

PURSUING THE SEASONS OF GOD

John Fenn

ISBN 0-9702551-0-1

Introduction

Paul said in II Cor 12:1: "I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord." He also writes in Ephesians 3:3: "How that by revelation he made known unto me." Paul didn't only receive insights into the written Word of God, he experienced revelations of the Lord's realm and these experiences enlightened, supplemented, reinforced, and enhanced his understanding of the scripture.

This book contains a few of the visitations from Jesus and his angels which I have had which pertain to being sensitive to the timing of the Holy Spirit in our lives. I share parts of them only for the purposes of instruction and insight into the things of God, not for the sake of the experiences themselves.

It is my hope that this book may 'normalize' the heavenly realm for the reader and lead to greater sensitivity to His leading in our lives.

This is the story of how the Lord taught me to be sensitive to His realm and helped me understand his, and heaven's perspective of our lives in Him. I pray that your own understanding of scripture will be enriched and you will be encouraged to "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Chapter 1

Sensitive to the spirit realm

My eyes were closed as the congregation moved deeper into worship. My wife and I were the only ones sitting in one of the back rows of the church and there was no one else in our row of about 12 chairs. As I was caught up in worship I turned to my right and saw Jesus walk in the back of the church, and start walking up the main aisle to the end of our row. I say I turned, meaning my spirit's head turned. Physically I was still standing with my eyes shut and hands upraised, but within my body my spirit man's head turned and saw Jesus. He wore a long white robe and it seemed light emanated from him. It wasn't that he was lit up, but rather he was light itself.

He smiled slightly as he said "Come with me", and motioned me toward him with his hand.

Like a cicada leaving it's shell behind I stepped out of my body and walked the length of the row and into the aisle of the church. He started up the aisle and I followed slightly behind and to his right. Jesus stepped in front of the front row and turned to face a Navajo pastor from the Navajo reservation in Arizona who was visiting that Sunday. Our church supported this pastor financially and groups from our church had made several trips to his church.

As I followed Jesus he stepped in front and to the side of the pastor and motioned for me to step directly in front of him.

He said, "I have a word for him and I want you to lay hands on him." I responded, "Lord, you're

here, why do I need to lay hands on him?" He replied with a smile, "Just do it". And so I said, "OK Lord, if you say so."

His tone was so kind and patient and I could tell he wanted to teach me something. As I laid my hands on the pastor's head I began to flow in a prophecy which encouraged him and told him how much the Lord appreciated his work and right heart. After about 20 seconds of the prophecy Jesus began to "melt" into me. He began entering into me and perfectly conformed to my form and outstretched arms. This was interesting to me because I am 6'6" tall and he appeared to be about 5'11" or 6', but he "melted" perfectly into my spirit.

As he did so I heard him say, "When you lay hands on a person in my name, it is as if I am personally laying hands on them. Walk in this authority my son." Within a few seconds the prophecy ended and suddenly I was back in my body with my eyes closed worshiping in song. I quickly opened my eyes and looked around and realized it had all happened within the one worship song we had been singing.

Moving in Two Realms

When I was first born again as a teenager the more I studied the Bible the more I began to believe that Adam and Eve could operate in and see in both the physical and spiritual world at the same time. The Lord had made Adam's body and put him in the garden (Gen 2:15). He brought all the animals to him for him to name (Gen 2:19). The Lord made Eve and brought her to him (Gen 2:22) and they both heard him walking in the garden (3:8). To truly be able to operate in the physical and spiritual realm at the same time became my heart's desire.

I saw in Luke 8:46 how Jesus was being grabbed at and thronged by a crowd, yet one woman who touched the hem of his clothing in faith drew healing power from him.

He said, **"I perceive that virtue (power) is gone out of me."**

What intrigued me wasn't the woman's faith, but rather that Jesus could in the midst of all the commotion, be so sensitive to the spirit realm that he perceived power going from him.

Jesus was able to take in information with his physical senses while at the same time he was aware what was happening in his spirit. I saw examples like this in Jesus' life and set my heart to seek the Lord and to be sensitive to my spirit while operating in the natural day-to-day routine.

Psalm 103:7 was my heart's desire.

"He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel."

I didn't want to be like the Israelites who saw manna, water from a rock, the plagues of Egypt and other miracles. Those were the acts of God and I saw many Christians waiting for yet another act of God to rescue them for some circumstance. I was determined to be like Moses who knew the ways of God. If I knew his ways then the miracles would follow. Jesus said in John 5:19 that he could do nothing of himself, but whatever he saw the Father doing, that is what he did. He said in verse 30:

“...of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge.”

I wanted to be as sensitive to the Father as Jesus was.

