

# The Oak Grove Oracle

(Family News & Views of the Oak Grove Church of Christ)

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## Open The Eyes Of My Heart Lord

(Help Me to See with Spiritual not just Secular Sight)

Another modern hymn which young people in the Lord's church like to sing "inspires" my *Oracle* article again this week. The lyrics of the song were written by **Paul Baloche**, wherein he expresses his desire to see the Lord as He truly is, in all of His power, love, holiness and glory! I know different people view the meaning of the song in widely different ways, as only a superficial search of internet sites devoted to hymnology will quickly prove. If you'll read on, I'd like to share with you some spiritual thoughts the song has motivated my "heart" to think about.

First, the song reminds me of an encouraging expression my good friend **Ken Upchurch** often uses in notes, texts, e-mails, and letters. I have often been blessed to be the recipient of these little "pick-me-ups" through the years, as the result of **Ken's** daily habit, wherein he has determined to be an encourager of others by sending out short, positive and encouraging "*Barnabas Notes*." After lifting my spirits with a thoughtful word of appreciation or encouragement, he often ends his missive with the words, "from my inside heart to yours," followed by his signature, "*Just Ken!*" When someone takes the time to "open the eyes of his heart," so he can see past your facade of cheerfulness to perceive you're really hurting on the inside - that's a real friend. A friend like **Joses**, who was nicknamed "**Barnabas**" by the Apostles, which means "the son of encouragement" (Acts 4:34-37).

As I mentioned earlier, the song speaks of seeing God as He really is - high, holy, lifted up, full of love, grace and mercy. It calls to my mind Isaiah's vision of the throne room of heaven (Isa. 6:1-8), which left finite Isaiah feeling tiny, flawed and wicked, in the presence of our infinite, omnipotent and Holy God. It is my personal opinion that we will never truly understand our relationship to our fellow human beings until we first "see" God, and understand what our relationship with Him is meant to be. Indeed, we love Him, and others, because He first loved us (1 Jn. 4:17-21).

Spiritual, heavenly eyesight is quite different from secular, worldly, earthly eyesight. Sometimes the swalled facades we build around our lives block the real view, until the Lord "opens the eyes of my heart." I hope you will read the whole context of Ephesians 1:15-23, from wherein comes the following brief excerpt: "...the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe,..." (1:18-19). Yes, God, please open and enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we might see others as You see them - immortal souls made in Your very image (Gen. 1:26-27), on a lifelong pilgrimage to eternity (Mt. 7:13-14).

David A. McCain