

## Column

In the early 1980s a remarkable story hit the public press. As reported by United Press International, a 51-year-old Columbia, S.C., man unable to see from birth underwent a complicated surgery enabling him to see. His name, Bob Edens.

“I never would have dreamed that yellow was so . . . so yellow. I don’t have words. I am amazed by yellow. But red is my favourite colour. I just can’t believe red,” the former blind man was reported saying.

Edens’ whole world was changed. Life tingled. “I can’t wait to get up each day to see what I can see,” he said. “I am still seeing most of it for the first time.”

The same ecstasy which permeated Edens’ life after sight permeated hymnwriter John Newton’s life after grace. “I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see,” he wrote in “Amazing Grace.”

For Newton, the sight he received was spiritual. He was once blinded to his miserable condition as a sinner and to the grace of God that pursued him, but all that changed. After being overtaken by grace, he could see just as surely as Edens. And, as with Edens, life had new purpose, meaning and zest.

C. S. Lewis, perhaps the greatest Christian apologist of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, had a similar experience. But for him, coming to conscious Christian faith brought not only spiritual sight but intellectual understanding.

“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else,” Lewis went on to write.

Many years earlier, what happened to Edens, Newton and Lewis happened to a man whose life would be pivotal to the spread of the Gospel. Blinded on the road to Damascus and his sight restored by the touch of a believer’s hand, Saul the persecutor became the Paul the proclaimer. His life was changed as surely as the three other men I have mentioned. New purpose flooded his soul.

God, no doubt, is still in the business of opening blind eyes. Some of these will be, through advances in modern science, physical; but many others will be spiritual. If you are not yet a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, the next eyes to be opened could well be your own.

*Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers . . . for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*

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