Healing School

The spring that I saw Jesus come into the church I began holding “healing school” on Monday afternoons in the church. Usually about 15-20 people would come and I would teach a little from the Bible about healing and then we would pray for one another. We would open with some worship or a time of extended prayer and it was during those times I began seeing things in the spirit realm while my eyes were wide open.

I looked at one lady and above her head was a flame shaped like a large Aspen leaf (or Cottonwood) shaped fire of light hovering over her. The base of the flames seemed to be about 6" or so over her head and the total height was about 2' tall. Within and all over the main ‘flame’ were lots of little tongues of flame. I began to wonder if the “cloven tongues like as of fire” in Acts 2:3 wasn’t the little single flame I had seen in Renaissance paintings, but rather these big flames I was seeing. It was silent and was the same light that I saw in Jesus when he came into the service and called me to walk up front with him.

When I saw the tongue of fire I immediately began getting words of knowledge and a prophecy for her. As that prophecy was winding down I began to see another flame over someone else and I would receive words for them. Sometimes the words were more words of wisdom and prophetic towards the future in nature, sometimes they were words of a more personal and private nature. Oftentimes they dealt with hidden fears or worries that a person was dealing with and were words of encouragement and exhortation.

There were times I would see a shaft of light that seemed to come straight through the ceiling and into a person’s head. At times, there would be a cylinder of light the diameter of the person’s head and they would receive words of instruction from the Lord that went straight into their spirit man. Other times the shaft was wide enough that their whole body was encased in the shaft and in those times the person would most truly be “in the Spirit” when this happened. They weren’t really aware what was going on around them. It reminded me of Peter’s vision in Acts 10:10 when it says he fell into a trance and saw a vision. When I would look closely at the shaft of light I could see written words from the Lord flowing down the cylinder into the person’s head. Oftentimes the person would sit “frozen” ...hands up slightly in worship, eyes closed, totally ‘in the Spirit’ and unaware of us. Then I would see the light fade slowly away and the person would begin writing down everything the Lord had told them, or begin weeping, or just sit quietly while they took it all in.

I saw these things while my eyes were open and people sitting around the circle had no idea what was going on.

Jesus Appears and Teaches Me

In the fall of that year I took a missions trip to the Saltillo, Mexico area. The schedule called for me and the missionary named Carl to go to a village in the mountains named Laguna de Sanchez, about 2 ½ hours away. Another visiting American named Dora was to act as interpreter. A Mexican man who was from the village came to pick us up in Saltillo in his Volkswagen van and drove us up. I did not feel good that day. My head hurt and I felt nauseated, but I knew the local people were expecting a service and I had come to serve the Lord, so I drank some water, laid hands on myself in prayer and went. It took about 90 minutes before I started to feel better, but I'm glad I went.

As we pulled into the village we saw a goat being held by several men and one of them took a sharp knife and jabbed the goat's jugular vein just as we passed. Blood started flowing like a fountain as the Mexican driver of our van told Carl that was our dinner. I steeled myself inside to keep in mind I would eat what was set before me and receive it as unto the Lord.

There were a couple of hours before dinner and the service so Carl, Dora and I walked around the village. It was situated around a dry mountain lake, whose lake bed served as fields where the villagers raised their crops. Artesian wells flowed out of a nearby mountain and the water was carried to the valley floor by aqueducts. The little road we were on had very large rocks so I was constantly looking down to watch where I stepped. I lagged behind in prayer and preparation for the service as Dora and Carl went ahead back into the village.

As I was walking back I suddenly noticed that down inside me, in my spirit man, there was a very excited feeling. It was like my spirit knew something my mind did not yet know. As I continued walking up the road back into the village I came to a place where the road made a 90 degree right turn, then went straight for 50 feet or so, then made a 90 degree left turn and proceeded up the hill into the village. I had just turned right and was walking slowly along the short 50 foot stretch before it turned left again when I realized where I had felt that feeling of excitement in my spirit before.

I heard myself say, "That's Jesus".

When I said that I looked up to the 'elbow' where the road made the 90 degree left...now only about 15 feet away...and Jesus was standing there on the road.

Light was shining out from him, and as it slowly proceeded from him it acted like a curtain spreading on all sides which covered the village and surrounding area. I looked to my left and watched Carl and Dora continue walking up the road and remember realizing they didn't know the Lord was here and someone should tell them, just as the curtain of light obscured them from view.

Everything disappeared except me and Jesus.

Unfathomable Love

I looked into his eyes and it seemed tangible, touchable love was pouring out from his eyes. I felt like that little dog on the morning cartoons that would eat a biscuit and then hug himself and jump into the air and float down like a feather. I wanted to run to him and jump up and lay down in the love that was coming out from his eyes.

