

A Matter of Perception (The Second Sight of Faith)

Perception: act or faculty of perceiving, or apprehending by means of the senses or of the mind; cognition; understanding.

“What is behind your eyes holds more power than what is in front of them.” - Gary Zukav

Our perception is colored by how we see God not with our eyes but with our heart, not with sight but with Faith. Our perception is shaped by our Faith and Trust in God. What reality do you see my friend when you look at the world? Do you have Faith or fear? Do you perceive the Reality of God or the false reality of the evil one?

Another Spirit- The Second Sight of Faith

“The heart has eyes which the brain knows nothing of.” - Charles H. Perkhurst

Numbers 13:1-2 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, **2**Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them.

Numbers 13:17-33 And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said unto them, Get you up this *way* southward, and go up into the mountain: **18**And see the land, what it *is*; and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they *be* strong or weak, few or many; **19**And what the land *is* that they dwell in, whether it *be* good or bad; and what cities *they be* that they dwell in, whether in tents, or in strong holds; **20**And what the land *is*, whether it *be* fat or lean, whether there be wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land. Now the time *was* the time of the firstripe grapes. **21** So they went up, and searched the land from the wilderness of Zin unto Rehob, as men come to Hamath.

22And they ascended by the south, and came unto Hebron; where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the children of Anak, *were*. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) **23**And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and *they brought* of the pomegranates, and of the figs. **24**The place was called the brook Eshcol, because of the cluster of grapes which the children of Israel cut down from thence. **25** And they returned from searching of the land after forty days.

26And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land. **27**And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this *is* the fruit of it. **28**Nevertheless the people *be* strong that dwell in the land, and the cities *are* walled, *and* very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. **29**The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.

30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. **31**But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they *are* stronger than we.**32**And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, *is* a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it *are* men of a great stature.**33**And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, *which come* of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

A group of twelve chosen men go up to search the land. They see and encounter the same things; they observe the same people and land. Yet they perceive it differently and arrive at two very different conclusions. Caleb saw a land to be conquered as the Lord had promised and the others only saw giants and great walled cities to much to overcome. Caleb perception was one of Faith; the others perception was one of fear. Caleb had the second sight of Faith.

Numbers 14:22-24 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; 23 Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it: 24 But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

Numbers 14:37-38 Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD. 38 But Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, *which were* of the men that went to search the land, lived *still*.

Caleb had another spirit and the gift of the second sight of Faith; and because of that he believed and trusted God; Caleb saw a land to be conquered; he had already witnessed the miracles of God. His Faith was in God and his perception was based upon the reality of God and His Faithfulness. The others believed the world too much and their perception was one of fear. They looked to the obstacles and not to God. What do you see my friend? Is your perception one of Faith or fear? Caleb and Joshua believed in God and they were to see the Promised Land; the others believed in the world and they would not; beloved it is the same today. Those that believe and accept God will see heaven and those that refuse His salvation will not. Believe God. Do you possess the second sight of Faith?

A fool sees not the same tree that a wise man sees.” -William Blake

That They May See- The Second Sight of Faith

II Kings 6:8-17 8 Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place *shall be* my camp.9 And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down.10 And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice.11 Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us *is* for the king of Israel?

12 And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that *is* in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber 13 And he said, Go and spy where he *is*, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, *he is* in Dothan.14 Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.15 And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them.17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

Brothers and Sisters let us open our eyes and see! Just as the spy's were sent out by Moses to search out the land we as the saved of God are sent out into the world to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to reach the lost; to take the land so to speak for Jesus Christ. In doing so we will be opposed as was Elisha. We must earnestly contend for the Faith (Jude 1:3). The spiritual warfare of the last days is ever increasing and the True Church must be prepared. We must focus not on the enemy but focus of the LORD Jesus our rock and the power to do His will. This requires the second sight of Faith. Do you see?

Eyes that See; Ears that Hear, but a Spirit that's Blind

“None so deaf as those that will not hear. None so blind as those that will not see.” -Matthew Henry

2 Kings 6:18-23 And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha19 And Elisha said unto them, This *is* not the way, neither *is* this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek. But he led them to Samaria.20 And it came to pass, when they were come

into Samaria, that Elisha said, LORD, open the eyes of these *men*, that they may see. And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, *they were* in the midst of Samaria.

21 And the king of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them, My father, shall I smite *them*? shall I smite *them*? 22 And he answered, Thou shalt not smite *them*: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master 23 And he prepared great provision for them: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel.

