

Watch this video of a man and his dog hiking: [Trevor Thomas, the blind hiker](#)

(No tech video summary: As the title indicates, Trevor Thomas is completely blind. He has made several long hikes, hundred and even thousands of miles long, alone and now with his guide dog by his side.

Devotional Thoughts:

Trevor Thomas is certainly inspiring in his ability to overcome the physical limitations of his condition. What would it be like to attempt to hike thousands of miles without any ability to see the obstacles ahead? The video reminds us that he has fallen 1,000's of times in his pursuits. How eager are we to get back up and keep on going?

Sometimes it's easier to be willing to "get back up and keep on going" when we are hiking or walking or on vacation or someplace we choose to be, someplace warm or scenic or fun. Can we strive to have the same desire and passion to get back up and keep on going when we are at home, at work, stuck in traffic, having relationship struggles. Are you and I aware of our great need to remain dependant on God's power to help guide and strengthen us?

The ninth chapter of John's gospel starts out with the account of Jesus healing the man who had been born blind. Take a few moments now to read over and familiarize yourself with the setting and the account. Most of the chapter is devoted to the man's physical blindness, the video we are considering is the same. Many people in our culture spend the vast majority of, if not all of their time, focused on the physical aspects of daily life.

Take a few moments to read John 9:35-41. Many Bibles insert the headline of "spiritual blindness". This is a dangerous condition unknown to too many. Even the religious leaders of Jesus' day suffered from it unknowingly. More dangerous even than dealing with physical blindness is having spiritual blindness and being unaware of it.

Spend some time today and beyond evaluating your own spiritual eyesight. How clearly do you see the things of God in day to day life? Do you take blessings for granted? Are you missing opportunities to share your faith story or your resources because you don't see them? How willing are you to study and research the hard truths of the Bible?

Your vision might be 20/20, it may not be that clear. Whatever your physical level of seeing, ask God to increase your spiritual vision daily.

Listen to/sing along with the following songs

[Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord](#)

[God of Wonders](#)

[Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone](#)

[100 popular songs available by following this link](#)

For your time of celebrating communion, read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread,²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

As you partake of the Lord's Supper today, close your eyes and mentally picture that upper room, the room where Jesus and the disciples are sitting for this "last supper". Are there candles? Is it warm? Can you smell the bread and/or the juice? Maybe these guys smell like they've been hiking all day. What do your senses tell you about that evening where Jesus instituted this memorial feast?

Applying the passage/devotion where we are:

- 1) Take a few moments when you are out walking this week to stop and close your eyes. Experience the area through your other senses. Thank God for the variety of senses He has blessed us with.
- 2) If you happen to encounter a handicapped person or group while out, offer to help as appropriate. Some are perfectly capable, some might appreciate a helping hand in certain situations.
- 3) Take some time to clean up any trash or junk that might be marring the view of God's beautiful creation.
- 4) Add some Scripture captions to some of your best scenic shots and post them online.

Personal prayer time:

Most of us pray with our eyes closed most of the time. Pray for those with partial or total vision loss. Pray for others who may be challenged in other ways, be that physically or spiritually. Take some time as you pray to thank God for the beauty that surrounds us all daily. Ask God to help you be able to appreciate the beauty of His creation at home as much as you do in times like this.

Mission opportunity to support: [VIP/Special Needs camp at Round Lake Christian Assembly](#)