I noticed the light coming from him was pure white, but also all the colors in the spectrum at the same time. It seemed that when he moved the colors were scattered into the spectrum and when he stood still it was pure white light. His eyes were so deep and full of love it seemed I could see into his eyes and through them into eternity. There was a sense of sadness and deep wisdom in his eyes, but pure life and joy at the same time. As I stared into his eyes I was receiving into my being the love that flowed out of them, and I could feel myself getting wisdom, revelation and strength as I stood there.

I immediately knew that my total being--my life, my heart and mind was completely and totally exposed and naked before him--that he knew everything about me and every thought I had ever thought--yet I had never been so completely at peace and at ease.

In this natural world, if I want to look at the details of a leaf or flower 15 feet away, no matter how hard I look at it, I have to walk over to it and get that flower to within a foot or so of my eyes to be able to see the details. As I looked into his pupils I was able from 15 feet away to also be right there before him looking at every detail, and when I wanted to look closer into those eyes through which all that love was pouring I could see through his pupils into his mind and very being. It was like his eyes went on forever--they were that deep.

As I stared into this love I was pulled into his eyes. Suddenly I saw all the stars and galaxies and the black eternity of space and was overcome with the overwhelming revelation that Jesus is the Creator of the universe. My eyes continued looking as if I had been transported through his eyes and was now traveling through space and eternity and his vast knowledge. I looked all around me and wherever I looked I saw design and plan and order.

Every galaxy, every cloud of gas and star cluster and planet--he had made them all and the presence of his love and wisdom emanated from every molecule of the universe. I realized he is there and knows it all and created it all. I was overwhelmed and in awe. I realized he held all the secrets of the universe, of life, of death, and he knew how everything and everyone was put together. It wasn't like I looked into his eyes and went out the back of his head...but rather I looked into those eyes and within them, and within his head and mind was all eternity.

A Unique Creation

At that moment I understood that I was a product of his imagination. He had thought me up and I knew he was happy with what he had made. It wasn't that he was happy or unhappy with my life and what I was doing, it was that I, as his creation, was pleasing to him. He was pleased with what he had made.

I was created based on thoughts and design he had spent time thinking about.

I was someone he had given thought to concerning my likes and dislikes, my sense of humor, my sense of order and love of studying his word, and he had built me based on his love and foreknowledge. Based on those thoughts he made me be born when and where I was and into the family I was born in. I was created exactly according to his will and purpose. I thought to myself and to him at the same time, “The fact that I like the Three Stooges, you put that in me.” (I like some slapstick comedy and puns and have a dry sense of humor) As I contemplated these things in his presence my questions and his answers came in rapid-fire succession: “I’m truly one of your creations, you thought me up, I am a product of your imagination.”

“Yes, you are, and I love you”.

“You put the same amount of time, effort and thought into everyone who has ever lived or ever will live, as you spent on me didn’t you?”

“Yes, and I love them equally as well.”

As the revelation flowed I began to think out loud,

“That’s part of what you did for eternity before you made the earth, you were thinking about all of us, our personalities, our circumstances, the time we would be born and die in, how you would make us, all these things you thought of beforehand for everyone who ever has or every will live.”

He smiled great big and the love flowing out from him seemed to increase many-fold. As the depth of what I just said sunk into my understanding, I could only respond: “Oh Lord, I worship you, you are worthy of all praise and honor and worship”. At that moment the words of II Timothy 1:9 came alive:

“Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.”

And Jeremiah 1:5 “Before you were in your mother’s womb, I knew you.”

I spoke out of part question and part revelation,

“When you made the world and called everything you had made ‘good’, that’s what you did when you thought us each up individually. It wasn’t just that the stars were good or the trees were good or the animals were good. When each of us was complete within your mind and imagination you called each one of us ‘good’ and went on to create the next person, and you did this before you did anything in the creation part of the book of Genesis.”

“What about people born into difficult circumstances and families, how could you do that?”

He replied, “When I created each person I placed within them the ability and strength to overcome whatever circumstances they would encounter as they sought me. Understand that I place the potential to overcome within everyone, but that ability requires the person to depend on me because I am the source of that ability.”

I understood for the first time that he would make one person very strong in character and they would be born into circumstances that would require them to use that strength to depend on the Lord to see them through. To another he would create a person not as strong and place them in a ‘softer’ situation, one that was still equal to their character but would require them to use all they had been given to depend on the Lord and draw strength from him.

I understood that from the Lord’s perspective there is an equality for all so that God could not be blamed come judgement day.

Then I thought about babies and innocent young children who die never having had a chance in life. I thought about starving children in parts of Africa and wondered how he could let them suffer and die like that.

He said, “They are with me” in a very upbeat positive tone that seemed to communicate “didn’t you know that?”.

His “they are with me” also carried with it the knowledge that he has thorough and complete knowledge of them and he has made provision for them too, and a part of that provision is the comfort of heaven. I remembered God’s sense of justice exhibited to the beggar who died named Lazarus found in Luke 16:19-26.

