

The Power of Spiritual Perception

A key to living in the supernatural blessings of God is 'walking in the Spirit'. And you cannot 'walk in the Spirit' unless you become **fully aware** in the Spirit. This means, being totally in tune with that 'still small voice' inside of you. Too many of you are looking for the super-natural in the wind, the earthquake or the fire (**1 Kings 19**). Instead of the "still, small voice" of the Holy Spirit. This is where it all starts!

Mark 2:3-8, ...*Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" But immediately, when **Jesus perceived in His spirit** that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?"*

Other translations include; "At once, **Jesus knew inwardly** what they were thinking." "Immediately **Jesus knew in his spirit** that this was what they were thinking." "And at once Jesus, **becoming fully aware in His spirit** that they thus debated..."

Luke 5:22, "When Jesus **perceived their thoughts**, He answered and said to them, 'Why are you reasoning in your hearts?'" Jesus was not reading their minds, He "knew inwardly" what they were thinking. In **Mark 8:17** Jesus says, "Do you not yet **perceive nor understand**?" Confirming that perception is not 'understanding'!

Acts 27:10, "Paul advised them saying, 'Men, I **perceive** that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives'." Paul was not a soothsayer or fortune-teller! He **perceived** "in His spirit" that disaster was going to strike.

We can see clearly from the above scriptures that **perception** is not discernment. It is not reasoning or understanding. It is not mind reading or fortune telling. And it has nothing to do with being psychic! In fact, as Christians, we can all **perceive** (become 'fully aware') in the spirit. Therefore, there is a perception that is indeed "**spiritual**."

There are seven Greek words that are translated "to perceive" in the New Testament. However, only two of them can have any spiritual application, and the most common word "ginosko" is not one of them because it means, "to know by experience or observation." However, a strengthened form of this word, "epiginosko", does have spiritual connotations. It means, "to gain a full knowledge of" or "to know completely." When the Gift of the Word of Knowledge is operating, the Holy Spirit imparts "*full knowledge*" of something into a person's spirit. Therefore, that person **perceives** something that is fact.

The other Greek word that has spiritual connotations is, "eithon", which means, "to see". There are times when a person can "see" in his/her spirit. This is when the Gift of the Word of Wisdom is in operation. The

Holy Spirit imparts 'knowledge' of a future event into a person's spirit. They can then "see" (**perceive**) what is about to take place. This is what transpired when apostle Paul spoke to the sailors on board the ship. Notice, not only did he **perceive** that disaster was about to strike, but an angel of the Lord appeared and told him everything was going to be alright!

So many of us desire to live the supernatural life, but often we focus on the spectacular. Yet most of the time the supernatural is found in a 'still small voice' ... *Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a **still small voice**. So it was, when Elijah **heard it** (the 'still small voice'), that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" (1 Kings 19:11-13)*

That '**still small voice**' is what Jesus was listening to when He "perceived" that the scribes were talking about Him and reasoning in their hearts. This is the kind of perception we must aspire to attain. Such **perception** is truly 'spiritual' – because we become **fully aware in the spirit**. If you really want to experience the supernatural, you should develop awareness in the spirit. This will open the door to many miracles and other manifestations of God awesome power! Remember, even ordinary people like you and me can do this!

Turn with me to **2 Kings 4:8-10** ...*Now there came a day when Elisha passed over to Shunem, where there was a prominent woman, and she persuaded him to eat food. And so it was, as often as he passed by, he turned in there to eat food. She said to her husband, "Behold now, **I perceive that this is a holy man of God** passing by us continually. "Please, let us make a little walled upper chamber and let us set a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; and it shall be, when he comes to us that he can turn in there" (American Standard Version)*

Here we see an ordinary woman who **perceived** that Elisha was a prophet of God. **Matthew 10:41** says, "He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward." And this was exactly what the Shunammite woman received. She'd receive a prophet's reward! **Verses 11-17** ...*One day when Elisha came, he went up to his room and lay down there. He said to his servant Gehazi, "Call the Shunammite and tell her, 'You have gone to all this trouble for us. Now what can be done for you? Can we speak on your behalf to the king or the commander of the army?'" She replied, "I have a home among my own people." "What can be done for her?" Elisha asked. Gehazi said, "She has no son, and her husband is old." Then Elisha said, "Call her." So he called her, and she stood in the doorway. "**About this time next year,**" Elisha said, "**you will hold a son in your arms.**" "No, my lord!" she objected. "Please, man of God, don't mislead your servant! But the woman became pregnant, and **the next year about that same time she gave birth to a son**, just as Elisha had told her.*

This woman got a prophet's reward, she got a son! However, it didn't stop there, when the boy had died she got much more... **Verses 32-36** ...*When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch. He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the Lord. Then he got on the bed and lay on the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out on him, the boy's*

body grew warm. Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out on him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite." And he did. When she came, he said, "Take your son." She came in, fell at his feet and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

Not only did this woman get a son from a dead womb, she got a son from a dead body! But what ushered in the blessings of God? What brought about such extraordinary circumstances? What made it possible for the supernatural power of God to manifest? The answer can be found in this woman's reaction after she first met the prophet Elisha ... "*Behold now, **I perceive that this is a holy man of God passing by us continually.***" The Shunammite woman knew 'inwardly' that Elisha was a holy man of God. There was an awareness in her spirit! It was this 'spiritual perception' that started it all!

Note, the Bible calls her a "great" woman. To my recollection, there are not many people worthy of being called "great" in the Word of God. Besides, she didn't seem to have accomplished anything that can qualify her for this special accolade. The few things we are told she did were, (1) to invite Elisha for a meal every time he passed by, (2) to ask her husband to build a small upper chamber for Elisha to rest, and (3) to inform Elisha of her son's death. She was a woman of few words. The handful of times that she did speak, her words were all very simple. There were no high-sounding, eloquently presented, spiritually embellished or deeply profound phrases. In fact, when it mattered most she confessed her faith, she said, "*It is well*" (Verses 23 & 26). I believe this woman was "great" because she was truly spiritual!

As a result, she was **fully aware** in her spirit that Elisha was a great man of God, so she prepared the way for God's miraculous power to manifest through him. **Spiritual perception** opens the door to the supernatural! It's the "still small voice" inside of you that, when heard and obeyed, can cause miracles to be released into your life.

Remember, there are two kinds of perception:

1. **Spiritual perception** – knowledge which comes by the Spirit.
2. **Carnal perception** – knowledge which comes by learning and experience (through the five senses).

You can choose to walk in **spiritual perception** or you can choose to walk in carnal perception. After fishing all night you can go back out in your boat, and as the Spirit of God directs you, throw out your net for a miraculous catch, or you can fish all night and catch nothing. He who **perceives** will receive!

The Lord is calling every one of us to walk in a much higher level of **spiritual perception**. We cannot draw back from the promptings of the Holy Spirit (the "still small voice"). But we must press in to Him, seeking to know more than we now know. Seeking to experience more than we've experienced! Therefore, right now, let us all purpose to become **fully aware** - IN THE SPIRIT!