SEEING the UNSEEN

A 90-Day Devotional to Set Your Mind on Eternity

Study Guide for Group or Individual Use Developed by Eternal Perspective Ministries

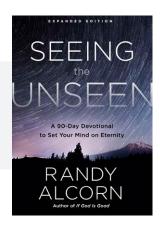
Based on the book by

RANDY ALCORN

Date Homework

Week 1Read Days 1-5, Pages 1-10
Week 2Read Days 6-10, Pages 11-20
Week 3Read Days 11-15, Pages 21-30
Week 4Read Days 16-20, Pages 31-40
Week 5Read Days 21-25, Pages 41-50
Week 6Read Days 26-30, Pages 51-60
Week 7Read Days 31-35, Pages 61-70
Week 8Read Days 36-40, Pages 71-80
Week 9Read Days 41-45, Pages 81-90
Week 10Read Days 46-50, Pages 91-100
Week 11Read Days 51-55, Pages 101-110
Week 12Read Days 56-60, Pages 111-120
Week 13Read Days 61-65, Pages 121-130
Week 14Read Days 66-70, Pages 131-140
Week 15Read Days 71-75, Pages 141-150
Week 16Read Days 76-80, Pages 151-160
Week 17Read Days 81-85, Pages 161-170
Week 18Read Days 86-90, Pages 171-180

To purchase Randy's book Seeing the Unseen, go to www.epm.org/unseen.



EPM would like to thank reader Judy Quick Anderson for writing and graciously sharing the initial version of this study guide with us.

Feel free to reproduce and distribute this study guide, provided that you do not alter the wording in any way or charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction. It is our desire to spread this information, not protect or restrict it.

Our theme verses for this study are 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. Take some time each week to commit these verses to memory:

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary but what is unseen is eternal (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).



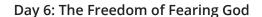
39065 Pioneer Blvd., Suite 100, Sandy, OR 97055 503.668.5200 | toll-free order line 1.877.376.4567 www.epm.org

Days 1-5, Pages 1-10

Day 1: Living for the Line How does living with God's long-term perspective help us in our daily lives?
What do you believe are some things we do right now on earth that will last through eternity?
Day 2: Seeing God as the Source What "little things" can you praise God for this week?
Read Hebrews 13:15. Have you given our God a "sacrifice of praise" even when life is falling apart? How?
Day 3: The Preserving Power of Humility How have you seen pride's destructive power in your own life or in the life of others? Write an example of a fall due to pride.

Day 4: True Happiness
What keeps you from putting God first each day? What distractions can you put aside this week in order to spend more intimate time with God?
Read James 1:17. Can you honestly say that true happiness comes only from God?
Day 5: Only One Way How would you respond to someone who believes there are other ways to God? Give examples of Scripture verses you could share.
Wrapping It Up
Write out a Scripture verse or quote from this week's reading that spoke to your heart.
Write down a new perspective, a correction, or a motivation you gained from this week's reading.

Days 6-10, Pages 11-20



What do you think it means that "If we fear God, we need not be afraid of anyone or anything else. But if we don't fear God, we have reason to be afraid of other things"?

Day 7: He Is Always Sovereign

Do you believe God is always sovereign? How do you respond to God when a prayer request is not answered in the way you asked or wanted?

How have you coped through a long and difficult time of suffering? What Scripture gave you comfort and encouragement?

Day 8: The Grace of Giving

Randy writes, "The act of giving is a vivid reminder that it's all about God, not about us." Do you find it difficult to believe that everything you have belongs to God? Why or why not?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:7. Do you believe God honors our gift when we give out of duty or when we give grudgingly? Are you a cheerful giver?

Day 9: Grasping Our Need for Grace
Read Isaiah 6:5. When Isaiah met God, he felt unclean. How did you feel when you recognized your need for a Savior?
Day 10 Homesick for Heaven
Have you felt like an alien or an outsider in this world? How?
We are called ambassadors of Christ (see 2 Corinthians 5:20). Our true home is in Heaven. How should we represent our home country?
Read Matthew 5:14-16. According to this passage, can we shine with heavenly light now?
Wrapping It Up Write out a Scripture verse or quote from this week's reading that spoke to your heart.
Write down a new perspective, a correction, or a motivation you gained from this week's reading.