“...Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.”

I suddenly understood that though starving children are not what he wants, to him this life is but a vapor or moment in eternity and he takes joy in receiving the little ones who suffer on earth.

He had a perspective on eternity which made any length of suffering in this life seem exceedingly short in comparison to the plans he has for our future.

I understood that those babies and young children who died are growing up in heaven now and many of the lowest on earth were now being gloriously cared for and exalted in heaven. Peace about the injustices of the world flowed over me. I was overwhelmed with the knowledge that he was fair and just and in the end all will be revealed.

“Remember, everything was created by me and for me, and it is only through me that the world can be made right. All things will be made right in the end for I am just and fair. Know that those who have died in me will have glorious opportunities in the future. Have you not read Ephesians 2:7 that says my

Father has saved you that **in the ages to come** he can show you the exceeding riches of his grace?"

Heaven's Reason for Salvation

He continued: "From earth's perspective people get saved and concentrate on Ephesians 2:6, that they've been raised up and seated in the heavenly places in me. Sometimes they want the Father to deliver them from some temporary circumstance, or they sense the emptiness of their lives as they are drawn by the Spirit, but from our perspective you have been saved for verse 7, for the ages to come. The Father and I saved you for verse 7. You are in eternity right now, my son. Walk according to the higher purpose and plan for your life."

I asked him: "Why are you here?"

He replied, "I'm here to meet the needs of the people."

I responded much like I imagined the state of mind Peter was in on the mount of transfiguration when he asked about building tents for Moses, Elijah and Jesus. I responded, "How can I help?", thinking that I would follow him around and be a helper.

He looked so kindly at me with a look that told me I already knew the answer and said: "Meet the needs of the people" and with that he disappeared, and I was back in the natural realm.

Carl and Dora had continued to walk up the road totally oblivious to what I had just experienced. I thought about running to them to tell them, but the presence of the Lord was so strong on me and the revelation of what I had received so awe inspiring, I wanted some time to myself to take it all in.

As I thought on these things I turned left to head up the little road into the village. There was a white-washed wall that stretched for about 125 feet or so further up on the left which had several doors and windows spaced along it, and I realized the wall was a common front wall with many houses and families living behind it. Into one of those doors Carl and Dora had disappeared to have dinner with our host family.

As I began walking I looked up and suddenly Jesus was standing there on the right side of the road just about 15 feet ahead of me. This time he was not in as much glory and I could see both him and the natural world around me with my eyes open, just as I was able to see the tongues of fire and shafts of light I had seen on people earlier in the year.

Senses of the Natural Man, Senses of the Spirit Man

He told me he wanted to teach me about training my senses to discern what was happening in the spirit realm. He said that most Christians don't really follow the witness in their spirit and many that do from time to time, think that is all there is and that's as far as they go with it. He pointed out Hebrews 5:14 that says,

“Strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised (trained) to discern both good and evil.”

He said he wanted me to train my senses to be able to perceive what was happening in the spirit while being able to take in information with my physical senses at the same time.

He re-told the story of the rich man and Lazarus from Luke 16:19-26.

“There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou are tormented.

And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence...”

The Lord pointed out to me that both men died and their bodies with their physical senses were buried up on the earth, yet in their respective places their spirits and souls each had senses.

They could still talk to one another, hear each other, see each other, feel the heat or comfort, taste the water, and in every way were as normal as when they were alive, but these were senses of the spirit realm. The root of our physical senses is in our spirit. Their physical senses had died with their bodies, but their spirit and soul retained senses. Physical senses pick up information from the physical realm, spiritual senses pick up information from the spirit realm.

He said I could train my mind to perceive what was happening in the spirit. He went back to Luke 8:46:

“And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me.”

He told me there was a huge crowd all around him with many people grabbing at him (v45), but he had to take in information with his physical senses and at the same time have his mind also on what was happening in his spirit.

Thunder, an Angel, or God?

We hurry through life and usually our minds are so focused on the physical realm we only realize God was trying to speak to us after we have a quiet time to reflect on an incident or issue. It is then that our minds realize what our spirit had been sensing. Similarly, in John 12:28-30 we see varying degrees of sensitivity to the Spirit of God:

“Father, glorify thy name.” Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, “I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.”

The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.

Jesus answered and said, “This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.”

There are three groups of people mentioned: Those that heard thunder, those that heard a voice but thought it was an angel, and those that heard the Father just as he had spoken.

Jesus made it clear this was the voice of the Father, but some heard only a clap of thunder! How dull of hearing we are! We go on about life totally oblivious to his voice then whine about him not talking to us. How many times has the Lord been trying to get our attention by speaking something into our spirits and we totally ignore it because we are so focused on the physical realm.

