

# Energizing Your Spiritual Senses

## Part 2

### Intro/Review

- last week: three practical steps to energizing your spiritual senses: be receptive to God's work in you, repent, eliminate internal contamination

### Practical Steps

- Strengthening your spirit — the purpose
  - Mk 10:45, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve."
    - Why did Jesus come to earth?
    - What does John 3:16 tell us about his motivation?
  - 1 Jn 4:17, "In this way, love is made complete among us . . . because in this world we are like him."
  - According to Mark 10:45 and 1 John 4:17, what is your primary function in life?
  - What is the primary function of your aptitudes/spiritual gifts?
  - What is the primary function of your skills and abilities?
  - What is the primary purpose of strengthening your spirit?
  - What is the primary purpose of energizing your spiritual senses?
  - Each of us needs to ask God to reveal our improper motives, then be prepared to put them to death; without mercy.
- Strengthening your spirit — God's Word
  - Jn 6:63, "The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life."
    - "spirit" (Gk, *pneuma*)
    - "flesh" (Gk, *sarx*)
    - "words" (Gk, *rhema*): many believe this only means "spoken word," but also includes what is "uttered" in writing
      - What was the nature of what Jesus said, according to this verse?
      - Jesus only said what he heard Father saying, so what is the nature of God's Word?
      - What kind of life does God's Word provide?
      - Does this include the Bible? What God speaks directly to you?

- 1 Th 2:13, “. . . the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.”
  - “word” (Gk, *logos*): many believe this only means “written word,” but clearly not limited to what’s written; also includes what’s spoken
  - “work” (Gk, *energeo*): (1) function, work; (2) cause to function, grant ability to do; (3) bring about, produce, cause to be
  - What kind of work might God’s word be doing in you?
  - Does that work occur in your spirit, psyche, or body?
- What effect might devouring God’s Word have on your spiritual senses?
- Strengthening your spirit — speak in tongues
  - 1 Co 14: 4, “He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself.”
    - “tongue” (Gk, *glossa*): (1) literal tongue; (2) used in NT for language unknown to the speaker
    - “edify” (Gk, *oikodomeo*): (1) build, construct; (2) strengthen, make more able
  - 1 Co 14:2, “For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God.”
    - According to this verse, what is speaking in tongues?
  - 1 Co 14:14-17, “<sup>14</sup> For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. <sup>15</sup> So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. <sup>16</sup> If you are praising God with your spirit, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand say ‘Amen’ to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying? <sup>17</sup> You may be giving thanks well enough, but the other man is not edified.”
    - According to verse 14, what happens when you pray in a tongue?
      - mind is “unfruitful” (Gk, *akarpos*): (1) unfruitful; (2) useless, unproductive
    - What does the statement (verse 15), “I will pray with my spirit,” reveal about our ability to pray in tongues when we choose?
    - According to verse 15, what can your spirit do?
    - In verse 16?
    - When you’re speaking in a tongue, will you know whether you are praying, or praising, or

giving thanks?

- How might speaking in tongues affect your spiritual senses?
- Strengthening your spirit — godly associations
  - Ro 1:12, “. . . that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.”
  - Eph 4:16, “From him the whole body . . . grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”
    - How are our spiritual senses involved in such interaction?
    - How might energizing our spiritual senses affect our ability to interact?
    - How might interacting with spiritual mature Christians affect our spiritual senses?
- Energizing your spiritual senses — choose to use them
  - Heb 5:14, “But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”
  - prayer: Father, I declare myself to be a spiritually sensitive person. I embrace all my spiritual senses, and choose to use them so I will function more effectively in everything you give me to do.
- Energizing your spiritual senses — use your imagination
  - your imagination is the receptor for revelation; it allows you to receive anything from God, including that which is completely outside your box (your way of thinking)
  - it’s similar to a television
  - it allows you to identify what any of your spiritual senses detect
  - don’t be worried about using your imagination; it’s a God-given faculty

## **Blessing**

- Beginning today, may you begin sensing the spiritual realm as never before, so you can understand and deal with spiritual matters to serve others much more effectively.