Days 11-15, Pages 21-30

Day 11: Putting God's Word First What does it mean to "consciously critique everything else in light of Scripture"?
Changing our daily habits doesn't come easily. When and how do you incorporate time for the Word? How can Acts 17:11 inspire us?
Day 12: A Demonstration of Matchless Love God loves us with agape love. How has God given you the strength, through His love, to do something difficult? Can you think of a time you tried to love the "unlovable?"
Day 13: Contagious Excitement for Heaven Do you live in anticipation for Heaven or in fear of death, or both? How can anticipating seeing Jesus, our bridegroom, help free us from the fear of death?
Day 14: Forgiveness Is a Choice Have you ever "brooded" over something long after you thought you had forgiven? Why is it difficult to move on and let go?

It's been said, "Forgiveness does not make you weak. It sets you free." Read Ephesians 4:32. How can focusing on how we've been forgiven enable us to forgive others?
Day 15: The Happiness of Studying God's Word Think of some of the voices clamoring for your attention. Are they on social media, or on the radio or television? How can you purposefully choose to listen to God's voice instead?
The CSB translation of Psalm 119:174 says "your instruction is my delight." What are some ways that God's instructions in Scripture can bring us great happiness?
Wrapping It Up Write out a Scripture verse or quote from this week's reading that spoke to your heart.
Write down a new perspective, a correction, or a motivation you gained from this week's reading.

Days 16-20, Pages 31-40



What are some of your favorite works of art in God's creation?

Day 17: Separated from the Source of Happiness

What are some ways that knowing Jesus brings us true happiness?

Day 18: Listening to His Voice

Have you ever prayed Psalm 119:18, which says, "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law"? How could beginning your Bible reading and study with this prayerful attitude change how you approach God's Word?

Day 19: Seeking God's Will

God appoints the times and places we live (see Acts 17:26). How does knowing this truth help us rest in the circumstances in which we find ourselves?

What approach does Randy recommend we take when it comes to knowing God's will? Is it different from the way you've thought about finding God's will before? In what ways?
Day 20: True Repentance
Has there been a time in your life when you tried to hide from God's conviction?
Being completely and utterly open and honest with God and ourselves can be difficult. What do you think it looks like to respond to conviction in a God-honoring way?
Wrapping It Up
Write out a Scripture verse or quote from this week's reading that spoke to your heart.
Write down a new perspective, a correction, or a motivation you gained from this week's reading.

Days 21-25, Pages 31-40



Randy writes, "Materialism blinds us to our spiritual poverty." Read Revelation 3:17. Do you think it's more difficult to seek God when we are filled with earthly comfort and possessions? Why or why not?

Day 22: The Christian Optimist

Do you consider yourself an optimist? Why or why not? If you answered "optimist," are you a natural-born optimist or have you become more optimistic because of knowing Jesus?

How do we maintain our peace and joy and, yes, optimism, in the struggles of life? How can our eternal perspective make us different in a dark world?

Day 23: Coming to Grips with Our Mortality

Sin brought death into the world and it is called God's "last enemy." Read 1 Corinthians 15:26. How can it encourage us knowing that God will, one day, destroy death?

Day 24: Full of Grace and Truth
Can you think of an example of how Christians show too much grace, but not enough truth?
Can you think of an example of how Christians focus too much on truth, but fail to show grace?
Day 25: Awaiting Heaven on the (New) Earth Have you thought of the earth as being "resurrected"? In Revelation 21:5, we read that God will make "al things new" rather than all new things. What do you imagine a "New Earth" will be like?
Wrapping It Up Write out a Scripture verse or quote from this week's reading that spoke to your heart.
Write down a new perspective, a correction, or a motivation you gained from this week's reading.

Days 26-30, Pages 51-60

Day 26: Holiness and Happiness Together

Have you heard people say before that God wants us to be holy, but not happy? After reading Randy's thoughts in today's entry, what might be your response?

Day 27: A Theology of Laughter

Do you love to laugh? How can realizing that Jesus is the creator and giver of laughter change our perspective on joy and humor?

Day 28: Defeating Lust, Feeding Right Passions

Choosing to put right things into our minds and hearts requires a fruit of the Spirit: self-control. How do we stay away from the unholy images forced upon us daily, and also actively work to deposit what's good into our minds?