God granted Elisha's prayer and He blinded the hearts of the Syrians and there perception of reality. Their eyes could still see, but the blindness of their hearts led them. Their hearts were far from God and His people and they were led by their false perception of the reality around them into the very capital of the ones they came to destroy. Yet instead of they themselves being destroyed they were given provision and sent away and they came no more into the land of Israel. This kindness bore fruit and instead of the enemy going away vengeful they left in peace. *Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;*

Today through the belief in the shed blood and salvation of Jesus Christ; God can blind the hearts of those with the second sight of Faith to the vain glory and false riches of this world; and just like the Syrians who found themselves in Samara the capital of Israel whom they sought to destroy; and yet were they not harmed but given provisions; God can give you the provisions you need in this world ruled by the prince of the power of the air (the devil, Eph. 2:2) which is salvation through Jesus Christ and a change of perception only available through the second sight of Faith.

Prison or Pulpit

"What you see and hear depends a good deal on where you are standing; it also depends on what sort of person you are."
C.S. Lewis

(Imprisoned in Philippi)

Act 16:25-34 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. 26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. 27 And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. 28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, 30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. 32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. 34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

Paul and Silas in prison and they were praying and singing. Truly was Paul in chains with the other prisoners or were the other prisoners in chains with Paul? Paul and Silas saw not their imprisonment as a time of self-pity but rather prayed and sang praises to God. Their perception was not of being bound in prison but as an opportunity to witness the Gospel to those around them. Take note beloved Paul didn't escape even when he had the chance; Paul was not concerned with earthly chains but with the furtherance of the Gospel and as result the jailor and his family came to know Christ.

What is your witness in times of trouble? Do you allow the chains of sin, trials or tribulations bind you and hold you in prison? What is your witness to those around you? Do you live by Faith in freedom or are you bound in fear? Let us not trod through this world as if imprisoned by it; but rather lets us be in fervent prayer, singing praises and let the world be bound to us as we share the Gospel. It's a matter of perception and the second sight of Faith.

"The heart has eyes which the brain knows nothing of." - Charles H. Perkhurst

Philippians 1:12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; 13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;

2Timothy 2:9 Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

Paul's perception of his bonds was not of chains to hold him back; but was rather to the furtherance of the Gospel. His freedom was in Christ and not in the world. Where is your freedom my friend? It's a matter of perception.

(Imprisoned in Rome)

Act 28:16 And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard: but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him.

Act 28:30-31 And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, ³¹Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

Beloved was Paul chained to the Roman soldier or perhaps the Roman soldier was chained to Paul? It's a matter of perception, but know this the Roman soldier heard the preaching of the Kingdom of God. Was the Roman soldier chained to Paul or to the gospel? We will have our answer in heaven. But, you my friend what are you chained to, are you chained to the Gospel and the freedom of Faith; or are you chained to the world, Faith or fear? It's a matter of perception.

Suffering in Joy

"What we see depends mainly on what we look for." -John Lubbock

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

My friend what is your perception of the cross? Do you simply see the cross; as a symbol of death or perhaps you see the doorway to heaven. What you see will depend on your Faith. I'm glad Jesus saw the cross the way He did; for he saw the joy and not the suffering, He despised the shame and didn't let it stop Him until "It is finished" He endured with joy to save all who will believe. What is the cross to you? How do you see it? Does it bring you Faith or fear?

Perception can be defined *as the way you think about or understand someone or something. It is also what you understand or interpret from your five senses – touch, sight, sound, smell, and taste.* Beloved there is more to God than what you can perceive with your five senses. Do you live your life with a worldly perception or a heavenly perception? How you see the world and your place in it makes all the difference in how you will live your life and where you will spend eternity. Where is your home? What is the meaning of life? Do you live in Faith or fear? Do you have the second sight of Faith?

Remember those that have accepted Jesus haven't been given a spirit of fear; but perceive the world as it really is; a temporary home that we're just passing through and the reality is that our Faith and Hope is not in this present world but in the LORD Jesus Christ and our home is in eternity in Heaven. We who are saved should not live in fear, but in power and love and this requires the second sight of Faith.

2Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Beloved I perceive and am persuaded that there is more to this life and something greater than this present world; my heart has told me so. It's a matter of perception through the second sight of Faith.

2Corinthians 5:1-7 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: ³If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. ⁴For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. ⁵Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. ⁶Therefore we are

always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: 7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight :)

JESUS SAVES –To God be the Glory

R.E.G.