

*40 Days to Seeing God's Miracles
at Work in Your Life*

Walk Out of
**YOUR
MESS**

SAMUEL RODRIGUEZ

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Books by Samuel Rodriguez

Persevere with Power

Power for Your Day Devotional

Your Mess, God's Miracle

Your Mess, God's Miracle Study Guide

Walk Out of Your Mess

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To all the societal architects and cultural reformers
determined to see every single mess become
a miracle in Jesus' name!

Introduction

When life gets messy, it's hard to see clearly.

You want to believe God is at work in your life, but the dirt, distractions and destructions of unexpected events, complicated relationships and painful disappointments can blind you. During these times you try to stay focused on your relationship with God, but too many obstacles block your line of vision. Unable to see clearly what matters most, you eventually lose your sense of direction. You begin to feel stuck or to stumble in shadows.

Which is why it's important to keep your eyes on Jesus.

While you may trust your eyes for taking in what's visible around you, God's Word makes it clear that spiritual vision comes from trusting the Lord, relying on His Spirit and fixing the eyes of your heart on Jesus. In other words, just because you cannot see what God is doing in your life, it does not mean He is not actively transforming your mess into His miracle. Perhaps no other scene in Scripture illustrates this truth as powerfully as an encounter Jesus had with someone who could not see clearly—or in this case, literally could not see at all.

In John 9, Jesus and His disciples crossed paths with a man blind since birth. Surely this man, whose eyes had not functioned properly since birth, must have assumed there was no hope that he would ever see. So often it's hard to expect to receive something you've never had or experienced before. Most likely, the blind man had no reason to expect differently that day—until Jesus entered his life.

Based on the questions the disciples asked Jesus—“Is it this man's fault that he's blind? Or is he being punished for the sins of his parents?”—the blind man probably carried a burden of shame for his condition (John 9:2). But Jesus corrected such faulty thinking:

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him” (John 9:3). Jesus then proceeded to spit on the ground, mix a mud paste and smear it over the blind man’s eyes before instructing him to go and wash in a nearby pool. Obeying the Lord, this man saw what he had never seen before!

The blind man’s condition was not a punishment or even the consequence of anyone’s sin—it was an opportunity for God’s power, glory and goodness to be showcased! The answer Jesus gave to the disciples reframed the way they perceived the blind man’s condition—and it continues to shift the paradigm of our perception today.

What if the suffering, pain and struggles you’re facing are similar to the blind man’s condition—not an injustice to endure, but an opportunity to showcase God’s glory? Have you ever considered that you’re not being punished when faced with challenges but presented with the potential for experiencing the miraculous, omnipotent power of God? The messiness of your life is actually the opportunity for God’s miracle!

This devotional collection is based on my book *Your Mess, God’s Miracle* and is designed to help you

experience more of God's power in the midst of life's messiness. Each day's entry includes:

Your Daily Vision—a key principle or lesson of truth you can apply to your own life based on the blind man's encounter with Jesus.

Your Daily Reading—an exploration of the Daily Vision based on my examination of God's Word and my findings in *Your Mess, God's Miracle*.

Your Daily Scripture—a thematically related and curated verse or brief passage from God's Word to empower you with the clarity of spiritual truth.

Your Daily Prayer Starter—a few sentences to lead you into God's presence as you share your heart in prayer with your heavenly Father.

While each of the forty days builds on the others, the goal is for you to grow deeper in your faith as you focus your gaze on Jesus and envision your life from an eternal perspective. I pray that as God's Spirit changes the way you see, you will experience renewed hope,

abundant joy, abiding peace and limitless power on every page for every day.

Are you ready to see what you have never seen before? To experience what you have never experienced before? To go where you have never gone before? My friend, no matter what you're facing—injury, cancer, bankruptcy, divorce, addiction, homelessness, betrayal—nothing is impossible for God!

God wants to give you sight to see what you have never seen before! Right now as you are reading these words, He is birthing a miracle in the midst of your mess. From the spit and mud of your life, get ready to discover His priceless gift. Remove the blindfold and take off your mask. Recognize the areas of blindness that are being transformed.

Open your eyes to what you have never seen before!

—Samuel Rodriguez



Our God not only helps us see clearly.
Our God helps us see what we've never seen before!

Seeing clearly requires more than just the physical development of your eyes.

While physical vision develops over the first two years of life in most healthy people, there are other ways to see—intellectually, emotionally and spiritually to name a few. Seeing intellectually usually means you're good at observing, comprehending and categorizing the sensory data relayed to your brain. This kind of perception means you “get it,” seeing connections and patterns that lead to accurate conclusions based on your personal experiences and past knowledge.

Seeing through an emotional lens allows you to feel empathy, show compassion and express care and concern regarding your own needs and the needs of those around you. You may have heard of emotional intelligence, which helps you see and recognize the often-complex layers of facts and feelings in a given relationship, event or situation. Emotional sight helps you read what is being communicated beyond words spoken and their meaning.

Seeing spiritually provides clarity of vision for what cannot be seen physically, intellectually and emotionally. Spiritual sight requires trusting God and walking by faith, a way of seeing that matures as we grow more reliant on the Holy Spirit in all areas of our lives. This kind of sight requires awareness of what usually cannot be observed by our human faculties. God's Word tells us, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1). In other words, you don't need 20/20 vision using your eyes to develop faith, wisdom and discernment.

Simply put, the clarity and accuracy of your spiritual vision relies on your relationship with Jesus Christ. Perhaps no encounter in the Bible illustrates this as

beautifully as the one found in John 9:1–7. While walking with His disciples one day, Jesus came upon a man blind since birth. Aware of his lifelong condition, the disciples asked their Master if sin—either the man’s or his parents’—caused his blindness. In response, Jesus said, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him” (John 9:3).

