

# Long and Short Sight

by D.L. Moody

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of having a long-sighted perspective, focusing on eternal things rather than the world around us, and the role of the Holy Spirit in helping us achieve this perspective.*

**Scripture:** Isaiah 61:1, Luke 12:32, John 14:16, John 16:33, Acts 7:55, Romans 8:26-27, 2 Corinthians 4:18, Philippians 3:20, Hebrews 11:10, 1 John 2:15-17

**Topics:** "The Role of the Holy Spirit", "Eternal Perspective"

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## Description

D.L. Moody emphasizes the contrast between long-sightedness and short-sightedness in faith, using Abraham and Lot as examples. Abraham, with his eyes set on the eternal city built by God, exemplifies long-sightedness, while Lot represents those who are focused only on immediate worldly pleasures. Moody warns that many in the Church are caught between these two perspectives, leading to confusion and blurred vision. He highlights the importance of the Holy Spirit as the Comforter, who helps believers to let go of worldly attachments and focus on eternal truths. Ultimately, Moody calls for a powerful outpouring of the Spirit to cleanse and empower the Church to see clearly.

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## Transcript

He brings to our mind what God has in store for us. I heard a man, some time ago, speaking about Abraham. He said "Abraham was not tempted by the well-watered plains of Sodom, for Abraham was what you might call a long-sighted man; he had his eyes set on the city which had foundation - 'whose Builder and Maker is God.'" But Lot was a short-sighted man; and there are many people in the Church who are very short sighted; they only see things right around them they think good. Abraham was long-sighted; he had glimpses of the celestial city. Moses was long-sighted, and he left the palaces of Egypt and identified himself with God's people - poor people, who were slaves; but he had something in view yonder; he could see something God had in store. Again there are some people who are sort of long-sighted and short-sighted, too. I have a friend who has one eye that is long-sighted and the other is short-sighted; and I think the Church is full of this kind of people. They want one eye for the world and the other for the Kingdom of God. Therefore, everything is blurred, one eye is long and the other is short, all is confusion, and they "see men as trees walking." The Church is filled with that sort of people. But Stephen was long-sighted; he looked clear into heaven; they couldn't convince him even when he was dying, that Christ had not ascended to heaven. "Look, look yonder," he says, "I see Him over there; He is on the throne, standing at the right hand of God;" and he looked clear into heaven; the world had no temptation for him; he had put the world under his feet. Paul was another of those long-sighted men; he had been

caught up and seen things unlawful for him to utter; things grand and glorious. I tell you when the Spirit of God is on us the world looks very empty; the world has a very small hold upon us, and we begin to let go our hold of it. When the Spirit of God is on us we will just let go the things of time and lay hold of things eternal. This is the Church's need today; we want the Spirit to come in mighty power, and consume all the vile dross there is in us. Oh! that the Spirit of fire may come down and burn everything in us that is contrary to God's blessed Word and Will.

In John 14:16, we read of the Comforter. This is the first time He is spoken of as the Comforter. Christ had been their Comforter. God had sent Him to comfort the sorrowing. It was prophesied of Him,

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the broken hearted."

You can't heal the broken-hearted without the Comforter; but the world would not have the first Comforter; and so they rose up and took Him to Calvary and put Him to death; but on going away He said, "I will send you another Comforter; you shall not be comfortless; be of good cheer, little flock; it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." All these sweet passages are brought to the remembrance of God's people, and they help us to rise out of the fog and mist of this world. O, what a comforter is the Holy Spirit of God!

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