Day 29: Delighting in Him

How have you experienced delight in Jesus? Is there a time in life when you were especially aware of the joy He brings?

Day 30: He Suffered the Most None of our earthly suffering can compare to the suffering of Christ. He understands our suffering. What does this mean to you?
Wrapping It Up Write out a Scripture verse or quote from this week's reading that spoke to your heart.
Write down a new perspective, a correction, or a motivation you gained from this week's reading.

Days 31-35, Pages 61-70

Day 31: Let's Be Grateful

Randy writes, "God owes us nothing and we owe Him everything." What can you give Jesus praise and thanksgiving for today?

Day 32: To Be Known by God Is Enough

Our humble service will determine our service on the New Earth. What type of service makes you most joyful right now? What service do you find most challenging or humbling?

Day 33: Prayer: Making an Eternal Difference

Was the thought of seeing the clear answers to our prayers in Heaven new to you? Take some time to pray for the salvation of others in your life, knowing these prayers can make an eternal difference.

Day 34: Offering Jesus to Those Who Thirst

Have you ever had the privilege of bringing someone to Jesus? How could you be more purposeful in sharing the gospel with those you meet?

Day 35: The Audience of One
Has there ever been a time in your life when you followed God and displeased others? How does knowing that we will stand before God's judgment seat change our perspective about being persecuted or made fun of because of our faith?

Wrapping It Up

Write out a Scripture verse or quote from this week's reading that spoke to your heart.

Write down a new perspective, a correction, or a motivation you gained from this week's reading.

Days 36-40, Pages 71-80



Randy writes, "Each time I obey God, I'm doing what's ultimately best for all." How can keeping that in mind help us when we have to make a choice that others perceive as unloving or unwise?

Day 37: The Hell We Deserve

As Christians, we know that salvation is a gift based on Christ's merit, not our own. But in what ways can we easily slip into imagining we somehow deserve Heaven? How can we keep reminding ourselves of our spiritual need?

Day 38: Giving Our Burdens to Him

Read 1 Peter 5:7 and Matthew 11:28. What burdens are you carrying right now that you need to surrender to the Lord?

Read Philippians 4:6-8, and let go of your worry and anxiety and receive the peace that passes all understanding. Write a prayer of praise for His care.

Day 39: Good Works and God's Glory
Read the two Scriptures again in today's devotion. What might be some of the "good works" God has prepared for you?
Day 40: Thinking Like Stewards, Not Owners
Spend some time praying and asking God the question that Randy suggests: "What do You want me to do with
Your money and Your possessions?" How could making this prayer a regular practice impact your spending choices?
Wrapping It Up
Write out a Scripture verse or quote from this week's reading that spoke to your heart.
Write down a new perspective, a correction, or a motivation you gained from this week's reading.

Days 41-45, Pages 81-90



Write down a dream you have of Heaven. Dream big! What is one of your greatest desires to experience in Heaven?

Day 42: The Right Perspective in Suffering

Has Jesus redeemed a time of suffering in your life? How does believing our earthly suffering is never wasted change our perspective?

Day 43: A Passion to Know the King of Kings

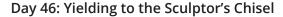
Randy quoted John Wesley who said, "I ask God to set me on fire and let people watch me burn." What do you think it looks like for a Christian to be on fire for Christ?

Day 44: The One in Charge

Why is it so hard to trust God when we don't understand what He's doing in our lives? When we're going through difficult things, how can we purposefully focus on and cling to the goodness of God?

Day 45: The Awesomeness of God's Creation What part of God's present creation most stirs your heart? What do you most look forward to seeing and experiencing on His New Earth?
Wrapping It Up Write out a Scripture verse or quote from this week's reading that spoke to your heart.
Write down a new perspective, a correction, or a motivation you gained from this week's reading.

Days 46-50, Pages 91-100



One way God is preparing us for Heaven is by trimming our branches (Read John 15:1-2). What has God trimmed from your life in order that you might bear more fruit?

Day 47: Feasting and Fellowship

Which Biblical characters are you most eager to talk to in Heaven? Why?

