



THE CROSS and CROWN

"No Cross, No Crown"

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My dog and I, you won't be surprised to learn, perceive the world differently. She experiences it mostly through her sense of smell, and I, primarily, by sight. I notice this when we're out on walks. She loves to linger, motionless, at our corner for minutes at a time. She's not exactly motionless, actually; her nose twitches from time to time, as she tries to zero in on a particular scent. I get as impatient with her as she does with me when I pause to read a poster in a shop window or on a telephone pole. She has no idea why I'm stopping there, where there are no interesting scents.



I think that we humans often fail to understand why God moves – or pauses – because we don't perceive the world as he does. When we walk through life relying on our five senses to tell us what's going on around us, we end up either lingering over something that strikes us as interesting when God is ready to move on, or tugging at the leash, as it were, because we're ready to move on and can't conceive why he's holding us back.

We can find several instances of God opening people's eyes in the Bible. He opened Hagar's eyes to a brook, when she had run out of water for her son, Ishmael, Balaam's eyes to the angel with a drawn sword who was standing in front of his donkey, and Elisha's servant's eyes so that he could see God's chariots, which outnumbered those of their enemies. In Jesus' time on Earth, he opened the eyes of his disciples so that they could recognize his resurrected body, and he opened the eyes of the men on the road to Emmaus to the prophecies written about him in the Old Testament.

When we find ourselves unsure where God is leading or why he has us stalled in one place, it's appropriate for us to ask him to open our eyes. There will be times when he keeps us in the dark for a season, and that's when faith takes over. Wherever we find ourselves, we simply need to be still and allow him to speak to us – through Scripture, through a song, or through our brothers and sisters in Christ – until we see what he sees.

*Be strong, do not fear; your God will come (...) Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped. (Isaiah 35:4,5)*

Thanks for Praying!

This is a particularly challenging season for the church and the school. We'll get through on the strength of your prayers. Please agree with us for:

- an infusion of faith in the face of many obstacles,
- a season of rest and recovery,
- God's Spirit, wisdom and direction, and
- laborers and leaders in this mission field.







Welcoming students to a new year at
Spring Garden Academy

We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join with you in praying for, please let us know. (We will only publish your requests in this newsletter with your permission.)

Thanks so much to those who have taken the time to keep in touch! It helps to know that you're out there with us!

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* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or write us, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know, or subscribe to it at crossandcrown.online/subscribe !

Did you know?

Dogs, in ideal circumstances, can smell objects up to 12 miles away. If your dog were in at the Liberty Bell, it could potentially smell you when you got off the plane at the Philadelphia airport!

But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you.

Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?

(Job 12:7,9)



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