The second group realized something supernatural had happened. They heard a voice, but thought it was an angel. They could not distinguish between the Father and an angel! There are times the Lord speaks something into our spirit, and we recognize it as such, but we are dull of hearing to the extent that we don't know exactly what he is saying. We think on it, we know it's him, we sense he is trying to say something, but then we go on about our business and don't take the time to spend time with him so we can discover what it is he's trying to say.

The last group obviously consisted of at least Jesus and the apostle John who wrote the Gospel. They heard clearly the voice of the Father saying,

“I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.”

The other two groups didn't know anything that was said. The first group heard a thunder clap and the other group thought it was an angel. This group was dull enough to say, **“An angel spake unto him.”** They thought the voice spoke to Jesus, but the reality was that Jesus said the voice came for them!

This is also the level of sensitivity many people are at when they get a word--they recognize it is supernatural--but don't know who it is for or when they should give it. When the Lord speaks, it is for our benefit, but we must be sensitive enough to be able to perceive his voice exactly as he speaks and not be ready to move until we get clarity.

The Combining of the Senses

Jesus pointed out to me how he dealt with the scribes in attendance when the man was let down through the roof in Mark 2:5-8:

“When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God only? And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?

He shared how he had to take in information with his natural senses but also was aware of the senses in his spirit. It is the combining of this information that gives us God’s wisdom in the situations we encounter in life.

He saw the faith of the men demonstrated by them letting their friend down through the roof. He saw the roof being taken apart. He saw the man being lowered. He saw the reactions of everyone in the house. Then he shifted the focus of his attention on what his spirit man’s senses were telling him, and through the Holy Spirit’s information being communicated to his spirit, he perceived the scribe’s thoughts.

He said that in many cases in the New Testament, the words ‘perceive’ and ‘discern’ refer to the action of picking up in your mind the information your spirit man is receiving from the Holy Spirit, and the process through which the mind discerns which action to take.

He next told me about Paul in Acts 14:8-10

“And there was a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother’s womb, who never had walked:

The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.”

Paul was ministering to many people, but when he looked around and his eyes fell on this man as he ministered, his mind simultaneously picked up information his spirit was telling him.

He pointed out that it was a process for Paul.

As Paul spoke he looked around and then came back to this man, made note mentally of that sense in his spirit that there was something more there, and looked over the people again. At some point Paul fixed his eyes on the man “steadfastly beholding him” and it was there that the ‘perceiving he had faith to be healed’ took place.

Paul had to lock his physical senses on the man in order to also fix his attention on what his spirit

was telling him.

This is what first happened to me when I started seeing tongues of fire and shafts of light on people. When I first noticed it I kept on looking around at people when I taught or prayed, but when I steadfastly looked at the person I began receiving revelation in my spirit about them, either words of knowledge, wisdom, prophecy or about healing. Though I still occasionally see tongues of fire or shafts of light on a person, most of the time when I'm ministering now I can look at a person and if there is information the Holy Spirit is telling my spirit I have trained my senses to discern that and it immediately gets my attention.

Focusing on the Spirit Realm

I was ministering one time to a group of about 225 people and off to my left on the very back row I perceived in my spirit the presence of the Lord on one lady in particular.

In my eye contact with the crowd I began speaking to that one section and then I would look away at the people in the other sections, then look back at her as part of that section, then look around again.

As I began to focus my attention on that section and her in particular, suddenly I saw an angel standing behind her with his hands on her shoulders. As I 'steadfastly' looked at this, the angel began telling me what she was going through.

She was a single lady who had been dating a Christian man she planned on marrying, and had just discovered she was pregnant. She felt all the guilt and shame associated with her 'secret' and didn't see how the Lord could forgive her.

The angel was telling her how much the Lord loved her and how he forgave her and told her to do what was right, not what was convenient, but to deal with it. I spoke to her as I ministered and shared with her the part about how the Lord loved her and was with her, withholding for privacy sake the more personal information. In that way she was able to receive the peace which was the object of the angel's mission.

Later I had the opportunity to talk to her privately and she confirmed everything and I was able to share the rest of the information which gave her greater peace. She and her boyfriend are now married and active in ministry. I would have missed the Lord entirely if my mind didn't first notice and then be willing to focus on what my spiritual senses were telling me.

Judging Correctly

I Corinthians 2: 9-16 teaches us part of the process of receiving natural information and spiritual information at the same time:

“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

The Greek word translated “**discerned**” in verse 14 is the same word translated “**judgeth**” in verse 15. It means ‘discern, distinguish, separate out so as to investigate (Vine’s), or judge’.

That is to say, “**...they are spiritually discerned, distinguished, separated out so as to investigate. But he that is spiritual discerns, distinguishes, separates out so as to investigate all things...**”

This is what Jesus did when he was touched by many, but he perceived one woman with faith drawing healing power from him.