Day 48: A Heart for the Poor and Needy

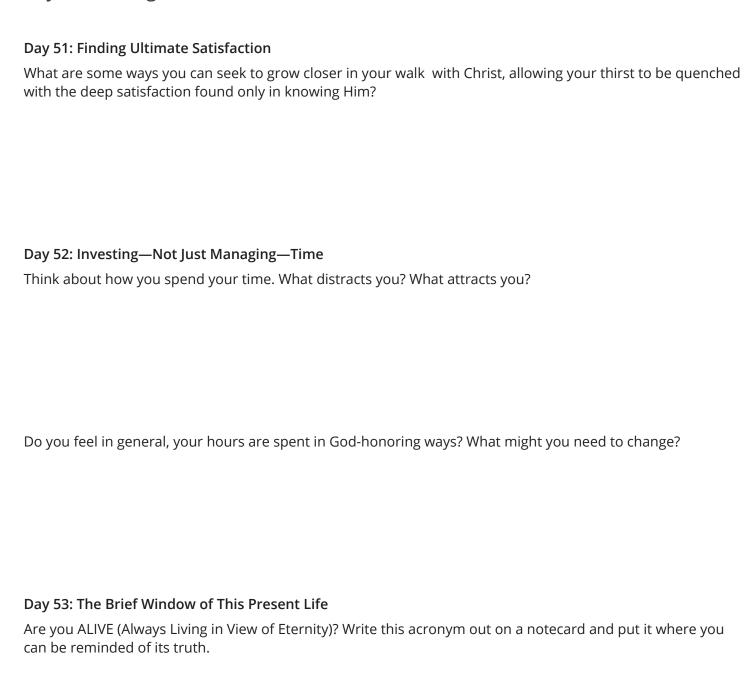
Ask God to open your heart to the poor in spirit, the suffering, the needy, the prisoners, the vulnerable, all who are your neighbors. How might He be stirring you to serve some of these people?

Day 49: Imperfect Church, But Chosen Bride

Many people have been hurt in the church in one way or another. How can the picture of the Church as Christ's bride encourage us not to give up on our local church body, and to practice faithfulness and forgiveness?

Day 50: The Sure Hope of Resurrection Have you ever thought about what new abilities our resurrected bodies might have in Heaven? Which possibilities most excite you?
Wrapping It Up Write out a Scripture verse or quote from this week's reading that spoke to your heart.
Write down a new perspective, a correction, or a motivation you gained from this week's reading.

Days 51-55, Pages 101-110



Day 54: Eager Students of God's Inexhaustible Word Randy writes that God is "a good communicator." Have you ever thought about God in that way before? How could understanding that God is both purposeful and wise in His words to us change the way we see the Bible, including the parts that are harder to understand?
Day 55: Representing Our True Country Read Hebrews 11:16 again. Our true home and country are waiting for us. Soon all of us will be home with Jesus. What are some ways we can represent our true home in the world this week?
Wrapping It Up Write out a Scripture verse or quote from this week's reading that spoke to your heart.
Write down a new perspective, a correction, or a motivation you gained from this week's reading.

Days 56-60, Pages 111-120

Day 56: The Courage to Follow Him

God blesses those who are persecuted for His name (see Matthew 5:10). Have you spoken up for Christ when it was difficult? Have you noticed more persecution of the church in recent years? Where? How?

Day 57: The Ultimate Restoration

We, along with the earth, will one day be reclaimed, restored, and resurrected. Write a prayer of thanksgiving to God for all He has done and all He will do.

Day 58: Striving to be a Faithful Steward

We cling to our possessions, to our hard-earned money, to the things of this earth, even when we know they all belong to God. What is one way you can be more generous with the time, money, and possessions God has entrusted to you?

Day 59: Finding True Contentment

"Godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Timothy 6:6). Would you say you are content? What, if anything, is causing discontent in your life right now?

Day 60: Pursuing the Right Perspective Have you ever considered how you can fulfill Paul's command to "diligently actively, and single-mindedly pursue the things above"? What would it look like for you to actively pursue living with eternity in mind?
Wrapping It Up Write out a Scripture verse or quote from this week's reading that spoke to your heart.
Write down a new perspective, a correction, or a motivation you gained from this week's reading.

Days 61-65, Pages 121-130

Day 61: Trusting the Author of the Story

Have you ever thought about your life story as being written by a sovereign Author? How might pondering this analogy change the way you view difficult seasons of your life?

