

RESPONDING ACCURATELY

Perception



“Ears to hear and eyes to see— both are gifts from the Lord.” Proverbs 20:12

“And He said, “Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’” Isaiah 6:9

Life is all about perspective, we will always respond to situations based on what and how we see and hear. The Bible tells us that not all eyes can see and not all ears can hear. This doesn't speak to our natural eyes and ears but our capacity to see what God is showing us and hear what He's saying by the power of the Holy Spirit.

“whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.” II Corinthians 4:4

Because the enemy understands the power of perception, he goes to great lengths to distort our vision and our hearing so we respond in error to whatever God is saying or doing. This series we are bringing clarity to critical areas that will help refocus our sight and refine our hearing so we perceive with accuracy and alignment with God's agenda



Day 1

Eyes of Understanding

“From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take.” 1 Chronicles 12:32

Accurate perception gives us several benefits two of which are the ability to see signs in front of us and also to understand them. Signs signal what is really going on and what is to come. It could be a warning, prompt to change, step to take and much more either at personal, national or global level.

The ability to see and accurately interpret signs puts us in a position of advantage, the flip side being that we're disadvantaged when we can't do this. We may interpret accurately but not know what to do about what we're seeing. For instance someone may see signs and perceive accurately that it's time to pivot to a new role, but not know the next step to take. This is where spiritual direction comes in.

“The Lord says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control.” Psalms 32:8-9 NLT

The Issacharites had the capacity to not only see and understand the signs of the times, they also knew what they as a tribe and Israel as a whole ought to do. We may not be apart of that tribe, but with the Holy Spirit in us, we have the spiritual capacity to consistently perceive and be directed accurately. Regardless of the many options in front of us currently or in the future, by the help of the Holy Spirit we can always see what is to come and respond accurately.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” Proverbs 3:5-6

The Holy Spirit will always do His part however, there's a responsibility on our part to listen and respond to His guidance. The same way Israel had the choice not to follow the leading of Issachar. we also have a choice to align with the Holy Spirit's leading. This seems simple, but let's not forget that because the Holy Spirit sees further than we do, His direction may not always make logical sense to us at the time.

Prayer: Lord open my eyes to see and accurately discern the signs of the times. Holy Spirit grant me the grace to yield to Your guidance and promptings. Help me to walk according to Your wisdom, give me an understanding heart and lead me along the best pathway for my life.



Day 2

Eyes of Faith

“And Zacharias said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years.” Luke 1:18

“And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.” Luke 1:20 NIV

When the time came for the birth of John the Baptist angel Gabriel appeared to his father Zechariah and informed him of the soon coming birth. Understandably, Zechariah had questions about how an old couple like he and his wife could have a child at their age. However because Zechariah didn't believe this could happen, Gabriel made him mute until after John was born.

“Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.” Luke 1:34-35

When Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce her role in birthing Jesus she also had questions. But this time Gabriel took the time to explain what was going to happen to her. Two individuals were presented with seemingly impossible information and they both asked similar questions: “how??”. Though the questions sounded similar, Gabriel understood that the perspectives were very different. Zechariah's question was anchored in disbelief while Mary's was anchored in faith God and she just wanted to understand how God make what the angel said happen.

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6

God isn't afraid of our questions, He's the same one that said we should come and reason together with Him and ask for wisdom where it's lacking (James 1:5). What He asks of us is to come with a perspective that He is able to do whatever He has said He will do. For us to go forward with God we need faith because the environment and our personal circumstances often negate the word of God.

Prayer: Lord forgive me for the times I've operated in unbelief and help my unbelief. Let my faith be boosted as I spend time in Your word. As I obey Your promptings help me ask the right questions so I have wisdom to execute Your will.



Day 3

Tuning To The Right Frequency

“Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.”...Then the Lord said to Noah, “Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.” Genesis 6:14; 7:1

When there's impending danger God always goes ahead of us to prepare a sanctuary of safety for us but we may miss it because nothing in the current environment suggests there's danger ahead. Noah lived at a time when people disregarded God. However because his ears were tuned to be sensitive to God, Noah not only heard His instruction to build an ark, he followed through with the build and all other instructions despite how strange they may have appeared at the time.

“In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.” Matthew 24:38-39

Tuning our ears to God's frequency minimises the errors we make in life. In the analog days if you tried to find a radio channel you'd have to tune the radio dial until you got the channel you were looking for and even then there would be some distortions if the signal wasn't strong. Likewise we need to tune our spiritual ears to hear what God is saying and quieten the interference so we can hear what God is saying.

One of the ways to achieve this tuning is fasting. Fasting tones down the 'noise' of the flesh and distractions around us and helps sharpen our inner ears to hear what the Lord is saying. When we add fasting to prayer we experience heightened sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and what He's saying to us.

Prayer: Lord show me how to attune my spiritual ears to become more sensitive to You and help me maintain and strengthen my connection to You so I always hear what the Holy Spirit is saying accurately



Day 4

Hearing Weighty Things

"I have still many things to say to you, but you are not able to bear them or to take them upon you or to grasp them now." John 16:12 AMPC

Jesus spent a lot of time telling His disciples what was going to happen to Him regarding His crucifixion and resurrection. Yet even though He spoke plainly they didn't really understand the importance and weight of what He said. We know this because if they truly understood the power of His sacrifice and what it would do for the redemption back to God, they wouldn't have been despondent at His death. Even though Jesus was physically speaking to them, their ears heard what He said but their spirits didn't have the capacity to grasp the depth of what He was saying.

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us," Ephesians 3:20

"For God speaks again and again, though people do not recognize it." Job 33:14

There are many things the Holy Spirit wants to reveal to us, but He's limited by our capacity to grasp what He's saying. The Bible tells us that God is always speaking but we're not always able to recognise when He's speaking to us and even if we do the weight of the message may be more than what we can handle at the time. This means it's important we consistently invest in building ourselves up spiritually so we can receive all what God has to say to us.

"Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; All Your waves and billows have gone over me." Psalms 42:7

God will always meet us at the level of our maturity and His expectation is that we invest in going beyond the surface with Him and meet Him at a deeper level. No matter how well we know God, there are depths and dimensions in Him that are yet to be experienced. So our walk with God is meant to be one of constant revelation and increasing depths. The Holy Spirit helps us by giving grace but we have to take the steps of maturity to take advantage of the grace He makes available.

Prayer: Lord help me to do my part to increase in the capacity to grasp the weightier things You have to share with me.



Day 5

Seeing Beyond Emotions

“There is nothing more deceitful than the heart of man; who can understand it? Man’s heart is sick, in need of healing.” Jeremiah 17:9 TPT

It’s often said that in making decisions we should “follow our heart”, but that’s not always wise counsel. Following our heart means we will respond to what we think we are seeing or feeling at the time which shapes our understanding of the situation. Emotions are powerful and can be overwhelming, but they’re not always accurate and can be made up of other experiences which we transfer to the current situation.

“Don’t be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil.” Proverbs 3:7

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.” Romans 8:14

Have you ever made a decision based on how you felt at the time and then realised you didn’t have the full picture? This has happened to all of us at some point and for some of us it’s a pattern of behaviour. This is why the Bible says we’re to be led by the Holy Spirit. He sees what we can’t see and knows what we don’t know so that we can be guided in seeing a situation from God’s perspective not our feelings. It doesn’t mean our feelings aren’t valid, they just shouldn’t be the basis for our approach to life.

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.” Isaiah 55:8

God’s perspective transcends emotion and sometimes even generations. So while our emotions may lead us to respond to the ‘now’, God’s perspective leads us to respond according to His agenda for our lives. His way may not always look/feel good at the time, but the result will always be in our favour.

Prayer: Lord help me see life not through the lens of my emotions, but from the perspective of Your thoughts concerning every situation I encounter



Day 6

Avoid Deception

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” 1 John 4:1

One of the things that distorts our ability to perceive correctly is deception. Satan is a master of deception and excels at presenting a false reality that will cause us to question God and who He says we are.

“The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”... God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.” Genesis 3:1,5

“Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.” Genesis 1:26

When the serpent spoke to Eve he presented a perspective that doing what he wanted would make her like God. But what she didn't know was that she was already like God by design. Being ignorant of this fact opened the door for the enemy to usurp Adam's authority and take his position as the head of the world.

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” John 10:27

“And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you.” Matthew 24:4

The danger with deception is that there's always a bit of truth woven into it making it difficult for anyone lacking discernment and knowledge of God's word to separate truth from lie. When we spend time with the Holy Spirit we start to recognise how the Lord speaks to us and also pick up on the warning signals so that we're not deceived. This is so important because the enemy strategy is to keep us from hearing God's voice. Once we cannot hear God's voice, then the other voices around us start taking more prominence.

Prayer: Lord help me discern Your voice and deepen my knowledge of You and Your word so I don't fall into deception.



Day 7

Look to Jesus First

“I will lift up my eyes to the hills— From whence comes my help?” Psalms 121:1

The altitude of our vision determines what we see. Imagine being on a plane that’s still on the ground, everything around us is at eye level so anything above our eye level appears bigger than us. As the plane starts ascending, the buildings that seemed so big start looking smaller until even the tallest one looks like a dot. That’s the power of perspective.

“My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.” Psalms 121:2

“looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...” Hebrews 12:2

Shifting our gaze to Jesus helps us refocus our perspective from the size of what’s right in front of us to its size from His perspective. And because He is seated above everything, no matter how large it may appear to us there’s no issue that’s too big for Him. Jesus also sees things from the perspective of eternity so looking to Him first automatically rightsizes everything and reshapes our vision to see things as they really are.

“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth” Philippians 2:9-10

Having a revelation of the name of Jesus changes everything for a believer. This revelation filters every discussion, opportunity, challenge, etc through who Jesus is, His love for us, the authority He has given us and the power in His name. When negative thoughts come, make them obedient to the name of Jesus. When difficult situations arise we subject them to the power in the name of Jesus. When we start focusing only on this side of eternity, Jesus helps us remember there’s an eternal perspective that carries more weight. So let’s ask for grace to bring everything to Jesus first.

Prayer: Lord give me a revelation of the name of Jesus and the authority He has given me. Help me always look to Jesus first in every situation so He can shape my perspective



Thank you for completing the study. We'll love to hear from you, so please connect with us on:

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

Or send us an Email: aheartofwisdom@gmail.com

©**Aheartofwisdom**