This is what Paul did when he steadfastly looked at the lame man and perceived the man had faith to be healed. This is what you and I must do to truly walk in the realm in which Jesus said,

“...The son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father do, for what things he does, so also does the Son.”

The things God has prepared for us are revealed by the Holy Spirit and must be discerned, which is the process by which the mind of a person realizes God is speaking to him in his spirit.

The whole mind of Christ is in our spirit man, but that mind of Christ cannot be received through our physical, natural senses of sight, hearing, and imagination. But we can receive this wisdom in our spirits, and in accordance with Hebrews 5:14b

“...who by reason of use have their senses trained (exercised) to discern both good and evil.”

The word “discern in this text is the Greek word “diakrisis”. According to Vine’s Dictionary of New Testament Words it means, “a distinguishing, a clear discrimination, discerning, judging”.

Hebrews 5:14b could be translated

“...who by reason of use have their senses exercised and trained to distinguish, make a clear

discrimination and judgement between good and evil.”

It is this daily and continual practice of training the mind to shift attention to what is happening in our spirit man that is the key to walking in sensitivity to the Spirit.

It's our human natural nature to be focused on what our physical senses are telling us, but even before we were born again many of us have had our spirit man's senses telling us not to enter into a relationship, or we 'just feel right' about a particular job. The spirit man is still eternal, lost, but still eternal, before a person is born again, but it takes the life of the Spirit of God to bring our spirit into the things of God.

Jesus reminded me about a certain store my wife and I had gone to in the mall in the town where we lived and how each of us sensed something demonic and of an eastern religion spirit there.

We had walked in just looking for a gift but from what we saw with our eyes, we could tell there were many eastern religion items for sale. The jewelry, nick-knacks, pictures and other things all indicated eastern religion, and Buddhism in particular.

The information we took in with our physical sense of sight caused our attention to shift to how our spirits felt being in there, and we realized the feeling in our spirits was an uneasiness, a sense that deception was present, even a seducing feeling. In reminding me of this, Jesus pointed out that we had taken in information in the natural and then shifted our minds' attention to how it felt in the spirit man, and realized the spirit there was of Buddhism.

You see, each element of the spirit realm has its' own "feel" in the spirit. Spirits of lust, religion, depression and all the evil realm give off particular 'feelings' or witness in the spirit just as different objects and items in the natural look and feel and taste differently. We had learned that each realm of satan gave off a particular witness in our spirits and we made a point of remembering what each witness felt like and put it away in our memory so that we would remember that feeling.

One of the biggest keys to moving in this level of sensitivity to the Spirit of God is remembering what each witness feels like and making a point of thinking enough about it so when you come across that feeling in your spirit in the future you will recall what it is. I don't know how many times my wife and I have met someone who gave us a funny feeling in our spirits and then discussed what it was and where we had felt it before and were able to pinpoint where that person was, spiritually.

As we stood there talking he changed the subject and moved away from the teaching and began sharing his heart quite openly. He greatly desires to be with his children in close fellowship and to be personally involved in all our lives, as a close friend would be.

He said that he longed for his people to walk with him in this level of intimacy, but expressed sadness that so many were caught up in the world, and relatively few really set their hearts to walk in the Spirit.

He exhorted me to learn to discipline my mind to be aware of both the natural and spiritual realm at the same time. It is a discipline to train your mind to constantly be in “search” mode shifting attention between the natural world’s senses and the spirit man’s realm. It is through this ‘reason of use’ process that the senses’ ability to discern between good and evil is realized.

After this teaching he said he would give me some training and he disappeared. I walked a little way up the path and suddenly he re-appeared again to my left and about 15 feet away. He made me stop and notice that I was seeing the natural things around me and had first sensed in my spirit where he was and when I concentrated on the spirit man’s senses that realm became predominant and he became clear.

It was like a game of hide and seek: He disappeared again, then I sensed where I first felt a concentration of his presence, then when I steadfastly looked at that area he was visible to me, this time on the right side about 15 feet away.

He pointed out that the more I concentrated my attention on where I sensed his presence was, the more aware of him I became.

He said that when a person moves in the gifts of the Spirit it is the same process; they perceive a word is forming or coming forth in their spirit, but it often begins as something vague. They must also be aware of the natural realm, the order of service, the teamwork with others in the service all the while sensing the right timing and words in the spirit realm as they become more clear in the spirit man.

Most people only look for the gifts in a service where the corporate faith and atmosphere is conducive to perceiving the things of God. It is those situations that are the easiest to hear his voice. Most people who move in the gifts stop here and never really analyze how they do it. The goal is to be like Jesus who was sensitive when he was out among the people!

This dual attention to the natural and spiritual is what Jesus did in the gospels and what led to many manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit.

