

A close-up photograph of a hand holding an open book. The book is held vertically, and the pages are slightly fanned out. A bright, golden light source is positioned behind the book, creating a dramatic lens flare effect with several rays of light extending upwards and outwards. The background is dark, making the light and the book stand out. The overall mood is spiritual and enlightening.

BOOK *of* JOHN

BLIND MAN'S BLUFF

JOHN 9:1-12

- You can be physically capable of sight and still be quite blind; and you can be physically blind and see better than those with 20/20 vision!
- As the light of the world, Jesus came to restore sight to the blind.
- Sometimes **physically**, *“but to as many as received Him;”* more importantly, **spiritually**.

WHAT IS THIS, CHRISTIAN KARMA?

Among the people of Palestine in the 1st century were those who believed in the doctrine of reincarnation; they believed in a type of Karmic order to life:

**Do good/get good; do bad/get bad.
What goes around comes around.**

- Was he being punished by God for something done in a former life on earth or by his rotten parents?
- Some of them probably remembered **Exodus 20:5**.

KARMA, NO . . . THE RESULT OF SIN, YES

ALL PHYSICAL PROBLEMS are the result of the fall of Adam and our inheriting his nature; his disobedience brought sin and death into the world. **Rom. 5:12-14**

There were at least three reasons for the Lord's clay:

- 1.** For one thing, it was a picture of the ***Incarnation***.
- 2.** The second reason for the clay was ***Irritation***; it encouraged the man to believe and obey Jesus!
- 3.** Clay represents our ***Identification***, our humanness.

A PROBLEM IN IDENTIFICATION

The *illumination* now led to a problem in *identification*: Was this really the blind beggar and who caused him to see?

- The religious leaders did not want to face the fact that Jesus had healed the man or even that the man had been healed!
- All he knew about the person who had done the miracle was that He was “*a man called Jesus.*”

THE BEGGAR NEEDED THE LIGHT TO SHINE

The man wasn't just blind physically, he was blind spiritually—living life like a “severed wasp.”

- The Word is clear that Jesus—God incarnate—was not an illusion. **1 John 1:1-4**
- **John 9** tells the remarkable story of the beggar blind from birth and is the outworking of the theme, “*The Light of the World*,” from **John 8**.
- Here, Jesus proves He is the light that kills darkness.

FAITH IN THE LIGHT

The miraculous powers of God are activated by faith from a believing man's soul.

- Jesus-style ophthalmology: Trust the mud, Bud.

SUCH FAITH COULD NOT GO UNREWARDED. THIS SET THE PATTERN FOR NEW TESTAMENT EVANGELISM.

- Firstly, men must *hear* the word of Jesus. Secondly, they must *believe* and *obey* it. Thirdly, they must be *washed*. And finally, the *light will come*.

THIS MAN WAS AT THE POINT OF IMPACT

- Blind people can see; deaf people can hear.
- Drug addicts cleaned; hungry fed.
- Ruined marriages restored; lame people can walk.
- Emotionally scarred people are whole again.
- Diseased people healed; dead people are alive.

***THE LIGHT THAT SHINES IN OUR DARKNESS—
THE GOD-MAN—WHAT A SAVIOR!***