



Spiritual Perception

What is the most essential ingredient that mankind has lost?

Who were the people involved in the first recorded “spiritual battle?” What did the losers of that battle believe that they would gain? What specific human ingredient was lost during that battle? Why is it so important that this specific “lost ingredient” is restored to mankind? We will answer all of these interesting questions during this Bible Study!

It is interesting that the New Testament refers to that particular “lost ingredient” 666 times; it occurs 66 times in the Gospel of Mark and 70 times in the Book of Revelation. What is that special “lost ingredient?”

Some sort of “hide and seek” or a matter of “Lost and Found!”

Solomon animated wisdom in the Book of Proverbs; her voice unkindly cries out to those who have lost her, “they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me” (Prov 1:28). Yet, wisdom declares later that she may be found; however, only by those who love her, “I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me” (Prov 8:17). Just as the elusive “wisdom,” who, if sought after in the right spirit can be found, so mankind’s “lost ingredient” is also recoverable!

Jesus taught that it is possible for humans to recover that which has been lost if we will simply put forth the effort to search, “seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you . . . and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened” (Luke 11:9-10). The one who diligently seeks ultimately finds. We will return to concept of someone knocking while Jesus is on the other side of the door.

Jesus’ encouraging words notwithstanding, humanity has been laden with skepticism! We find Thomas asking the ponderous question, “how can we know the way?” (John 14:5). Nicodemus the teacher of Israel asked Jesus, “How can these things be?” (John 3:9) and again, “How can a man be born when he is old?” (John 3:4). Even though they were spoken long before Jesus’ sacrifice for our sins, notice Job’s comments, “How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman?” (Job 25:4). The concept embedded in all of these questions can be synthesized into one single question, “Is it really possible for mankind to get right with God?” The answer is absolutely, “YES!” The Good News or Gospel is that through Jesus, mankind can get back on track with God! Let us stay on-track.

We must remain true to our quest for that special “lost ingredient,” because, if we do not discern what we have lost, we will not know what is supposed to be restored to us! If we do not know what is to be restored, we will not diligently seek after that lost item as Jesus



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advised. If we do not understand that which has been lost how could we possibly recognize it, even if we stumble across that special “lost ingredient?”

Adam and Eve Lost Something! What exactly was it?

So what exactly did Adam and Eve lose? Let’s review the sequence and perspective of the Genesis narrative. The book records in chapter 2:7 that after Adam was created, he named the animals. Then in chapter 2:17, God command him not to eat of the “tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil.” Next, in verse 22, God created the woman for the man; and verse 25 informs us they remained naked yet without any shame! However, things began to change soon thereafter.

Aspiring to deceive, satan appeared unto the woman and made her an offer. Let’s notice his assertion, “For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then ***your eyes shall be opened***, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil” (Gen 3:5). We must rightly assume that they both had perfect vision prior to satan’s advance. So, the first thing to realize is that they already had their vision! Therefore, since they already had physical eyesight, what does it mean to have ones eyes open?

To answer that last question, we must look to the next Biblical story relating to “open eyes.” It conveys the story of Hagar as she fled Abraham’s tent as a result of Sarah’s exasperation with her, “And the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs. 16 And she went, and sat her down over against him a good way off, as it were a bowshot: for she said, ***Let me not see the death of the child***. And she sat over against him, and lift up her voice, and wept. 17 And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is. 18 Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation. 19 And ***God opened her eyes***, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink” (Gen 21:15-19). Notice that God caused her to see something that was not immediately perceptible to her natural eyes. Can you imagine a woman who would actually abandon her dehydrating child when a well of water was perfectly nearby? It does not make sense! Therefore, to have ones “eyes open” in a Biblical sense when blindness is obviously not the issue means that the individual becomes spiritually perceptive! This is not just my hypothesis notice another story. It’s about Elisha and his servant who feared because of a great army, “And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, ***open his eyes***, that he may see. And ***the LORD opened the eyes of the young man***; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha” (2 Kings 6:17). Here again we find that the opening of eyes causes something that is not immediately perceptible to the natural eyes to be seen!

Now back to Adam and Eve. We should be considering the simple question, “Did their visual/spiritual perception increase as a result of choosing to eat of the fruit of the tree of ‘the knowledge of good and evil?’” Obviously, the simple answer is, “***NO!***” We have observed already that before they ate they were without a sense of shame, “And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and ***were not ashamed***” (Gen 2:25); however, they changed.



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This leads us to ask another question, “Does shame position one into some sort of a superior spiritual standing?” Let’s observe the Bible answer regarding two of David’s children, “Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother. 11 And when she had brought them unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister. 12 And she answered him, Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel: **do not thou this folly** (*folly certainly does not elevate someone to some sort of a superior spiritual standing*). 13 And I, **whither shall I cause my shame to go?** and as for thee, **thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel**” (2 Sam 13:10-13). **On the contrary**, shame is associated with an inferior spiritual standing! In like fashion, when Adam and Eve partook of the tree they no longer saw any form of God’s image in themselves; instead, they were fearful and they felt inadequate to even be in the presence of God Almighty their creator, “Adam and his wife **hid themselves from the presence** of the LORD God” (Gen 3:8). Now, let’s realize what was taking place, as a result of their disobedience, they saw themselves in some form of a corrupted status with respect to God! They hid themselves because, “they heard the voice of the LORD God” (Gen 3:8). Somehow, the voice of God was at a level above them! Based upon this first encounter with the devil, satan’s obvious primary goal for mankind is to get them to somehow lower their spiritual perception to an inferior carnal state where they will not hear/perceive God!

So what can we conclude? Adam and Eve bought into satan’s misleading sales pitch, “**your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods**” (Gen 3:5); obviously, “**ye shall be as gods**” was a misleading suggestion which offered some sort of movement into a **superior** spiritual standing. Instead, they were destined to a lower spiritual standing! They were fooled into grasping after what they already possessed, “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness” (Gen 1:26). So what exactly did they lose? Adam and Eve lost something very important and essential to spiritual growth; they lost their **spiritual perception!**

Suddenly Adam and Eve saw themselves as naked! Notice the irony; they sought after an elevated or higher spiritual insight yet, they obtained the opposite. What they saw they became! Satan caused Adam and Eve to see themselves merely on a natural plane. His main goal is to get all of mankind to see themselves in the natural realm. He wants us to focus on our past sins, our weaknesses, our illnesses, and our mistakes. Adam and Eve fell from the higher level: of “believing God is seeing (*spiritually*)” down to the lower level of “seeing (*physically*) is believing!” Paul said, “For we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor 5:7).

Our Strength –vs- satan’s Weakness?

Satan has 6,000 years of experience in observing and learning from humanity. Therefore, he knows an awful lot about mankind! However, when we operate in a higher spiritual plane, we confuse satan because **he does not enjoy any form of spiritual understanding**, “But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 8 Which **none of the princes of this world knew**: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory” (1 Cor 2:7-8). We learned from that passage that Jesus’ crucifixion was a spiritual event that can only be understood by



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means of a higher plane of perception; as a result, satan and the demons were utterly dumbfounded through the whole episode!

When we get into the supernatural and begin to operate in the spirit we move to that higher plane of perception. As a result, the fallen world is utterly clueless regarding our activities! Therefore, they seek to bring us back down to the same level where Adam and Eve decended. From that lower level, they can exercise “thought” control over us. In essence, they strive to lead the Christian back into sin! However, once we really perceive who we are in the spiritual realm (“*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him*” (2 Cor 5:21). *Jesus became sin that we might become the Righteousness of God!*). Only after we really perceive the Righteousness of God and who we are, then we begin to exercise authority over the devil and his demons. At that point, we perceive who they are and they recognize us as legitimate, “Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth . . . And ***the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?***” (Acts 19:13-15). Once our identity is established on earth (*in our flesh*) and, “in heavenly places” (Eph 2:6), we have Jesus’ authority to restrain the demonic world, “And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and ***whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven***: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matt 16:19).

We must continually operate at that higher level of spiritual perception! Elijah operated at this higher level, “And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain” (1 Kings 18:41). Elijah heard the sound of rain, but nobody else did! Elijah took that sound as a “word” from God and he began to pray for rain. Then he commanded his servant, “Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times. 44 And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not” (1 Kings 18:43-44).

When human beings operate in the Spirit of God and realize this higher level of perception and knowing they become more powerful. Observe the woman of Samaria who said, “How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans” (John 4:9). Jesus did not even concern Himself with her controversial issues! In essence He totally ignored the whole cultural controversy of the day! We in today's Christian culture might get embroiled in the doctrinal argument of “once saved, always saved,” or the “pre-trib –vs– post-trib” controversy. This type of nonsensical argumentation only serves to get the people out of the spiritual realm and back down to the carnal plane where the demons exercise superiority! Paul explains, “(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor 10:4-5). Spirit led Christians are not instructed to wrestle through human strength, debate talents, or



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superior arguments; rather, against the spiritual realm, we “wrestle not against flesh and blood” (Eph 6:12). Our efforts need to be focused on, “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the **knowledge** (*spiritual knowing and perceiving*) of God.” Notice that we must strive to maintain our level of spiritual perception! From that elevated perception we can battle anything that comes against the knowledge (*spiritual perception*) of God! We are to “cast down” all other fallen spirits which attempt to perpetuate “reasonings” and “theories” that are not according to the Word of God!

Now let's return to Jesus and the woman at the well. We earlier considered the principle that a person operating at a higher level of perception becomes more powerful than they were prior to their enlightenment, “Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. 17 The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus (*operating with spiritual insight*) said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: 18 For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. 19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I **perceive** that thou art a prophet . . . The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. 26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he” (John 4:16-26). Now, notice something powerful! The woman **perceived** who Jesus was as she got a **word** of knowledge from Him! Let's notice just a few verses forward how this “**word**” gave her new evangelistic capabilities, “The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, 29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: **is not this the Christ?** 30 Then they went out of the city, and came unto him” (John 4:28-30). The woman was empowered to perform evangelism as a result of her heightened perception.

How Important is Spiritual Perception?

We can learn more regarding the importance of spiritual perception by studying the passage concerning Jesus' “triumphal entry.” One would expect that Jesus' “triumphal entry” would have been deeply satisfying to Him; after all, He was finally being recognized as the Messiah. Yet notice Jesus' actual reaction, “And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and **wept over it**” (Luke 19:41). We may immediately wonder, “Why, especially at this glorious triumphal moment did Jesus weep?” The next verse gives us the incredible answer, “Saying, **If thou hadst known** (*that is, if they had spiritual perception*), even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now **they are hid from thine eyes** (*They condemned themselves to suffer a continued absence of spiritual perception, verse 44 tells us why.*). For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, and shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; **because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation**” (Luke 19:42-44). Can it really be true? *All because they did not perceive the scriptures concerning Jesus Christ!*

We must **seek** (“*seek, and ye shall find*” (Luke 11:9) as Jesus said) to get to the condition where we continually hear and see that spiritual world! In other words, we must perceive that “unseen obvious,” “And they shall be all taught of God. **Every man therefore that hath**



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heard (perceived on a spiritual plane), and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me” (John 6:45). On the other hand, the world cannot hear or see the spiritual realm, “Ye have **neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape**” (John 5:37). Jesus constantly hears from the Father and we are to gain access through Jesus, “Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for **all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you**” (John 15:15). Jesus teaches us what the Father’s will is, “All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will **reveal** him” (Matt 11:27). Without spiritual perception we cannot know God!

So, what exactly is Spiritual Perception?

In simple terms, “spiritual perception” is to look beyond the natural and into the spiritual realm. While I was preparing for this Bible Study Chris Nicholl called me and relayed to me an instance in his life of spiritual perception that he had recently observed: – Chris’ story –

During Chris’ call, I looked into the spirit realm, I realized that his call was a confirmation to me that “spiritual perception” as a Bible Study topic was proper for our entire group.

The following four passages use the Greek word “**eido**” pronounced (i'-do). It is a primary verb and is used most often in certain past tenses. It means “to see” in a literal sense **but more often** it is used figuratively. By implication it means “to know” or “to be aware” or “to have knowledge of;” we might simply express it as the concept “**to perceive.**” Notice and we will discuss its various usages in the following examples?

- “Then Herod, when he **saw** that he was mocked of the wise men” (Matt 2:16). *In this example, did King Herod literally see the mocking take place with his physical eyes?*
- Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father **knoweth** what things ye have need of, before ye ask him” (Matt 6:8). *Jesus reveals in this passage that the Father possesses a powerful ability to comprehend our needs even without our asking!*
- “And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus **seeing** their faith (*Here Jesus looks into the spiritual realm and sees “faith” through His perceptive eyesight.*) said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. 3 And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. 4 And Jesus **knowing** their thoughts (*Here Jesus makes use of the same power that we observed in the Father!*) said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?” (Matt 9:2-4).
- “And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and **seeing ye shall see**, and **shall not perceive**” (Matt 13:14). (*Seeing is the spirit requires spiritual perception that extends beyond the mere physical realm.*)

Humans experience two kinds of perception: (1) spiritual and (2) carnal. The highest form of perception is “spiritual” because it automatically imparts understanding. Adam and Eve were given spiritual perception. We know this because when they were created they



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immediately knew how to walk, talk etc. They gained that understanding through the spiritual realm. After we were born we developed by learning to operate in natural things. We learned to walk and talk and everything else. However, when Jesus came to the earth, He reinstated spiritual perception:

- “They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night **they caught nothing**. 4 But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. 5 Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. 6 And he said unto them, **Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find** (Jesus supernaturally knew where the fish would be). They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes” (John 21:3-6);
- “go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and **when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money**: that take, and give unto them for me and thee” (Matt 17:27).

Jesus perceived these things through supernatural knowledge. He constantly heard from the Father and he also glimpsed into the spiritual realm, “I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge” (John 5:30).

Back to the two forms of perception, we will carefully study the table that follows:

Natural – vs – Spiritual Perception Table	
Natural	Spiritual
Hearing with physical ears	Knowing in our spirit
Seeing through physical eyesight	Perceiving in our spirit
Looking on the natural circumstances	Looking on the heart
Lowest Form	Highest Form

When Adam fell, he actually moved down from a higher level of getting input into his life. He descended from the spiritual realm into the natural. As we have already observed, Jesus was in constant contact with the Father who is Spirit! The Biblical record clearly shows that Jesus did not perceive things like those around Him; even his disciples!

Notice the table that follows:

Jesus’ Examples of Natural – vs – Spiritual Perception	
Natural	Spiritual
Jesus’ disciples were amazed at Jesus’ conversation with the Samaritan woman, “Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he. 27 And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman : yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her? (John 4:26-27)	Jesus did not conform to the cultural standards of his day; instead, as in this instance, He perceived that His meeting with this woman was a divine appointment. Indeed, that specific Samaritan woman became a prophecy for the gentile church that Jesus was going to establish.



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Jesus was scorned by the Pharisees because they thought that He was unable perceive a sinner in His midst, “a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment . . . Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, *if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him*: for she is a sinner” (Luke 7:37-39)

Jesus saw this occasion as an opportunity to teach a spiritual lesson regarding forgiveness of sins, “he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. 45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet” (Luke 7:44-45)

God’s form of spiritual perception was revealed to the prophet Samuel during the selection of the one who would be anointed as king, “But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but *the LORD looketh on the heart*” (1 Sam 16:7). Jesus walked in God’s form of perception therefore He did not conform to the world of the Jews; this is one of the reasons that they hated him!

Spiritual Perception and the Prophetic

The prophet Elisha was so completely focused on the spiritual realm that he actually heard and saw the plans of Israel’s enemy! Let’s notice as the story unfolds, “Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp. 9 And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down. 10 And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, *not once nor twice*. 11 Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us is for the king of Israel? 12 And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, *the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber*” (2 Kings 6:8-12). Our enemies fear the prophetic gift because it allows us to see into the spiritual realm and they have no defense against it!

Notice what the king of Syria did in an attempt to thwart Elisha, “And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan. 14 Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a *great host*: and they came by night, and compassed the city about” (2 Kings 6:13-14). The bewildered enemy forces surrounded the prophet! So, what happened next? “And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?” (2 Kings 6:15). Elisha’s servant Gehazi panicked! However, notice how Elisha reassured his servant, “And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, *open his eyes, that he may see*. And *the LORD opened the eyes of the young man*; and he *saw*: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses



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and chariots of fire round about Elisha” (2 Kings 6:16-17). God supernaturally opened the servant’s eyes that he might temporarily see into the spiritual realm!

From our context of spiritual perception or vision, notice how Elisha responded, “And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And **he smote them with blindness** according to the word of Elisha (*the prophet spoke blindness upon the army of the enemy*). 19 And Elisha said unto them, This is not the way, neither is this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek. But he led them to Samaria. 20 And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said, LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see. And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, they were in the midst of Samaria” (2 Kings 6:18-20). Elisha the prophet single-handedly led the whole army captive and he controlled what they could and could not see!

What we must learn is that there is supernatural victory available to us when we function in the spiritual realm. This includes all of you, “If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. 31 For **ye may all prophesy**” (1 Cor 14:30-31). This means that we all have the ability through the Holy Spirit to tap into the spiritual realm! We all possess that ability if we will but learn how to use it. All of us can exercise that keen spiritual eyesight which gives us insight and foresight!

There is a three-step process of spiritual growth into the prophetic:

- (1) First, God hears; then
- (2) He causes us to hear his voice; then when we are obedient
- (3) He gives us spiritual vision,

We can observe this three step process in the story of Hagar and her son, which we have previously explored during this Bible Study, “And (1) **God heard** the voice of the lad; and (2) **the angel of God called Hagar out of heaven** (*God speaks*), and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is. 18 Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation. 19 And (3) **God opened her eyes**, and she saw a well of water” (Gen 21:15-19). We realize once again that God caused her to see something that was not immediately perceptible to her natural eyes. Obviously, it is very unlikely that a woman who would abandon her dehydrated child with a well nearby! Hagar did get water from the well, however, the water source that she saw was observable only through spiritual vision, and it is likely that the well is actually prophetic of the time when the sons of Hagar will one day find Jesus, “the water that I (*Jesus*) shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:14).

