

Making a Commitment to Experience the Spiritual Realm

Living in the Spiritual Realm 3, Session 4

Bible Study

- God gave all of us the ability to experience the spiritual realm
 - You are a spirit being with a psyche, temporarily living in a physical body
 - Your spirit is the real you; it's not an accessory you use only in special situations
 - Because you are a spirit being, the spiritual realm is your native realm
- Php 3:20(a), "But our citizenship is in heaven."
- 2 Co 5:20(a), "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us."
 - We're ambassadors representing God's kingdom in foreign territory
- The spiritual realm is our reality
 - Spiritual experiences are vital to your calling
 - Ro 14:17-18, ¹⁷ "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, ¹⁸ because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men."
 - Satan counterfeits & corrupts what God does, & the existence of a counterfeit is evidence of an authentic form
 - Instead of avoiding anything similar to what Satan does, let's do what the Bible says regardless of Satan's counterfeits
 - This isn't about you, but about serving others & being effective in God's kingdom
- 1 Co 14:1, "Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy."
 - "eagerly desire" (Gk, v, *zeloo*): to be zealous; to be or become marked by active interest, passion and enthusiasm for something
 - "spiritual gifts" (Gk, adj, *pneumatikos*): (1) spiritual in nature; (2) a person, power or ability that is spiritual
 - We should become zealous & passionate about spiritual matters

Ways to cultivate your ability to experience that realm

- Pray with your spirit
 - 1 Co 14:14-15, ¹⁴ "For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵ 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."
 - This forces your psyche to yield to your spirit by permitting an activity that makes absolutely no rational sense (mentally unfruitful or unproductive)
 - Also helps you become spirit-dominant instead of psyche-dominant
 - 1 Co 14:18, "I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you."
 - This statement by Paul shows the value he places on speaking in tongues
 - Eph 6:18(a), "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests."

- Does this refer to our human spirit or the Holy Spirit or does it matter?
- Rev 1:10, “On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet.”
- Jude 20, “But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.”
- What’s the difference between praying with your spirit & praying in the Holy Spirit?
- Either one helps you become more sensitive to entire spiritual realm
- Read accounts of spiritual experiences in the Bible
- Ask God to open your spiritual eyes
 - Eph 1:18-19(a), ¹⁸ “I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe.”
 - How might having our spiritual eyes opened relate to God’s “incomparably great power for us who believe”?
 - When someone says they saw something spiritual, ask the Lord to show it to you
 - When you sense something in spiritual realm, ask the Lord to let you see what’s happening
- Ask God to open your spiritual ears
 - Jn 10:3, 4(b), 27(a), ³ “The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ ... his sheep follow him because they know his voice... ²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice.”
 - Jesus represents himself as the shepherd, but who are the sheep?
 - Communication is essential to relationship, but God can’t communicate with us if we don’t hear him or know his voice
- Use your spiritual authority to declare you will experience the spiritual realm
 - Ro 4:17-18, ¹⁷ “As it is written: ‘I have made you a father of many nations.’ He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed – the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. ¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, ‘So shall your offspring be.’”
 - Who does verse 17 say calls things that are not as though they were?
 - v 18, “hope” (Gk, n, *elpis*): a reasonable and confident expectation of a future event
 - “believed” (Gk, v, *pisteuo*): to have a strong confidence or reliance upon someone or something
 - God speaks with authority & things happen; he’s given us spiritual authority, so we need to use it
 - Does God want you to experience the spiritual realm?
 - Then agree with him & speak it authoritatively into the spiritual realm
 - Call things that aren’t as though they are; stop confessing your failures

- Persevere
 - Heb 12:1(b), "... and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."
 - Don't expect instantaneous results
 - You're trying to change years of disbelief & non-supernatural experiences
- Sanctify your imagination
 - Eph 3:20, "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."
 - Does this say we should not use our imaginations?
 - Your imagination is a gift from God.
 - It allows your spirit to communicate with your psyche in ways your psyche can understand – through words and images.
 - Imagination is the receptor for revelation. It allows you to see beyond the limits of your normal experiences and immediate environment so you can see God and what he's doing.
 - Use your imagination to visualize the desired results the best you can. This doesn't make the results happen; rather, it prepares your psyche to anticipate & allow it to happen.
 - Exercise your imagination by visualizing godly things. This is more than a fun thing to do occasionally; it's an important skill, so use it often and stretch your ability.
- Focus on the spiritual realm, regardless of what you're doing
 - Col 3:1-2, ¹ "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."
 - Guard yourself from worldly views & perspectives
- Quieten your psyche
 - Mk 4:39, "He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down and it was completely calm."
 - Don't be surprised if your mind keeps distracting you when you're trying to focus on the spiritual realm
 - Do what Jesus did: speak authoritatively to the distractions & refocus your attention

Recommended Daily Activity

- Persevere with the following:
 - pray with your spirit
 - use your spiritual authority & declare you will experience [more of] the spiritual realm
 - and focus on the spiritual realm

Closing

- Significant change requires deliberate effort over time
- Eternal changes are worth the effort