

Seeking in the Light



Author Helen Keller (1880 – 1968) – whose life accomplishments inspired by her teacher, Anne Sullivan, are portrayed in the widely known film *The Miracle Worker* – was the first deaf and blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Keller was born with the ability to see and hear, but at the age of 19 months she contracted an illness (either scarlet fever or meningitis) that left her both deaf and blind.

Here is what she once wrote about her condition and the importance of one's eyes:

Use your eyes as if tomorrow you would be stricken blind. If I had three days to see, this is what I would want to see. On the first day I would want to see the people whose kindness and companionship have made my life worth living. I would call in my friends and look for a long time into their faces. I would also look into the face of a new baby. I would like to see the many books which have been read to me.

The next day I would get up early to see the dawn. I would visit a museum to learn of man's upward progress in the making of things. I would go to an art museum to probe the human souls by studying paintings and sculpture.

The third morning I would again greet the dawn, eager to discover new beauties in nature. I would spend this last day in the haunts of persons, where they work. I would stand at a busy street corner, trying to understand something of the daily lives of persons by looking into their faces and reading what is written there.

On the last evening I would go to a theater and see a hilariously funny play, so as to appreciate the overtones of humor in the human spirit. Yes, by God's light in Christ, seeing what matters and beholding the extraordinary in the commonplace.

Helen Keller's longing to see these people and things that would further enrich her life is a vivid reminder of the everyday blessings we take for granted.

And perhaps cause us to appreciate – a little more – the eyesight that we have.

– Beecher Hunter