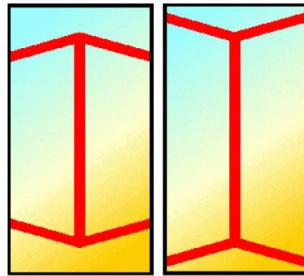


What Do You See?

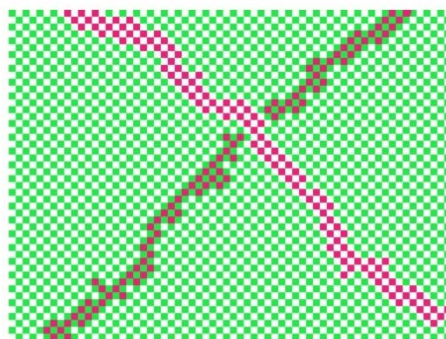
Monday, April 15, 2024

8:36 PM



Take a very close look at the 2 vertical lines.
Do you think one line is longer than the other?

Actually these lines are the exact same length!



Take a very close look at this image!
How many colors were used to make this image?

There are only 3 colors: Pink, Green, and White.

There seem to be two different shades of pink, but due to the pixel effect, there is actually only one pink.

YELLOW BLUE ORANGE
BLACK RED GREEN
PURPLE YELLOW RED
ORANGE GREEN BLACK
BLUE RED PURPLE
GREEN BLUE ORANGE

Look at the chart and say the color, not the word.

Your right brain tried to say the color,
but your left brain was reading the word.

Perception is traditionally defined as *The way in which something is regarded, understood, or interpreted* (Oxford dictionary). What an individual interprets or perceives may, however, be substantially different from reality (Pickens, 2005).

A *perspective, in turn*, is defined as *A particular attitude towards or way of regarding something; a point of view*(Oxford dictionary). Our perspective can, therefore, be seen as the angle or lens that we look at something through, and this affects how we perceive it.

*Our perception is very limited, and our perspective can be very skewed

Matthew 6:22-23

22 “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, [Generous] your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eyes are unhealthy, [stingy] your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

*So, our goal is to expand our ability to perceive correctly and to allow the truth and presence of God in our lives to shape our perspectives. We need to see and understand things through the eyes of our Father.

Ezekiel 12:2

2 “Son of man, you are living among a rebellious people. They have eyes to see but do not see and ears to hear but do not hear, for they are a rebellious people.

Numbers 13:1-3

13 The Lord said to Moses, 2 “Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders.”

3 So at the Lord’s command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites.

Numbers 13:17-33

17 When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, “Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. 18 See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. 19 What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? 20 How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land.” (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.)

21 So they went up and explored the land from the Desert of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo Hamath. 22 They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, lived. (Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) 23 When they reached the Valley of Eshkol,[a] they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs. 24 That place was called the Valley of Eshkol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there. 25 At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.

26 They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. 27 They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. 28 But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.”

30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”

31 But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” 32 And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. 33 We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”

We see the GIANTS but not the GRAPES

We see the PROBLEMS but not the PROMISED BLESSINGS

We see the MOUNTAIN in front of us but not the GOD who created the mountains

Matthew 17:20

20 He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

*Faith is seeing God for who He is...

Amos 4:13

13 He who forms the mountains, who creates the wind, and who reveals his thoughts to mankind, who turns dawn to darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth— the Lord God Almighty is his name.

We see the BATTLES but not the VICTORIES

In Joshua Chapter 4 we read about the Israelites crossing the Jordan river into the promised land during its flood stage. When the priests, who were carrying the Ark stepped into the river, the flow of water was cut off (The flow from upstream piling up and the flow downstream being cut off). The priests stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan (reminiscent of the crossing of the Red sea some 40 years earlier). Joshua had 1 man from each of the 12 tribes pick up a stone from the middle of the Jordan at the point where the priests were standing and he used those stones to build an altar of remembrance (we talked about memory problems last week) at Gilgal just opposite Jericho

Joshua 4:20-24

20 And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. 21 He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean?' 22 tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.' 23 For the Lord your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The Lord your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea[a] when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. 24 He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God."

WHY? Because Joshua wanted them to see the VICTORIES that God had already won for them, not just the battles that lay ahead

We see the OBSTACLES not the OPPORTUNITIES

James 1:2-3

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty. - Winston S. Churchill

We see the LOG but not the SPLINTER

Matthew 7:3

3 “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?”

We see the SIN but not the SINNER

We see those who are AGAINST US but not those who are FOR US

2 Kings 6:15-17

15 When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked.

16 “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

17 And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Romans 8:31

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

We see the STORM but not the ONE WHO CALMS THE STORM

Mark 4:35-41

35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." 36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped (Luke 8:23 says "they were in great danger"). 38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

40 He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

We see our NEEDS but not the ONE WHO SUPPLIES our needs

Matthew 6:25-33

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Philippians 4:19

19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

We see HOW FAR WE HAVE TO GO but not HOW FAR WE'VE COME

Mark 5:19-20

19 Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." 20 So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

9 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. 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.

CONCLUSION

Ephesians 1:17-20

17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 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, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

Psalm 119:18

18 Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.

I love the giant cross on Interstate 40 near Groom Texas. We have been stopping there for years. It stands 190 feet tall and can be seen from 20 miles away. But in recent years there have been multitudes of wind turbines that have been erected close that, for me detracts from the beauty, power and majesty of the Groom Cross. The Wind turbines stand on average 295 feet tall and, like the cross, are white. There are hundreds of them within 20 miles of the Cross.

Hebrews 12:2

2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.