

# John 9

Jesus gives sight and life to a man who was physically and spiritually blind from birth. Jesus is the Light of the World!

## Eight Conversations in John 9

Jesus and His Disciples	:1-5
Jesus and the Blind Man	:6-7
The (formerly) blind man and neighbors	:8-12
The (formerly) blind man and Pharisees	:13-17
The Pharisees and the parents	:18-23
The (formerly) blind man and Pharisees II	:24-34
Jesus and the the (formerly) blind man	:35-38
Jesus and the Pharisees	:39-41

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8. Jesus and the Pharisees :39-41

John 9 How to view a blind man, or

How to view a beggar in need---

Disciples—a subject for theological analysis

Neighbors—a beggar, a “client” for social welfare

Pharisees—a tool to advance their agenda

The Lord Jesus Christ—a person created in the  
image of God, in need of sight:

both physical and spiritual

“I am the Light of the world.” John 8:12, 9:5

Cf. Mt. 5:14

“I am”-----stated 3 ways

9:5---

9:5---

8:12---

8:58---

But cf. 9:9

## Comparing two healings: John 5 and John 9, the lame man and the blind man

- Both men are nameless
- Both men are consigned to begging
- Both have known suffering most of their lives
- Jesus initiated the encounter in both instances
- Both men are healed apart from faith
- Both healings occur on a Sabbath day
- Both men look to a pool for healing
- Both men suffer at the hands of the religious
- Both men are unsure where Jesus has  
disappeared to, and Who He is
- Both men meet Jesus again
- Both men are given the opportunity to address  
deeper issues

See Anatomy of the Fourth Gospel, by Alan Culpepper, and  
Under an Open Heaven, by John E. Johnson



## Conversation 3: Formerly blind & Neighbors :8-12

## Conversation 4: Formerly blind & Pharisees :13-17

v. 14 “Now it was a Sabbath . . .”

Cf. 5:18: why the Jews pursued killing Jesus--

1. Broke the sabbath
2. Made Himself equal with God

Three views of Jesus' identity:

1. Not from God-----broke sabbath
2. Not a sinner-----or, how could he do miracles
3. A prophet

## Conversation 5: Pharisees and parents :18-23

Intimidation

vv. 22-23 carefully stated (rehearsed?)

## Conversation 6: Formerly blind & Pharisees II :24-34

Summoned him again

v. 29—do not know where He is from

v. 33---from God

They “cast him out.”

Conversation characteristic of the unconverted,  
as illustrated in conversations 3 to 6 in John 9:

Sarcasm

ridicule

*abuse*

belittling

name-calling

suspicion

hate

vituperation

*doubt*

**deception**

**confusion**

Note the speech of Christians in Eph. 4:29ff:

What a contrast! Does your (my) speech reflect the changes Christ has made in our lives?



## Four conversations of Jesus in John 9

With followers

9:1-5

Theological Correction

With blind man

9:6-7

Physical Sight

With formerly blind man

9:35-38

Spiritual Sight (life)

With opposers

9:39-41

Theological condemnation