While His answer probably surprised those listening, what Jesus did next likely amazed them even more. He spit on the ground, made mud with His saliva and the dirt and then spread the mud over the blind man’s eyes. Once the blind man’s eyes were caked with this mud mask, Jesus told him to go and wash himself in the nearby Pool of Siloam. The man went there, washed and returned *seeing!*

This encounter is more than factual history about a specific miracle of Jesus. When applied to your life today, you can glimpse a paradigm for how God often chooses to meet you in the muck and mire of your greatest trials and produce a miracle of healing and wholeness. Because no matter how big your mess may be, nothing is beyond the Master’s ability to make it His miracle!

SCRIPTURE

“Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls” (1 Peter 1:8–9).

Prayer

Lord, I am so grateful for the many ways You allow me to see. Thank You for meeting me in the messiness of my life, during those times when I'm not seeing clearly, and producing Your miracle from my mess. Amen.



day

2

Spiritual blindness occurs anytime you take your eyes off Jesus. If you want to grow in your relationship with God, then you must be willing to eliminate these blind spots.

You may have heard your areas of weakness, unself-awareness and inattention described as blind spots. Sometimes our blind spots cause us to get blindsided by unexpected events or painful circumstances. We believe that if we had been more obedient, more diligent or more focused, then we likely would not have been caught so off guard. But no matter how well we may think we see what's going on in our lives, no one can see everything going on at all times—at least not with our human senses.

Perhaps you have felt blindsided by the betrayal of a trusted friend or the loss of your job despite overall excellent performance. Discovering the addiction of a loved one can blindside you, as well as finding out your spouse has been unfaithful. It might be a routine doctor's visit that blindsides you with a devastating diagnosis or the progression of a minor health problem into a major concern.

At other times when you feel blindsided, you may have realized later that you were simply unwilling to see what was literally right in front of you. Whether out of fear, uncertainty, denial or an attempt to control your life, you ignored the signs and signals of pending problems. Looking back, you realize that you had ignored what your body had been trying to tell you prior to your doctor's bad news. In hindsight you see that your role at work was eliminated by shifting market trends. Too late you know that your spouse's betrayal did not happen overnight—you had ignored the growing distance in your relationship for some time.

Despite accepting Jesus into your life and welcoming His Holy Spirit to dwell in you, there may be times when you still experience times of blindness. Moments

when you overlook the truth in order to justify giving in to temptation. Days when you tell yourself there are no consequences for the secrets you keep. Times when you can't see how leaving church has caused you to drift in your relationship with God.

The encounter between Jesus and the blind man in John 9 reminds us to examine our blind spots and to exercise our spiritual vision as much as possible. Blindness is a condition that anyone can experience when they take their eyes off Jesus. When succeeding at work eclipses your commitment to loving and serving your family the way you know God wants you to do, you're no longer seeing clearly. When focusing on your status and popularity on social media consumes the time you once spent with Him in prayer, you've grown blind to what matters most. When pursuing money or obsessing over what you don't have overshadows gratitude for the many blessings God continues to pour into your life, you no longer see His present goodness.

Before you can experience God's miracle in your mess, you must be willing to see the mess you've been ignoring. You must see what's in front of you before you can see what's beyond.

SCRIPTURE

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you” (Ephesians 1:18).

Prayer

God, I know there are things in my life I have not been able to see, as well as those things I have not wanted to see. Give me courage to seek Your truth about what I've been afraid and unwilling to face. Show me my blind spots and meet me in my messiest moments. Amen.



day

3

When you know who you are in Christ, then you will never be blinded by old labels and the devil's lies. Your identity in Christ will bring an end to your spiritual blindness in life!

Anytime you lose sight of God, the devil will try to blind you to the truth. Because once you're not focused on the truth of who God is and the truth of His Word, then the enemy can tempt you into perceiving his lies and false claims as truth. "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Corinthians 4:4).

One of the most effective ways the enemy attempts to blind you is with despair. If he can convince you—or

influence you to convince yourself—that your situation is hopeless, then he knows your spiritual vision has been impaired. And when your spiritual vision is obscured, then you eventually lose hope.

For example, when you can't see any way for your marriage to be healed, the enemy is blindfolding you. When you no longer envision seeing your loved one beat her addiction, the enemy is blinding you with despair. When you're ready to quit trying financially because you believe you can never get out of debt, that's the devil eclipsing the truth. When your doctors have tried all medications and treatments with no success, then Satan wants you to believe that your body will never be healed.

Another method the enemy uses to blind you is through shame and false guilt. This is not the holy conviction of a healthy conscience arising from the Holy Spirit in you. No, the enemy wants you feeling guilt unnecessarily, even after you have asked for forgiveness and received it from God and those you've offended. Satan wants to darken what you see with a screen of shame that leaves you feeling worthless and unforgivable. The devil tells you that you're a liar, a thief, a gossip, a cheater, a fornicator, an adulterer, a

murderer, a hopeless mess who can never be loved or redeemed.

But this simply is not true!

Old labels may have reflected some of your past behaviors, but they can never define you once you've experienced the grace of God and the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. The Bible makes it clear: "And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:11 ESV).

Don't let the enemy blind you to the truth of
who you really are!

Because you are not who you used to be.

You are who God says you are.

SCRIPTURE

“Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105 NLT).

Prayer

Lord, help me to see the truth of Your character and Your Word clearly. Protect me from the enemy's attempts to blindfold me with deception and despair. Remove the blindfold of shame with the power of Your Holy Spirit in me, reminding me that I am a new creature in Christ. Amen.