

E. ENGAGING HEAVEN: SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS & SPIRITUAL WORDS

Spiritual vision-- The first thing that the prophets were occupied with, and which has its fulfillment in an inward way in the members of Christ in this dispensation, is spiritual vision. Everything in the purpose of God, for its fulfillment and for our attainment unto it, rests firstly upon this-- that the Holy Spirit has become to us the Spirit of Revelation, And has made us to see, in its grand outline, what God is after. The details are filled in as we go on. T Austin Sparks.

- i. Israel historically missed the time of their visitation because they lacked, 'eyes that see and ears that hear'. That issue has likewise hindered every successive generation from entering into the fullness of Gods purpose for them. The following scripture reveals the spirit of revelation as being the remedy for that condition.

**“Things which eye has not see and ear has not heard, and which have not entered into the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him. For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.”
(1Cor. 2:9-10)**

- ii. This verse speaks of the spirit of revelation as bringing forth the knowledge of mysteries. It enlightens our eyes to see and our ears to hear.
- iii. Ephesians 1:17 also tells us that the Spirit of revelation is required to know God experientially which is to do with a real living relationship.

Ephesians 1:17-19-that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened,

1. so that you will know what is the hope of His calling,
2. what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
3. and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

1 Corinthians 2:12—Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God.

- v. We must be revelatory to realize our destiny. To miss our destiny is much more than our purpose in ministry but even more importantly, the fullness of intimacy that is available.

2 Timothy 1:9—Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

- Saved= sozo – To save, to deliver or protect (literally or figuratively): to heal, preserve, to do well, to make whole. Sozo is sometimes used of "healing" or "restoration to health; Translated HEAL, PRESERVE, SAVE, WHOLE.
- Called= kaleo – To call," often means "to bid," or to invite.
- Holy= hagios – Sacred, Divine, pure, morally blameless or, consecrated.
- Calling= Klesis – Destiny, vocation.

vi. The Spirit of revelation is required to know God, which is our highest calling and the center of our purpose.

The first step in our quest for intimacy with the Lord is getting to know Him – who He is, what He does, how He thinks, and what He desires. Even though God is invisible and inaudible to our physical senses, a close relationship with Him is cultivated the same way human friendships are – through time spent together, communication, vulnerability, and shared interests. Dr. Charles Stanley

vii. It is also necessary in order to clearly see and recognize the present seasons and times we are living in which involves the issues of our immediate and present destiny. Revelation is essential in order to cooperate with the unfolding of heavens blueprint in this hour.

Isaiah 30:20-21 – Although the Lord has given you bread of privation and water of oppression, He, your Teacher will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will behold your Teacher. Your ears will hear a word behind you, " This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

Teacher – Yarah means to instruct, direct, teach; to point, shoot, aim, throw, cast in a straight manner. The primary meaning of "yarah" is to "to shoot straight," or "to direct the flow" of something. Hence a derivative of this word is "yoreh" meaning "rain.". "Moreh" is another derivative and means "teacher," one who aims and throws his directives in a straight way, one who points out the truth. The most important Bible word derived from "yarah" is Torah, which refers to the law. Although Torah is often translated as "law," its meaning is "instruction, teaching." The law of Moses is actually the instruction Moses received from God for Israel.

viii. What the spirit of revelation reveals can sometimes be extra biblical knowledge, which is always consistent with the Logos word of God though not mentioned explicitly within it. This has precedence as

Jesus said that He had many more things to say that would be disclosed by the Spirit of Truth. (John 16:12-13)

"I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

Spiritual Thoughts Expressed

iv. We have access to the thoughts of God and the tangible spiritual experience of His emotions by the spirit of revelation.

1 Corinthians 2:12-13 – Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

There is power in the Spoken Word issued from the atmosphere of the anointing in agreement with God's plans and purposes.

Joshua 10:12-14 – Then Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel,

**"O sun, stand still at Gibeon,
And O moon in the valley of Aijalon."**

**13 So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped,
Until the nation avenged themselves of their enemies.**

Is it not written in the book of Jashar? And the sun stopped in the middle of the sky and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. 14 There was no day like that before it or after it, when the Lord listened to the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel.

