

Lesson #18

Eyes to See and Ears to Hear

In this lesson, we will consider the “how” of tasting the power of the age to come. The content may seem to digress from the general topic of destiny, but remember that learning to move in kingdom power in this present age is an important part of preparing the way for the Kingdom to appear.

How Do You Do That?

There was a man named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, who had been observing the miracles and signs that Jesus was doing. Nicodemus came to Jesus acknowledging his belief that Jesus was from God. He said, “...no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” Jesus’ response is the classic verse generally used to equate salvation with being born again.

³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

— John 3:3 (NKJV)

Though being born again certainly does constitute salvation, Jesus’ answer also addressed Nicodemus’ curiosity about *how* Jesus was able to do signs and wonders: “...no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” Though God was certainly “with Jesus”, His response explained to Nicodemus more clearly *how* He did the works Nicodemus had observed: *Jesus could see the Kingdom of God*. Jesus wanted Nicodemus to be born again and see the kingdom as well, not just see the miraculous effects of it. This is why Jesus said, “...unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

All born again people have the means to see into the spirit and thus access the kingdom, just as Jesus did. Unfortunately however, the eyes of most Christians are not open to the spirit realm. But Jesus looked into the spiritual world, saw what the Father was doing, and simply did likewise. He stated this clearly in John, Chapter 5.

¹⁹ Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

— John 5:19 (NKJV) - emphasis added

Know His Will

The Bible tells us that if we ask anything according to His will, we can be confident that God hears us, and we will have what we have asked for (see 1 John 5:13-15). But we have all struggled with a lack of confidence regarding knowing God’s will and have wrestled with doubt in our prayers and our walk

of faith. We can find many things from the scriptures that are the will of God, but even with this general knowledge we often wonder if we can ask for certain things. Is my situation unique? Have I allowed something in my life that is hindering my prayers? Is my faith strong enough? The list goes on and on.

And then there are those specific things that scripture does not speak to. Should I take a new job or keep the one I have? Should I pray for a raise or learn to get by on what I have? Should I seek a mate or remain single? There are many such specific questions for which we need to see into the kingdom of God and get clear directions. To know the will of God on such issues, we must know God and we must *see* into the spirit. Then we can do as Jesus did, see what the Father is doing and do likewise.

It is not always easy to see into the spirit because there are things that hinder us or “dim” our vision and/or dull our hearing. Paul says, “For now we see as in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face (1 Cor 13:12) and we read that those who should have been teachers had become dull of hearing (Heb 5:11). Even though as born again people we have access to the kingdom, the ability to see clearly in the spirit is something we grow into. Paul explained to the Corinthians that we are being transformed into the same image (of Jesus) from glory to glory (see 2 Cor 3:18). Paul specifically addresses this issue of seeing into the kingdom/spirit realm in the passage below.

⁹ But as it is written: *"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*

¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

¹¹ For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

¹⁵ But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one.

¹⁶ For *"who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?"* But we have the mind of Christ.

— 1 Corinthians 2:9-16 (NKJV) underline added

As pointed out in verse 11 above, it is the Holy Spirit who knows exactly what God's will is. This is why it is so important for Christians to be filled with the Spirit and develop seeing eyes and hearing ears regarding what He is doing. Below are some scriptural examples of seeing.

Eyes Opened to See

By seeing into the spirit, Elisha had been exposing Syrian military plans, and when the Syrian king learned of it, he wanted Elisha neutralized. In 2 Kings, Chapter 6, we read that the Syrian army came by night to the city of Dothan to capture the prophet Elisha.

When morning came, Elisha and his servant saw the Syrian army surrounding the city. The servant was distraught and said, “What shall we do?” Elisha’s reply was, “Don’t fear. We have a bigger army than they do.” Then Elisha prayed for his servant’s eyes to be opened and see in the spirit. What he saw was the armies of God who were with Elisha. The mountains around them were full of horses and chariots of fire who promptly smote the Syrian army with blindness and eliminated the threat!

This is the reality of the spiritual world. The armies of heaven are constantly all around us and Jesus has given us the means of accessing their power for kingdom purposes. This power is available to those who can *see* it. Like Elisha’s servant, our eyes need to be opened.

Jesus Sees and Chooses the Disciples

Jesus was constantly seeing into the spiritual/kingdom realm. Philip, one of Jesus’ disciples found a man named Nathanael and told him to come and meet the Messiah. When Jesus saw Nathanael coming, He said, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!” He was curious and asked Jesus, “How do you know me?” Jesus replied, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, **I saw you.**” Then Jesus told Nathaniel that he too would see an open heaven and its workings (see John 1:45-51).

When Jesus chose the twelve, He had just spent the whole night in prayer. When day came, He called His disciples together and chose twelve and named them apostles (see Luke 6:12-16). These are the twelve to whom he said, “... you who have followed me will sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Matt 19:28). It is safe to assume that Jesus spent the night seeing the kingdom, saw its governmental structure and who the twelve apostles were supposed to be, etc. Then He chose the twelve from among the disciples who were following Him.

Jesus Sees and Breaks Tradition

Jesus healed a lame man on the Sabbath and as a result He was accused of breaking the law, which prohibited doing work on the holy day. His defense was that He was simply doing what the Father was doing and essentially said, “My Father is working and so am I.” He had **seen** into heaven, saw what the Father was doing, and simply did what He had seen (see John 5:16-17).