Day 62: Present Suffering, Future Perspective

Think of a difficult or painful experience in your life from years past. How has your perception or thoughts about that experience changed as time has gone by? How might this give us a clue of what it will be like to look back on life from Heaven's perspective?

Day 63: Homesick for Eden's Happiness

Have you ever thought about your desire for happiness as being God-given? What things do you think Adam and Eve experienced in Eden that deep down, we long for?

Day 64: Forgiveness Sets Us Free

Read Matthew 6:14-15. According to this passage and today's reading, how is obeying God and choosing "true forgiveness" of others also for our benefit?

Day 65: God's Future Dwelling Place Is the idea that God's ultimate plan to dwell with us on the New Earth a new one to you? What do you think it will be like to one day walk and talk with Jesus?
Wrapping It Up Write out a Scripture verse or quote from this week's reading that spoke to your heart.

Write down a new perspective, a correction, or a motivation you gained from this week's reading.

Days 66-70, Pages 131-140

Day 66: The Promise of Great Reward

How does knowing that God will find something to praise and reward you for encourage you to serve Him faithfully and joyfully?

Day 67: King over All, Including the Weather

Many of us are tempted to complain about a lot of everyday, mundane things—including the weather. How might our complaints reflect a heart that has forgotten to remember and consider the sovereignty of God?

Day 68: Sovereign over Good and Evil

Scripture reassures us that "the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). Yet it also tells us not to underestimate Satan (see 1 Peter 5:8). Why do you think we need to understand and live in the balance of these two truths?

Day 69: What We're Really Longing For

Read Ecclesiastes 3:11. Even when all of our dreams come true, there remains a longing in our hearts for something more. How does God alone satisfy your soul? (See Psalm 42 and Psalm 63.)

Day 70: The Deadly Life of Ease
Randy wrote about us wanting God to make our lives go smoothly and be pain free. Can you relate to this? How can we prevent our prayers from becoming demands to a "personal assistant charged with granting our wishes"?

Wrapping It Up

Write out a Scripture verse or quote from this week's reading that spoke to your heart.

Write down a new perspective, a correction, or a motivation you gained from this week's reading.

Days 71-75, Pages 141-150

Day 71: The Joy of Self-Forgetfulness

How is Christ's message of losing yourself in God's purposes, and thereby finding great happiness, so countercultural to what we hear and see around us all the time?

Day 72: The Good News of Happiness

If someone were to ask you why the good news is indeed good, how would you respond? Would happiness be part of your response? Why or why not?

Day 73: Suffering's Painful, Beautiful Benefits

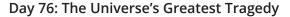
Randy writes, "Those who embrace the Christian faith most deeply and passionately are usually not those enjoying comfort and ease, but those who live with suffering." How is this message counter to many so-called Christian teachings you can hear on TV or find in a bookstore?

Day 74: Humble Savior, Sent to Earth

Answer Randy's questions at the end of today's reading: "Does Christ's redemptive work for you resonate in your heart and mind? How does it make you feel and think?"

Day 75: The Incomparable Beauty of Purity
Have you or someone you know been mocked or persecuted for standing up for biblical purity? Why do you think many people in the world find the idea of sexual purity strange or even offensive?
Wrapping It Up
Write out a Scripture verse or quote from this week's reading that spoke to your heart.
Write down a new perspective, a correction, or a motivation you gained from this week's reading.

Days 76-80, Pages 151-160



What is the danger of defining love as simply what feels good or sounds nice? How can our culture's misunderstanding of what love really is make sharing the gospel extra challenging?

Day 77: Letting God's Words Shape Ours

Can you think of a time when you spoke too soon, said too much, or hurt someone? Can you remember a time when the Holy Spirit kept you from speaking or gave you just the right words?

Read Matthew 12:36. How can this somewhat intimidating verse change and help us?

Day 78: Our Future Reign Under Christ

In one of the quotes from today's reading, Larry Dick asks, "Can you imagine living in a society where everyone is so happy with leadership decisions, they rejoice and celebrate? Can you imagine a world where no one ever again complains about government?" What do you most look forward to about living in a world ruled by the perfect King, Jesus?