Albert Einstein said *"I want to know how God created this world. I am not interested in this or that phenomenon, in the spectrum of this or that element. I want to know His thoughts; the rest are details."*

Jeremiah 29:11-For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11-For I have known the thoughts that I am thinking towards you - an affirmation of Jehovah; thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give to you posterity and hope. YLT

1. A "word" is a thought that has been given expression. God's attributes, nature and thoughts are addressed to us in the Word (Logos) of God. The Logos is identified with the will of God, or with the Ideas that are in the mind of God.
2. The Lord's incarnation is accordingly understood as the outward expression of these divine attributes. The Bible is the divinely inspired, inerrant Word (Logos) of God. However, it takes the Rhema of God to properly appropriate the written Word.

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is {a matter} of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. -2 Peter 1:20-21

3. Rhema is a "Word" *considered* or given articulation. It is the divine appropriation of the written "word". Simply put, it is revelatory insight with practical understanding that has been given expression. It is the power of inspiration in understanding the written "word" in perfect order.

But what does it say? "THE WORD (RHEMA) IS NEAR YOU, in your mouth and in your heart"-- that is, the word (Rhema) of faith which we are preaching --Romans 10:8

4. To be a reflection of His nature and attributes we must be “grounded” in the revelation of the Word as given by the Holy Spirit. Prophetic utterances came by men of old who were moved upon by the Holy Spirit. God spoke through them. Far too often, customary understanding of the Scriptures has been delivered through the doctrines and precepts of men taught as truth.

For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. -Romans 10:3)

Charles Spurgeon once spoke of the “Logos” saying, “So, brethren, especially is it with the Incarnate Word. We are in the habit of calling the Bible “the Word of God. I suppose that is accurate enough...of this incarnate Word, this everlasting Logos, we may say that he standeth for ever. Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever.”

5. The Bible is not simply the Word of God; it is the revelation of Jesus Christ. All revelation from heaven is more precious than fine gold. Matthew 4:4 declares,

"MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD (Rhema) THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD." --Matt 4:4)

6. Paul once announced that he did not shun to declare the whole counsel of God in his preaching of the gospel. We need the “whole counsel” of God to enter the Most Holy place and union with Him. To deny any portion of the sacred scriptures is to embrace unbelief, the sin that kept the children of Israel from entering the promise land after their deliverance from Egypt.
7. In Him is the Bread of Life which He freely imparts to those who come to him unbridled and hungry for His Presence. However, we cannot come to Him cloaked in worldly conformity but clothed in His righteousness bearing His image and likeness. We are sanctified in Truth and His Word is Truth. (John 17:17)

F. TWO WAYS REVELATION CAN COME:

- i. Directly- this involves the Holy Spirit Himself in His manifold expressions including dreams, visions, trances, heavenly encounters, and the audible or still small voice of God.
- ii. Through messengers- much can be gained by weighing the words of Gods messengers. These are those with whom God has shared His heart and mind with to give a clear articulation of the present season and timely truths.

G. God's Messengers and the Spirit of Revelation

- i. The term reformation is to do with major shifts and changes of power bases and fundamental issues of social and religious structures. In the political arena this type of change is referred to as revolution, in the religious arena it is called reformation. In both cases they are characterized by violent and disruptive transition.
- iii. In the early 1500's a lowly monk by the name of Martin Luther was graced with a spirit of revelation in the midst of his simple devotion of studying the scriptures. In articulating the revelatory knowledge into 95 thesis and posting them on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, he set into motion a great reformation of the Church after a nearly 1,200 year decline.
- iv. He is one of the greatest examples of the power of a true heavenly messenger; one who gives articulation to the mysteries revealed by the Spirit of Revelation.
- v. There are many biblical and historical examples of Gods champions of reformation, but we need to understand that the spirit of revelation is

being poured out in an unprecedented way today, which means that the greatest movements of reformation are yet to be seen.

vi. As fuller understanding and kingdom knowledge is released, the expression of Christianity and the way it is viewed by the world will be changed radically. Things will look far different than they presently do when this has taken place.

v. The prophet Daniel studied historical revelation and by reading the book of

the prophet Jeremiah and acquiring understanding, was enabled to position himself and many in his generation in a place to transition with the purpose of God. Gaining an understanding of our heritage will likewise be beneficial to us.

vi. In coming to an understanding of the messages, messengers, and the patterns of God's dealing with His people, we will be aided in posturing ourselves in the most fully effective and co-operative way possible.