

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

Ο λύχνος τοῦ σῶμά ἐστιν ὁ ὀφθαλμός ἐὰν οὖν
G3588 The light G3588 body is G3588 G3588 eye if G1437 therefore
G3088 G4983 G2076 G3788 G1437 G3767

ὁ ὀφθαλμός σου ἀπλοῦς ἦ δλον τὸ σῶμά σου
G3588 eye G4675 single G573 be whole G3588 G3650 body thine
G3788 G4675 G573 G5600 G3650 G4983 G4675

φωτεινὸν ἔσται·
full of light shall be
G5460 G2071

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: