

PART 27 – SEEING THE INVISIBLE

❖ PERSPECTIVE IS EVERYTHING

It is amazing to me how God changed my life when I was saved. Everything in my life was literally reversed. What I once thought was bad was now good. What I thought was meaningless for my life now meant everything to me. Something I never wanted to read occupied my every spare moment. Where I never wanted to go was now where I could not stay away from for even a moment. What God did was change my perspective. He changed how I saw my life, how I saw Him, and how I saw what my life was designed to accomplish. He changed my perspective to His perspective. The old things literally passed away and all things became new.

Now, I have been saying throughout this entire study that perspective is everything – and it is. Based on what we have learned so far in this study, perspective is just another word for your “mindset”, for how you think, for your “outlook” and your “perception” of the Christian life. Just think about several perspectives for a moment and see if you can quickly see the monumental differences and what are the landing zones of the differences.

1. You can trust God or you can worry all the time. Can you see where either one will take you?
2. You can follow God or you can follow your own inclinations. Can you see where either one will take you?
3. You can read God’s Word or you can ignore God’s Word. Can you see where either one will take you?
4. You can live your life for God’s glory or you can live your life for your pleasure. Can you see where either one will take you?
5. You can have a steadfast faith in God or you can just be a lukewarm Christian. Can you see where either one will take you?

Spiritual success or a lack thereof is **ALWAYS** a matter of perspective, a matter of how you think, a matter of the kind of mindset that you have developed in your life. You **ALWAYS** want to have a “spiritual perspective”, a spiritual mindset”, a spiritual neural pathway. You always want to think like God thinks. The only other option that you have is to be worldly minded, or to have what the Scriptures call a “**carnal mind**”. For instance, [Romans 8:6-7](#) says,

Rom 8:6-7 (NKJV) 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

Now, at some point in your life, **you have to make a decision**. The decision that you have to make is this – “*How am I going to think? Am I going to have a spiritual mindset or a worldly mindset? Am I going to think like God thinks, or will I think however I want to think?*” It is my opinion only, but I personally believe that the majority of Christians have NOT chosen to think like God thinks. They are still very controlled by the culture that surrounds them. The culture is always promoting its agenda, and that agenda has nothing to do with God whatsoever. So, the more absorbed someone is in their culture, the further and further away they will drift from God. This is simply a choice that you have to make, and whichever choice that you make, and you will make it, will create the direction of your life. Right now, you are either headed toward God and with God, or you are headed away from God and without God. There is absolutely nothing in the middle.

What this means is that when you make a conscious choice to think like God thinks that you are developing a spiritual perspective, a spiritual mindset, a spiritual neural pathway. At a very practical level, making the right choice means that God has helped you to know how to see the meaning of the various circumstances in your life. Listen carefully.

KEY PRINCIPLE 83: WHEN YOU HAVE A SPIRITUAL MINDSET, IT ACTUALLY CHANGES THE MEANING OF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES.

For instance, something that you once saw as bad, you now see as good. Something that you saw as difficult, you now see as easy. Something that you saw as meaningless, you now see as having great meaning and value for your life. Not only that, and this is really good,

Once you have developed a spiritual mindset that actually governs and controls your life, you will then make spiritual responses to those circumstances in your life.

This is very critical to understand because once your perspective changes, so do your responses to what happens to you. Learning how to **respond** to difficult circumstances in your life is a great part of the spiritual battle that you often face. For example,

1. How will you treat people who mistreat you?
2. What will you say to someone who says something ugly to you?
3. Will you take revenge when someone wrongs you?
4. How will you respond to someone's anger?
5. How will you deal with people who frustrate and irritate you?
6. How patient will you be when someone is making you impatient?
7. Can you love someone who is unlovable?
8. Will you forgive someone who has hurt you?

Let me say all of this in a very different way. If you cannot answer these questions the way that God wants you to answer them, then in all likelihood, you simply are not thinking like God thinks. Just to keep this in perspective, listen to how Jesus chose to respond to difficult circumstances in his life. This has to become the way that you think. [1 Peter 2:23](#) says,

1 Pet 2:23 (NKJV) ²³ who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

Committing every part of your life to God is exactly what He desires. [Luke 23:34](#) says,

Luke 23:34 (NKJV) ³⁴ Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.

Why could Jesus respond to so many difficult moments the way that He did? It is because He was willing to think the way that His Father thinks. He had His Father's mindset and perspective on every area of His life. He always knew that His Father was right there with Him. Now, listen very carefully.

KEY PRINCIPLE 84: SPIRITUAL POWER IS HAVING A CLEAR PERSPECTIVE AND UNDERSTANDING ABOUT WHAT GOD SAYS IS IMPORTANT IN YOUR LIFE.

Every Christian has both a responsibility and an obligation to find God's purpose and meaning for their life, and then to live out their life in order to accomplish that purpose, so you have to understand what He says is important for your life.

Now, what so often seems to unsettle and disturb a believer's faith in God are the trials and difficulties that at the moment may seem unresolvable. When faced with what appear to be overwhelming circumstances, the faith and confidence they have in God begins to quickly wane and diminish. It is critical that you learn to trust God "IN" and "THROUGH" your difficult circumstances – and there is only one way to do that. From God's perspective about conforming you to the image of Christ, there is much to learn as you go through a difficult time in your life. I know this is not what you may want to hear, but you have to experience the stress, the pain, and the hurt that uncomfortable circumstances create in your life. There is not one single verse in the Scriptures that says that the believer does not have to go through these difficult periods of their life – not one single verse. Listen to these verses that address this issue. [1 Peter 1:6](#) says,

1 Pet 1:6 (NKJV) 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

[1 Peter 4:12](#) says,

1 Pet 4:12 (NKJV) 12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

[James 1:2](#) says,

James 1:2 (NKJV) 2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

Once again, it is always a matter of perspective, a matter of whether or not you actually see life from God's perspective or from your perspective. There will always be what Hebrews calls a "time of need" in the Christian life. It is inevitable and unavoidable. The truth, however, is that God is always there, always present in your life. This is foundational to your personal faith. There has to be something about that simple, yet life-transforming reality that becomes your mindset, that becomes the way that you see life, that becomes the way that you think and live. God is with you. God is always with you. He is not distant, not far away, not disinterested, not out of town for the weekend. He is not just working the second shift this week. God is always with you. So, just knowing that God is right there with you should give you confidence and change your perspective on how you see any difficulty that you may be facing.

[Hebrews 4:16](#) says,

Heb 4:16 (NKJV) Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

You are to come boldly to God, and when you actually come to Him, what you are given is "mercy and grace" that will greatly strengthen you in your struggle. This is God's truth. This is the neural pathway that is to flood your heart and your mind. You should say this to yourself - "*I will come boldly to God's throne of grace.*" He is there to help you more than you know. Come confidently to God. Why? It is because His promises and His provisions for your life are real. Come seeking His mercy and grace to help you. In your "time of need", God is merciful and He is full of grace that will sustain you during whatever kind of trial that you may be facing.

Even though you cannot see God, please appreciate that by trusting God in your difficult circumstance that He is protecting you from what you do not know and what you cannot see.

If you could actually see what the enemy is trying to do to you and your family, it would probably scare you to death, so just trust that God is there helping you to always do the right thing from His perspective. Just think like God thinks and you will be fine – no matter how your trials may actually turn out for you at any given moment.

Now, one very important point is that [Hebrews 4:16](#) **does not say** that God will remove the trial, so please do not read it that way. That is the unfortunate way that so many believers think – “*God, please remove this trial!*”. Unfortunately, that is not the design of the Christian life. The correct neural pathway is simple – “*God, I want to see your hand in every trial that I face because I know that You are always there with me.*” I love what [Hebrews 11:27](#) says about Moses. This is great!

Heb 11:27 (NKJV) **By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.**

The reality of God’s presence in your life is that even though He may be “invisible” to you, that does not mean or imply that He is not there. You have to mentally see the “invisible” God because He actually is present with you in every situation that you face. I love what Stephen saw right before he was stoned. [Acts 7:55-56](#) says,

Acts 7:55–56 (NKJV) **⁵⁵ But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, ⁵⁶ and said, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”**

I know this may sound like an oxymoron, but you must “see” the “invisible” God. Please appreciate that you can respond to life and its trials in exactly the same way that Paul did or Stephen did, but you have to constantly be “renewing your mind” to the truth. Think of it this way.

If you consistently leave God and His truth out of your thinking, you will consistently get the wrong solutions to your problems.

Whatever you need to be an overcomer in your struggles is found in the Word of God. What you may need is often multi-faceted like patience, endurance, faith, strength, encouragement, help, wisdom, and/or understanding. So, whatever it is that you need for your life, the answer is found in the Word of God.

KEY PRINCIPLE 85: GOD’S POWER IS IMPLANTED IN HIS WORD, BUT IT IS “ACTIVATED” BY YOUR CONFIDENCE IN IT.

The Word of God is where you always want to go to find out God’s perfect will for your life. Think of it this way.

If you keep looking in the wrong places for the answers to your hurts and struggles, you will keep getting the wrong answers.

The world’s wisdom to solve spiritual problems will do you no good. [1 Corinthians 3:19](#) says,

1 Cor 3:19 (NKJV) **For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their own craftiness”;**

Your own ideas to solve spiritual problems will leave you fairly helpless to say the least. No wonder [Proverbs 3:5-6](#) says,

Prov 3:5-6 (NKJV) ⁵ **Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;**
⁶ **In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.**

No matter how difficult a trial or an issue may be for you, God has the very thing that you need to be strengthened in your struggle.

God has the perfect solution to how you should go about resolving whatever trial you may be currently experiencing.

This is a mindset, a neural pathway that you MUST develop and cultivate in order for your spiritual life to be successful. **God has all of the answers that you need to navigate through all of the problems of your life.** Unfortunately, His answers may not satisfy you.

1. You may want relief, but God gives endurance.
2. You may want more, but God offers contentment with less.
3. You may want fewer trials, but God gives more grace in the trials.

The issue is very simple.

You MUST develop a spiritual mindset, a neural pathway that allows you to become totally satisfied with whatever God wants to accomplish in your life.

Just think of what the Scriptures say about Jesus and His crucifixion in [Hebrews 12:2](#),

Heb 12:2 (NKJV) **looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Jesus traded present pain and shame for eternal joy. Now, I know that for many Christians that these kinds of answers simply do not satisfy them at all. We live in a culture of convenience, comfort, and extravagance, so going through trials just seems unreasonable to many. They always want something easy, but very often God allows them to experience something difficult – and they simply do not think that is fair. So, what will happen when you have the wrong mindset about your trials is really a very simple reality.

KEY PRINCIPLE 86: THE MORE YOU COMPLAIN ABOUT YOUR DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES, THE MORE QUICKLY YOU WILL MOVE AWAY FROM GOD.

If you have the wrong spiritual mindset, then your difficult circumstances will always discourage you. They will cause you to question God, to doubt God, and to wonder why God is letting something happen to you that may be unpleasant and painful. They will hinder you from seeing God. So, you have to remember that your strength, your joy, and your wisdom are found in looking to God for the answers,

not in staring down your circumstances. You can just sit there for days, weeks, months, maybe even years and just keep staring at your problem. What good is that going to do for you? Listen very carefully.

Your problem cannot give you any solutions simply because it is a problem – the very opposite from a solution.

You have to look THROUGH your problems so that you can see God. God is always your solution. If you stay focused on your problem, you will literally miss God and what He wants to do for you. God has the answers that you need for your life. Your problems will very often look overwhelming to you, so you have to look through them to see an omnipotent God who is right there with you no matter what you are facing.¹

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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¹ Groeschel, *Winning*, 191-193