This is very different from “visualizing” Jesus or trying to force the gifts to work, or imagining him to be somewhere. He pointed out that some have picked up on some valid ways the Spirit initiates these things, then had gotten into the flesh by taking what was spirit and Holy Spirit initiated and turned it into a method of visualization and man initiated, which he said, is error. We can train ourselves to passively switch attention from the natural realm to the spirit realm, but manifestations of Jesus and the things of the Spirit are God initiated, not man initiated. The Holy Spirit is the one who communicates the things of God to our spirit.

To take things of the spirit and try to make something happen without the Holy Spirit’s initiation can lead to much error.

Two Examples of Insensitivity

Years later I was in a service and sitting toward the back when in the midst of the worship I suddenly saw Jesus in the aisle up near the front rows. He began just to the side of the platform and would go over and lay hands on a person and speak an encouraging word, then move on to another, working his way from the front to the back. Sometimes he would just put a hand on their shoulder and talk to them, for others he would lay his hands on either side of their face or upon their head.

I just watched him for a few minutes as he made his way toward the back where I was sitting. When he got to within about 40 feet of me he looked up and turned to me and said,

“True worship is taking place tonight”

It seemed that the people in the front 15 or so rows were caught up in worship, but the involvement lessened the further from the front the people were, and it evidently affected how well he was able to minister to the people, as well as how well they were able to receive from him.

As he continued to walk back to where I was, he continued laying hands on people and speaking to them while keeping up a running conversation with me. He continued,

“But many don’t even realize I’m here tonight”.

With that statement he moved towards me and paused briefly next to the man in front of me who was busy whispering to his wife and couldn’t seem to get settled.

He stood there looking at the man with his hands relaxed and folded in front of him for about 30 seconds, not saying anything, just observing. Finally, I asked him if he was going to say something to him. He turned to me and said,

“I want to tell him many things, but I can’t because he has not prepared his heart to receive, and he won’t enter into the flow of the Spirit in the service. But I am faithful. If he sets his heart to receive from me at a later time, as he reads my Word at home, or another service, or in private meditation on the things of the Spirit, at those times I could speak to him. This is how I must be oftentimes with my children.”

“Sadly, most of this man’s spiritual life consists of a service like this. In times past I have tried to talk to him about certain things, for there are many questions he has for me; he is looking for direction in his work, because he is not happy there, and also for his family. He has not truly prepared himself to receive from me. The wisdom he asks of me hasn’t been a high enough priority for him, though I am ready to speak to him.”

I recalled the times I had perceived in my spirit that He was trying to tell me something, but was too busy to make time. Then a week or two later what he was trying to show me would become clear. “Sorry Lord” I said, then he smiled and said,

“It is forgiven”.

I then asked about the man because he did have a bible lying on the chair next to him.

“He brings it, but outside of a service, he rarely reads it for anything more than casual reading. Sometimes he’ll pick it up to read, but he hasn’t learned to receive from me on a personal level so he gets bored and puts it down, though he has known me for some time. Years in fact. If he would just fellowship with me and linger in my presence, he would receive.”

The Second Example

One time I was in a large convention and sitting on the front row in a Tuesday night service. For the past several weeks I had been thinking about healing from accidents or injury and whether they were really covered by Jesus’ sacrifice. I knew they had to be, but I was looking for wisdom in this area, as well as proof in the Bible that they were covered. As a minister was praying for healing for several people I noticed that many of them had been healed of injuries sustained in car wrecks and accidents around work and the home. Suddenly I saw my angel off to my right about 8 feet. When I noticed him he said,

“Much of what Jesus healed was injury”.

I thought on that word for part of the night and I wondered where that fit into “himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses” (Mt 8:17). I tried to remember injuries being healed in the gospels and Acts, but soon got distracted with the happenings in the service and went on to other things.

This revelation was especially important to our family because of our son with Cerebral Palsy. The lack of oxygen at birth had killed part of his brain cells which left him mentally retarded and multiply handicapped. But after that night I was very busy and for the most part forgot about it the rest of the week. I thought I’d study it out after the meetings in a week or two.

On Saturday night of that week there was a wonderful concert and the presence of the Lord filled the arena. I was sitting on the floor area with my oldest son in his wheelchair next to me. Suddenly my spirit felt that familiar presence of Jesus Himself enter the arena. As I sat there looking at the stage, he walked up to me from behind and stood just to the left of my left shoulder. I glanced down to see his feet and robe but didn’t want to turn around since I was the only one who saw him, so I just kept looking towards the stage.

He began, “The healing of an injury usually requires the person to move the limb or part of the body that has been injured. The physical therapies operate in an element of this in that they make the limb or part of the body move as it once had.”

He then told me about Mt 15:30-31 where among others, the lame and maimed were made whole. He also spoke about the man with the withered hand, and the man Paul raised from the dead who had fallen out the window and other injuries.