Day 79: Who You Are in the Dark Write a prayer asking God to purify your motives, to strengthen your character, to keep you obedient even in the small things of life.
Day 80: Steps to Greater Happiness in Christ
Sometimes when we're struggling and discouraged, we need to rest and simply spend time focusing on our Savior and remembering all He has done for us. Other times, we need to be encouraged to get moving and take steps that are pleasing to Him, knowing He will bless and strengthen our efforts. Which place do you find yourself in? What steps could you take in the coming week to actively seek God-honoring happiness?
Wrapping It Up Write out a Scripture verse or quote from this week's reading that spoke to your heart.
Write down a new perspective, a correction, or a motivation you gained from this week's reading.

Days 81-85, Pages 161-170

Day 81: A Vastly Superior Upgrade

Have you ever struggled with fear that in Heaven you'll miss something from your old life here on the present earth? How can God's promise of a vastly superior New Earth speak to your fear?

Day 82: You, Only Better

What gifts, passions, preferences, and God-given interests do you most look forward to developing in Heaven?

Day 83: The Ultimate Family Reunion

How would you answer someone who says there's no such thing as family in Heaven? How can the hope of this eternal family encourage someone who has had difficult family relationships here on earth?

Day 84: The Gift of Truth

Think of a situation, past or recent, where you've been tempted to believe your only two options are to speak the truth to someone harmfully, or to remain silent in the name of grace. How does God's Word open up to you a third, more Christ-honoring option?

Day 85: Under Grace, Not Sin What sins do you most struggle being mastered by? Confess them to your Savior and praise Him that you are under His grace, and not under the power of sin.
Wrapping It Up Write out a Scripture verse or quote from this week's reading that spoke to your heart.
Write down a new perspective, a correction, or a motivation you gained from this week's reading.

Days 86-90, Pages 171-180

Day 86: The Fountain of Living Waters

Randy writes how his happiest days are those in which he drinks most deeply of God. How can you choose to drink deeply of Christ today?

Day 87: Dependence and the Heart of Prayer

How can consciously focusing on your dependence on Christ impact your prayer life?

Day 88: Cultivating God-Consciousness

Have you ever set aside a specific time to focus on spending time with God? How could you make this a regular practice?

Day 89: Empowered for Holiness

How have you seen God's sanctifying work in your life over the years? Can you think of some specific ways God has worked in your heart related to certain sins?

Day 90: Living for the Life to Come Looking back over these past weeks of study, what has most impacted you from reading and studying Seeing the Unseen? What changes in your present life have you been motivated to make because of thinking about eternity?
Wrapping It Up
Write out a Scripture verse or quote from this week's reading that spoke to your heart.
Write down a new perspective, a correction, or a motivation you gained from this week's reading.



Eternal Perspective Ministries (EPM) is a Bible-believing, Christ-centered nonprofit organization, founded and directed by author Randy Alcorn, with two goals:

- · to teach the principles of God's Word, emphasizing an eternal viewpoint;
- to reach the needy in Christ's name, calling attention to the needs of the unreached, unfed, unsupported, unborn, unreconciled, and untrained.

EPM is the recipient of the author royalties from Randy Alcorn's books, and 100% are given away for ministry purposes: 90% to other worthy Christian organizations and 10% to EPM to help offset the costs related to the writing/researching/editing of the books, as well as to help facilitate the giving away of our books to people all over the world. We love the fact that God uses Randy's books to change people's lives in two ways: through the reading of his words and through the giving away of his royalties.

You can order all of Randy's books and products through EPM's online store at www.epm.org/store. (The EPM website also has many free resources, including articles, audio, video, pastors' kits, and more.) When you purchase Randy's books from EPM, the profits go directly to support the work of the ministry and fund our operating expenses.

Twice a year, EPM produces *Eternal Perspectives*, a full-color magazine. EPM also sends a periodic email newsletter with the latest news about Randy's books, projects, and speaking events, as well as special promotions from EPM. You can subscribe at www.epm.org/subscribe.

Eternal Perspective Ministries

39065 Pioneer Blvd., Suite 100, Sandy, OR 97055 503.668.5200 | toll-free order line 1.877.376.4567

Connect with EPM online

- facebook.com/randyalcorn facebook.com/EPMinistries
- twitter.com/randyalcorn twitter.com/epmorg
- pinterest.com/randyalcorn
- instagram.com/randyalcorn_epm
- youtube.com/eternalperspectives

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

— 2 Corinthians 4:18