefore his people return to this place, And waters of abundance are drunk by them.* ***11****They say, “How does God know? And is there knowledge with the Most High?”* ***12****Behold, these are the wicked; And always at ease, they have increased in wealth.* ***13****Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure And washed my hands in innocence;* ***14****For I have been stricken all day long And chastened every morning.* ***15****If I had said, “I will speak thus,” Behold, I would have betrayed the generation of Your children.* ***16****When I pondered to understand this, It was troublesome in my sight* ***17****Until I came into the sanctuary of God; Then I perceived their end.* ***18****Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction.* ***19****How they are destroyed in a moment! They are utterly swept away by sudden terrors!* ***20****Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when aroused, You will despise their form.*

* 1. His displeasure resides on those who do not obey His word

**Revelation 6:16**—*and they \*said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb”*

**Conclusion**

These believers were dealing with a very hostile world. In spite of the difficulties and animosity they experienced, they can respond well: by thinking correctly, by responding correctly, by focusing correctly, and by being motivated correctly. In short, we respond like our Savior.

The blessing we inherit includes the eyes and ears of the Lord watching over and protecting His own—always attentive to their prayers ready to respond.

**Source**

Most of the message and notes come from:

Richard W. DeHaan, Good News for Bad Times: 1 Peter

R.C.H. Lenski, The Interpretation of I and II Epistles of Peter, the three Epistles of John, and the Epistle of Jude

John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, 1 Peter

John MacArthur, Living and Loving the Good Life, Part 3, 1 Peter 3:10-12, Sept 3, 1989, gty.org

Jerome H Smith, The New Treasure of Scripture Knowledge

[www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)

1. Strong’s G1162 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Strong’s G3788 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Lenski, 145. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)