When he was finished I asked him why he didn’t begin with a greeting or introduction, but seemed to pick up tonight where the angel had left off on Tuesday without missing a beat. He said,

“I’ve been trying to talk to you about this since that night, but you have been too busy to listen. Tonight was the first opportunity you gave me to continue to speak to you about it.” After that he started walking around the crowd laying hands on people and speaking things to them.

Both of the above demonstrate an insensitivity to the things of the Spirit of God. First was the man who rarely opens his bible or prays while the Lord is trying to give him the answers he seeks, then myself receiving a word from the Lord and not giving it the priority I should have, to dwell on it and place myself in a position to receive the rest of it.

Training Ground

The basic elements of what I am talking about in these pages begins before a person is born again. It begins when a person first notices a tug on their spirit to get right with God. There comes a point where their mind senses the emptiness of their spirit, that there must be something more, and they (natural man and senses) discern there is something lacking spiritually. They answer that call and are born again. Again, this is Holy Spirit initiated. None of us just decided to be born again, we were drawn to the Father by the Spirit, our natural senses picked up on the condition of our spirit man, and we answered the call, believing on Jesus.

One of the first training grounds most of us encounter after we’re born again involves entering into a service and learning to shut off the distractions and bustle of the process of getting to church, which are in the natural sense realm, and enter into the praise and worship service, which are of the spirit.

I remember when my wife and I were dating as teenagers and would get ready to go to the Saturday night meeting we attended. So often it seemed that either she or I was in a bad mood. Maybe she was late which made me grumpy or I had done something earlier which she was angry about. For a few times we went to the service angry at each other, but then we realized that Satan was using strife to keep us from receiving from God. From that point on if we didn’t resolve the issue by the time we drove into the parking lot we would sit in the car until we did.

Very quickly we realized it didn’t matter who was right or wrong, it only mattered that there was peace between us. Then we would tell the spirit of strife to leave, forgive each other, pray together and then go into the service full of the joy of the Lord. We learned to shut off the natural realm and its’ senses in this way and we could therefore concentrate on spiritual things and receive them.

After telling me about the man just in front of me, Jesus moved on to me and a friend of our family standing next to me. He reached over and laid a hand on her and spoke some things to her, then spoke some instructions to me, then continued toward the back and around that section of chairs. Our friend started crying and she said, “Jesus was here”, though she didn’t see him.

The point is that she sensed his presence and received because she was flowing in the Spirit. How many of us come to a service to be observers and not participators!

While I stood there in that little village in Mexico being trained by Jesus he waited for me to see him, receive a little more teaching, then disappeared again. Again I had a moment or two to think and walk, and again he suddenly appeared, this time to the left again, and again about 15 feet or so in front of me.

He laughed and smiled now as I was catching on to the idea of keeping my mind aware of the spirit realm and natural realm at the same time, and seeing in both at the same time. He had told me about 5 years earlier I was called to be a seer, but I hadn't realized the full ramifications of that word until that moment. Certainly there is more involved, but it was this aspect of operating in the Spirit that answered my heart's desire.

He was having fun training me.

He enjoyed watching me as I zig zagged up the road moving towards him while he appeared, taught me, then disappeared, only to re-appear on up the road. The last time he reappeared on the left side and we began walking together. He was on my left as we began walking along the wall of doors and windows and I still had no idea into which door Carl and Dora had entered.

As we walked I was looking at him on my left and I thought, "I'm taller than the King of the universe." Now, there's only so far in the flesh you can go while in the spirit and in his presence, but this was an honest thought that just came into my mind.

Instantly he smiled and I realized he knew exactly what I had just thought. I said to myself: "Dummy, he knows your thoughts!" He didn't say anything, but smiled without looking at me and at that moment we arrived at a door which he paused at, motioning with his left hand toward the door. With a knowing smile he said, "This is it". I crossed in front of him and went inside and he went behind me as I entered the room.

Carl and Dora were inside sipping soft drinks with our hostess who was making a kind of stew from the goat we had seen earlier. She served us homemade tortillas and the goat stew and I made sure I had 2 helpings. After the meal Carl, Dora and I were sitting around the table talking and suddenly I sensed something in my spirit. Carl was on my left and Dora was across the table from me, sitting in a chair that was directly in front of a doorway which led to another room.

In the doorway I saw an angel standing just behind Dora. This was the first time I had seen an angel. He didn't have wings and he looked like a man in his mid 20's or so, clothed in a white robe. I began teaching her as the Lord had just been teaching me the previous 40 minutes or so.

I asked her if she sensed anything in her spirit. She said that she didn't, so I asked her to close her eyes and pray in the spirit. When she did this she said she sensed the presence of the Lord, like someone was in the room. It was amazing to me to watch her go through the same process I had just gone through. I realized we are so used to operating in the natural realm that the subtleties of the spirit man are often not