Note: Seeing and hearing are often lumped together as one in scripture referring to gaining understanding. There are several examples of “eyes to see and ears to hear” being used together. See Deut 29:4 and Acts 28:25-27.

Knowing What to Do

As we can see from the passages above, the goal of seeing and hearing is to perceive and understand — thus knowing what to do. Jesus said, “The Kingdom of God is at hand.” (Matt 10:7), but we often fail to access it because of a lack of insight and understanding. But every time we catch a glimpse of the

Kingdom and see what God is doing, every time we grasp a new level of understanding, the kingdom of heaven is breaking through into the earth and God's will manifests on earth as it is in heaven.

With this in mind, I will provide a couple of examples from personal experience to help bring this into practical application.

Man in a Vegetative State Revived

Many years ago, when I was a very young pastor, a woman in the church called and asked for prayer. Her uncle was on life support in the ICU and the doctors had no hope for recovery. Specifically, the woman asked for comfort and wisdom for the family since they were considering unplugging the machines that were keeping her uncle breathing. She informed me that her uncle had received Jesus and would go to heaven.

When I hung up the phone and prayed, I heard the Lord speak: "If the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in him, it shall quicken his mortal body." I understood exactly what I was supposed to do and by seeing clearly what to do, I only had to do it.

I went to the hospital and asked how to find this man. In those days they were very selective regarding who they allowed into the ICU and I was unsure if they would believe I was a pastor and let me in. But as I was speaking to the person at the desk, a man overheard me who happened to be the hospital Chaplain. He took me straight to the man's room!

The man was laying in bed with multiple tubes and wires attached. I laid my hand on his chest and prayed a simple prayer, repeating what the Lord had spoken: "... if the same spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in this body, it shall quicken this mortal body." I remember being very surprised at what I saw when I removed my hand from his chest, The fabric of his bed clothes over his heart literally began to jump up and down, as high as an inch or so! Three days later the man was out of the hospital and back in his home.

Surgery Not Needed

My wife and I were leading a campus group at the University of Iowa. At this particular meeting we had a guest speaker and, after worship time as we were being seated, I noticed a young woman whose leg was immobilized with one of those heavy velcro wraps covering her entire leg. At that moment, I heard the Lord speak, "I'm going to heal that girl's leg tonight."

Needless to say, I was excited and began my plans to act on what I had heard. I thought to myself, "When the guest preacher is done speaking, I will get up and ask for anyone who needs healing to come forward." At that point the Lord spoke again, quite clearly, saying, "You religious thing you! If you do that, you will mess it up!"

Feeling a little "rebuked" I asked the Lord what I should do. He responded again, "When the speaker is finished, get up and tell everyone in the place to jump! After they jump, point to that girl and say: 'In the name of Jesus, take that brace off your leg and jump, and you will be healed.'"

So, I did exactly as the Lord instructed. Of course, when everyone jumped, the girl with the brace did not. So I pointed at the girl and said, “In the name of Jesus, take that brace off your leg and jump, and you will be healed.” She looked at me with wide eyes for just a moment, and then she did it as I had said. Her leg was completely healed!

I was told later that she was on the track team and had torn some ligaments in her knee. She was scheduled for surgery — but never needed it! This was a lesson to me about seeing/hearing clearly and following directions precisely.

The Key to Seeing and Hearing

The key to seeing is seeking. It sounds simple, and it is, but simple is not always easy. Seeking requires determination, a denial of self, and perseverance. If we are not sure of God’s will, we should seek Him until we are. He *will* reveal His will to us. Jesus said,

⁹ "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

— Luke 11:9-10 (NKJV)

Living by the flesh, which is the default human condition, hinders our ability to see and hear in the spirit, produces dead works, and results in death. But if we, through the Holy Spirit, develop our spiritual eyes and ears, we will be able to do living works and live.

¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

— Romans 8:13-14 (NKJV)

Though our human condition often hinders our ability to see in the spirit, that should not prevent us from seeking to do so. God has many wonderful things prepared for us — and He desperately wants to reveal them to us! Each time we see a new kingdom insight we take another step in the transformation process and have more of the mind of Christ. But revelation comes through spiritual means, not natural. This is why we need the Holy Spirit and this is why we pray for the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him (Eph 1:17).

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...

— Ephesians 1:17-18 (NKJV)

When our eyes are opened and we see into the spirit, faith is the result and that which seemed difficult or impossible becomes easy. When we really hear from God, faith comes (see Rom 10:17). When we really have revelation knowledge of something spiritual (see Eph 1:17), guesswork is over and

we simply do what we have seen. When we see in the spirit, faith truly becomes a substance and evidence for what we have not yet seen in the natural (see Heb 11:1). Such substantial faith produces absolute confidence that we will receive what we have seen in the spirit.

The Fight of Faith

Walking in faith is not always easy. There are times when we battle doubt and have to stand in faith and persevere without the kind of clarity described in the examples above. As the Apostle Paul said to Timothy, “Fight the good fight of faith.”

We should also remember that, though we may see visions, hear God’s voice, or receive revelations, the picture of understanding they paint must fit in the framework of scripture. This is why we must know the scriptures. The better we know the scriptures, the more prepared we will be to see and hear. As we seek God’s face, not just His hand, we will develop seeing eyes and hearing ears. Then we will have those times of clarity when faith comes and doubt is nowhere to be found and we take strides forward in our work of kingdom preparation.

In this lesson we looked at “how” regarding kingdom power. In the next lesson we will look three indicators as to “when” regarding the appearing of the kingdom, dubbed “whenidcators.”