

Elwell, W. A., & Comfort, P. W. (2001). *Tyndale Bible Dictionary*.

## **SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS**

Spiritual blindness is a figurative way of defining the lost and hopeless condition of sinful humanity. Such blindness includes willful rejection of God's revelation in his creation and in Scripture, and an inability to see the truth of the gospel. Moses spoke of Israel's apostasy as "blindness" (Dt 29:4); Isaiah called it "dim" eyes (see Is 6:10, NASB). Jesus charged the Pharisees with unbelief that made them "blind guides of the blind" (Mt 15:14; 23:16). Spiritual blindness is related to "hardness of heart" (Mk 8:17–18; Eph 4:17–18) and is understood as the judgment of God both upon unbelievers (Rom 1:20–21) and upon Israel (Is 29:10; Rom 11:7–8). According to Paul, it is also the work of Satan, who "has blinded the minds of those who don't believe" (2 Cor 4:4). Healing from spiritual blindness is a special gift of God's grace through the "new birth" (Jn 3:3) and by seeing "the glorious light of the Good News" (2 Cor 4:4, NLT).