

Matthew 6:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

Analysis

The metaphor of the eye as the body's lamp teaches that spiritual perception (understanding) affects the whole person. A 'single' eye (Greek 'haplous'—simple, clear, focused) represents undivided devotion to God and results in a life full of light (truth, righteousness, joy). This continues the theme of wholehearted service to God versus divided loyalties. Clear spiritual vision comes from single-minded focus on God's kingdom and righteousness.

Historical Context

The eye was understood in ancient medicine as receiving and transmitting light to the body. Jesus uses this physiological understanding as metaphor for spiritual perception. A healthy eye receives light properly; healthy spiritual perception receives God's truth rightly and illuminates the whole life.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the health of your 'spiritual eye' (your understanding and priorities) affect your entire life direction?
2. What does 'single' versus 'evil' eye suggest about the danger of divided loyalties between God and worldly concerns?

Interlinear Text

Ὁ G3588 **The light** G3088 τοῦ G3588 **body** G4983 ἐστίν G2076 ὁ G3588 **eye** G3788 εἰάν G1437 οὖν G3767

ὁ G3588 **eye** G3788 σου G4675 ἀπλοῦς G573 ἢ G5600 ὅλον G3650 τὸ G3588 **body** G4983 σου G4675 **thine**

φωτεινὸν G5460 ἔσται· G2071 **shall be**

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 11:3 (Parallel theme): But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Colossians 3:22 (Sin): Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: