

Seeing Jesus

*“One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek, inquire fore, and insisently require: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord (in His presence) all the days of my life, **to behold and gaze upon the beauty** (the sweet attractiveness and the delightful loveliness) of the Lord and to meditate, consider, and inquire in His temple.”* Psalm 27:4

David’s deepest desire, beyond anything else was to be able to enter into the Heavenly places and see the Lord in His beauty. Seeing the Lord, for him, was more precious than anything else in life. Have you seen the Lord? What does He look like to you?

*“O God, you are my God, earnestly will I seek You; my inner self thirsts for You. . . . 2 **I have looked upon You in the sanctuary to see Your power and Your glory.** 3 **Because your loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You.**”* Psalm 63:2-3

*“Where there is **no vision** (no redemptive revelation of God), the people perish;”*
Proverbs 29:18

Vision: 1 The ability to see. 2 Something seen in the imagination or in a dream.
3 Foresight and wisdom. 4 A beautiful person or thing.
(Oxford English Dictionary)

*“4 For the god of this world has **blinded the unbelievers’ minds** (that they should not discern the truth), **preventing them from seeing** the illuminating light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, Who is the Image and Likeness of God.”* 2 Corinthians 4:4

People who have not accepted Jesus into their hearts have no perception or understanding of who He really is. They just can’t see Him. It is the anointing of the Holy Spirit who opens the eyes of their hearts for the first time and brings a revelation to them of who Jesus is. The Lord desperately wants people to see Him so that they can understand and accept what He has done for them and can receive the salvation He wants to give them.

*“18 **The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for He has anointed me to bring God News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free,** 19 and that the time of the Lord’s favor has come.”* Luke 4:18

When we come to salvation, our eyes are opened to see and understand the truth of who Jesus is, but that is the beginning of our journey into the presence of God and into an ever-increasing experience of discovering a real relationship with Jesus. Learning to see and perceive Jesus more and more clearly, is a process.

What steps do we need to take on this journey of seeing Jesus more clearly?

Jesus said, “8 *God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they **will see** God.*”
Matthew 5:8

Your heart is like a window; through it you perceive the Lord. When the window is dirty and covered in mud, you can't see anything through it. All you see is the filth that covers it. The cleaner the window of your heart is, the more clearly you can perceive the Lord. Furthermore, the cleaner that window of your heart is, the more clearly people will see Jesus through you!

How do you clean the window of your heart so that you can see Jesus clearly?

Repentance

“23 Search me thoroughly, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! 24 And see if there is any wicked or hurtful way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”
Psalm 139:23-24

I love this scripture because it removes all of the barriers that block us from being able to hear and see Jesus in a real way. Learn to pray this prayer in sincerity, because it is vital to having a clear perception of the presence of Jesus.

The Lord knows our hearts better than we do, and very often we have sinful attitudes or perceptions in our hearts that we simply are not aware of. We need not only to examine ourselves for obvious sin, but we really need the Lord to show us hidden motives and attitudes that are hindering our ability to see Him and hear Him clearly. Sometimes the Lord will reveal to us things in our lives that we will have to lay down, things that we desperately want to hold on to and we realize that the price we have to pay is extremely high. When we get to that point, we have to ask ourselves, “*What do I really want? If I really want to experience all that Jesus has for me to experience of Himself, I will have to surrender this thing and give it to Him.*” For me it was pride. When I asked the Lord to show me what was in my heart, I saw a vision of my heart enclosed in a metal trap and I knew that the trap was pride. The pride as so much a part of me, I knew that I would have to really count the cost of tearing part of my own personally it away and handing it over to Jesus, knowing that I could never have it back again. I decided to be ruthless and do it, because I really wanted to see Jesus Himself. I knew if I backed away from this, I would just be playing religious games for the rest of my life.

Humility

“15 For thus says the high and lofty One, He Who inhabits eternity, Whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, but with him also who is of a thoroughly penitent and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and to revive the heart of the thoroughly penitent, bruised with sorrow for sin.” Isaiah 57:15

The Lord continually reiterates the importance of humility if we want to experience Him. Humility attracts the presence of the Holy Spirit but pride attracts demonic interference. The Lord hates pride because it was that spark of pride in Lucifer’s heart, which caused him rebel against God and become Satan. Pride is a very dangerous thing.

Purity

We live two lives, the inner life, which is eternal, and the physical life, which will pass away.

We live in two worlds, the physical world and the spirit world. We receive input from the physical world through our bodies and our five senses. We receive input from the spirit realm through our hearts or spirits. Our spirits and our senses communicate the information they receive from both worlds to our minds, of which our imagination is a part. Your mind, with its reasoning ability and imagination is the bridge between the physical world and the spirit realm.

The imagination is like a mirror that reflects images that are projected onto it. It can receive images from the physical world or the spirit world. Yonggi Chow said, *“The dreams and visions are the language of the Holy Spirit.”* Mark Virkler said, *“The voice of God sounds like a flow of spontaneous thoughts.”*

“23 let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.” Ephesians 4:23

The Lord wants to project His words and pictures onto our imaginations or minds, but in order for Him to do that, our minds need to be renewed. In other words we need to learn to think like He thinks. It is much easier for God to communicate His thoughts to us when our thoughts are in agreement with His thoughts. In order for this to happen, He has given us His word to enable us to align our minds with His way of thinking. We need to let go of all thoughts and attitudes that are contrary to His way of thinking.

“1 In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . 14 So the Word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.” John 1:1,14

Jesus Himself is the Word, and if we want to be able to hear His voice in our hearts we need to be **living in obedience and submission to everything He has already said to us through His written Word**. We also need to be living in submission to those to whom He has delegated His authority to watch over us in the local Body of Christ, or the church that He has placed us in.

“17 Obey your spiritual leaders and submit to them (continually recognizing their authority over you,) for they are constantly keeping watch over your souls and guarding your spiritual welfare, as men who will have to render an account of their trust.” Hebrews 13:17

If we want to learn to accurately recognize the voice of Jesus in our hearts, we need to know His Word, which is another way that He has revealed Himself to us. His words in our hearts will always line up with His written Word because they are different expressions of the same Person. If the words we in our hearts do not line up with what is written in the Word, we know we have made a mistake. The good thing about mistakes is that they can be rectified and we can move on.

Obedience

*“21 The person who has My commands and keeps them is the one who really loves Me; and whoever really loves me will be loved by My father, and I too will love him and will **show (reveal, manifest) Myself to him. (I will let Myself be clearly seen by him and make Myself real to him.)*** John 14:21

*“7 Be not wise in your own eyes; reverently **fear** and worship the Lord and turn entirely away from evil.”* Proverbs 3:7

*“14 The secret of the sweet, satisfying companionship of the Lord have they who **fear** (revere and worship) Him,”* Psalm 25:14

A person who has really had a personal encounter with Jesus and experienced His beauty and magnificence and graciousness, will be afraid to do anything sinful that would grieve or offend Him. The thought of losing that communion with the Lord would be to horrible to contemplate!

Faith

*“17 For I always pray to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation (of insight into mysteries and secrets) in the deep and intimate) knowledge of Him. 18 **By having the eyes of your heart flooded with light**, so that you can know and understand the hope to which He has called you, and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints.”* Ephesians 1:17-18

The Lord taught me an amazing revelation. **“If you can see it, you can have it!”** In other words, if you can perceive and understand what God has for you, you can have it, but you have to take it by faith. That is why Ephesians 1:17-18 is so important if we want to receive all that God has for us. The promises in God’s Word reveal to us what God wants to give us. If we can **see** what God is promising us in His Word, we can take it by faith!

*“And so, dear brothers and sisters, **we can boldly enter Heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus**. 20 By His death, **Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through** the curtain into the Most Holy Place. 21 *And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God’s house,* 22 **let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting Him.** For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ’s blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.” Hebrews 10:19-22*

More than anything, I want to enter Heaven’s Most Holy and the scripture has made it clear that I can. **It is not my own righteousness or goodness that gives me access, but the blood of Jesus, which paid for my sin and made me clean and pure.**

Persistence

“7 Keep on asking and it will be given you; keep on seeking and you will find; keep on knocking (reverently) and the door will be opened to you.” Matthew 7:7

*“40 And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and He said to Peter, **What Are you so utterly unable to stay awake and keep watch with Me for one hour?**” Matthew 26:40*

If we really want to experience what it is to have an intimate relationship with God, seeking Him needs to become not just something we do, but a lifestyle. Every day we have to make spending time with Him a priority. In the beginning, it takes discipline, but as we grow in it, it becomes more and more of a pleasure.

Joy

*“23 And He said to all, **If any person wills to come after Me, let him deny himself (disown himself, forget, lose sight of himself and his own interests, refuse and give up himself) and take up his cross daily and follow Me.**” Luke 9:23*

We cannot escape the fact that we have to die to ourselves. However, we can choose whether we die a slow and torturous death or a sweet and pleasant death. Jesus loves us and He does not want us to suffer. If we are stubborn and rebellious and refuse to surrender to Him, we will perpetuate our own suffering. If we willingly surrender ourselves to Him, it is a beautiful death.

This is the key:

“Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He will give you the desires and secret petitions of your heart.” Psalm 37:4

As we discover the beauty of who He really is, the desire for Him and for His presence becomes the all-consuming passion of our lives, and our desire for trivial selfish things dissipates. Eventually, our desires dissolve into His, and His desires become our desires. Then we are free from the cares and distractions of the world! When we have really seen the Lord of Glory and heard Him share His heart with us, it is not difficult lay down the petty things that used to seem important to us, in order to give ourselves to what Jesus wants us to do. Because we love Him, we really want to obey Him and do what pleases Him.

Love

“4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. 5 It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. 8 . . . love will last forever!” 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Jesus is love. If you want to know what kind of personality Jesus has, just replace the word “**Love**” in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 with the word “**Jesus**.”

There are “wavelengths” or “atmospheres” in the spirit realm. If you want to perceive Jesus, you have to be on the same spiritual wavelength or in the same spiritual atmosphere as He is or you will not be able to pick up what He is saying to you or showing you. Romans 5:5 says, “*God’s love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us.*” So we are filled with the Love of Jesus and can perceive what He is saying to us as long as we do not give space in our hearts for any attitude that is in opposition to the loving attitude of Jesus. If we have pride, jealousy, hostility or unforgiveness in our hearts, this will interfere with our spiritual receptors and we will not be able to easily perceive the presence of Jesus. In other words we will pick up a distorted picture of Jesus. If the Holy Spirit highlights anything in our hearts that is contrary to the attitude of Jesus, as shown in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, we need to repent of it and let it go.

“6 No one who abides in Him (who lives and remains in communion with and in obedience to Him deliberately, knowingly and habitually) commits sin. No one who habitually sins has either seen or known Him (recognized, perceived, or understood Him, or has had an experiential acquaintance with Him). 1John 3:6

Peace

“Be still, and know that I am God” Psalm 46:10

Our thoughts and emotions need to be calm and peaceful if we want to perceive what Jesus is saying from our hearts. The mirror of our imagination, onto which the Lord projects His words and pictures, can be likened to the reflection of a lake. If the waters of that lake are agitated and disturbed by the storms of life, it is impossible to see a clear reflection on the lake. When the waters calm down and become peaceful, a clear picture of what the Lord is saying becomes visible.

A good way to become calm and peaceful is to take our internal focus off our problems and focus on Jesus with a thankful attitude. Praising Jesus for who He is in spite of what we are going through will open for us a way into the Heavenly places and into the tangible presence of God.

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and a thank offering and into His courts with praise.” Psalm 100:4

The gates and courts of the Lord in Psalm 100 are not beautiful metaphors; they are real places in the spirit realm.

Becoming Like Jesus

“18 And all of us, as with unveiled face, because we continued to behold as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another;”
2 Corinthians 3:18

As we spend time in the presence of Jesus and we allow Him to express Himself to us in a real way, His love will flow into our lives and transform us into His likeness. As we walk in His love, His anointing will flow out of us and bring healing, blessing and restoration, and will transform the lives of people around us.

The same anointing of the Holy Spirit who enabled us to see Jesus, will flow through us and reveal Jesus to those around us who have not yet received a revelation of who He is. And so we become agents through which the Lord expresses and reveals Himself to other people who have not received a saving revelation of who He is.

“18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for He has anointed me to bring God News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, 19 and that the time of the Lord’s favor has come.”

Luke 4:18