Protecting our Gift that Bestows Spiritual Perception

When the key to our spiritual perception becomes apparent, we must keep it secret from the enemy! The enemy will want to know our secret for successful perception of the spiritual realm in order that he may plunder our gift, “And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee” (Judg 16:6). Ultimately Delilah got to Samson and he disclosed to her the whole secret of his strength! Soon thereafter, she coaxed him to sleep in her lap with the intention that she might



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cut off his hair. After her disloyal deed, she suddenly called out that the Phillistines were coming to get him, “he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And **he wist not that the LORD was departed from him**” (Judg 16:20). Because Samson was careless about concealing the secret of his special gift, he lost it! It is noteworthy that we realize that Samson fought his last battle out of a state of blindness!

We find this same principle where carelessness with spiritual secrets leads to loss, “At that time Berodach-baladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present unto Hezekiah: for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick. 13 And **Hezekiah hearkened unto them, and shewed them all the house of his precious things**, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not” (2 Kings 20:12-13). Hezekiah was given a gift and he became flattered that his enemy somehow liked him! Because of the faltery, he revealed all his treasures! Satan can also give us gifts, we need to be careful that we do not fall into his trap; we must protect those secrets that we have received from God! We certainly can share our secrets with those that are in covenant with us; however, we must never share our secrets with an enemy!

Notice the prophets negative reaction to Hezekiah’s foolish deed, “Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country, even from Babylon. 15 And he said, **What have they seen in thine house?** And Hezekiah answered, All the things that are in mine house have they seen: **there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them.** 16 And Isaiah said unto Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD. 17 Behold, the days come, that **all that is in thine house**, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, **shall be carried into Babylon:** nothing shall be left, saith the LORD” (2 Kings 20:14-17).

The enemy is blind to spiritual preception. David’s “tangible invisible” is so obvious that the enemy completely overlooked his strength. His strength was so simple that his enemies were completely ignorant to it. David was a singer of praises to God; he even set-up a tabernacle dedicated to praise! However, his enemies never understood praise as the source of his strength.

A New Look at a Familiar Passage from the Book of Revelation – from the Context of Spiritual Perception

Recall the three-step process of spiritual growth into the prophetic:

- (1) First, God hears; then
- (2) He causes us to hear His voice; then when we are obedient
- (3) He gives us spiritual vision

However, before we indulge in this “new look” we need to realize that our old perspective still remains valid! We have long seen the opening verses in Chapter Four of the Book of Revelation as the future *rapture of the church*, “**After this** (the famous mystical phrase from the Greek ‘*Meta tauta*’) I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven” (Rev 4:1). A growing majority of Evangelical Christians and others who study the Bible’s teaching



Spiritual Perception

What is the most essential ingredient that mankind has lost?

regarding “the last things” or eschatology agree that this passage from the opening verses of the fourth chapter of Revelation is particularly significant since the church which was the only subject of chapters 2 & 3, is no longer discernible until the marriage of the Lamb in chapter nineteen.

In the Book of Revelation, we learn, “I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day (**1–John was praying to God in the spirit and God heard him**), and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, 11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: (**2–John heard the voice of Jesus**) and, What thou seest, write in a book (**3–John was told to record his vision**)” (Rev 1:10-11). This three-step process sets the stage for our understanding of the process toward spiritual vision.

Continuing a little forward in Revelation chapter four we see a second vision of the Apostle John, “**After this** (*Meaning that it occurred at another time later, refer to the explanation for verse 2 below:*) I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. **2 And immediately I was in the spirit** (*This is a key phrase since John mentions here that “immediately” he “was in the spirit” a second time in the book, (see Rev 1:10). It unquestionably indicates that this vision occurred subsequent to the first or atleast some time later, after his first vision in Chapter 1, when he saw the Glorified Jesus*): and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne” (Rev 4:1-2).

This second vision also shows the three-step process however it begins at the end of chapter three, “Behold, I stand at the door (**1–it is implied that John was praying**), and knock: **if any man hear my voice** (**2–John heard Jesus’ voice behind the door**), and open the door (**2 cont. –John is obedient to the voice and opened the door**), I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Rev 3:20). Now continuing on with Chapter four as if without a break, “After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven (*John actually witnessed a portal into the Heavenly realm!*): and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and **I will shew thee** things (**3–John is promised even further revelation of the future**) which must be hereafter” (Rev 4:1).