



## DON'T MAKE A "SPECTACLE" OF YOUR SELF

By Vincent M. Newfield

Ever been called "Four Eyes"? Most of us who wear glasses have. The truth is, though, all of us have two sets of eyes—we have two in the *natural* and two in the *spirit*. With our natural eyes, we see things in the *visible* world, and with our spiritual eyes, we "see," or sense, things in the *invisible* world. Even unbelievers have two sets of eyes. The question is, how is your spiritual vision?

**NEED NEW GLASSES?** I have worn glasses for over thirty-two years. Without them, everything is one big blur. I rely on my glasses so much that they are the first thing I reach for each morning and the last thing I take off each night. Everything that I see is seen through my glasses.

In a similar way, we each have spiritual "glasses" through which we see ourselves and the world around us. Whether we realize it or not, we use our invisible eyewear all the time. Basically, we either see ourselves through fleshly "glasses of **self**," or through spiritual "glasses of **God**." What you see will vary to a great degree, depending on the type of "glasses" you're wearing.

If you're wearing *glasses of self*, everything is distorted—you either see yourself as larger than life or exceedingly small and insignificant. Glasses of self provide a totally self-centered focus, giving you an exaggerated opinion or an understated opinion of yourself. You will either see yourself as self-dependent, self-confident, self-reliant and self-sufficient, or you will see yourself full of self-doubt, self-pity, self-ridicule, self-condemnation and self-hatred. Nothing would satisfy Satan more than for you to look through glasses of self so long that you eventually self-destruct.

But God doesn't want you to view your life that way. He wants you to see yourself through *His* eyes. Through *glasses of God*, you see yourself the way God sees you—as a new creation, the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, accepted and approved in the Beloved.<sup>1</sup> Through glasses of God, you are able to see your unlimited potential in Him, instead of the limitations and weaknesses in yourself. If you see yourself full of faults, flaws and failures, you will definitely feel insecure and without confidence. But if you see yourself as more than a conqueror and able to do all things through Christ who gives you strength,<sup>2</sup> then you will feel secure and have the confidence you need to truly succeed.

**SEEING IS BELIEVING** How we see ourselves greatly shapes and influences what we believe about ourselves. It also reveals where we're getting our confidence and security *from* and what we're putting our confidence and security *in*. Insecurity and having no confidence are really closely related. By definition, a person who is *insecure* is a person "without confidence." On the other hand, a person who is *secure* is a person *with* confidence.

So where do you get your confidence from? Here's a hint: What is the first thing you "reach for" every morning to help you see clearly through the day? Who or what do you turn to when you're in trouble or your back is up against the wall? To a great degree, that's your source of confidence and security. Yes, there are many things in life that you could draw your confidence from or place your confidence in. But there's only one thing that's reliable, inexhaustible and unchanging, and that is God.

Remember, nothing good dwells in your flesh, so don't put any confidence in it.<sup>3</sup> Apart from Jesus you can do nothing, but in and through Him, you can do all things.<sup>4</sup> Don't make a "spectacle" of your *self*. Throw those old glasses away and put on the *glasses of God*. They are scratch-resistant, come with all the protective coatings you need, and will never go out of style.

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(1) See 2 Corinthians 5:17, 21; Ephesians 1:6 KJV; Jeremiah 1:5. (2) See Romans 8:37; Philippians 4:13. (3) See Romans 7:18; Philippians 3:3 (4) See John 15:5; Philippians 4:13.