

Things of the Spirit - Revelation

Can you think of a time when you were waiting for something you be revealed?

- Maybe it was some kind of award that you were up for.
- Or whether or not you got a job or a promotion.
- Maybe it was if someone would go on a date with you.
- Or it could have been what grade you earned on a test or quiz.

Some revelation is exciting, some is worrisome. Revelation can sometimes be a surprise or sometimes it's something you know of and have been waiting for. It can many times be predicted but other times you have no clue how it will turn out....

When the revelation comes there can be an number of feelings and reactions based on the expectation vs the reality of what is revealed. But once it's revealed, there is no more guessing, no more anticipation, whether it's what you expected or not....at least now you know! Revelation is good.

As we look at the "Things of the Spirit", one of the greatest things of the Spirit is - REVELATION!

The issue with revelation is that men have claimed revelation from God to do the work of the devil. Cults form and begin with "revelation". False religions begin with "revelation".

Mormonism began with Joseph Smith claiming an angel revealed some ancient plates that revealed the real truths of God. They claim the book of Mormon is the inspired word of God, more complete and perfect than any other even though their founder Joseph Smith later taught doctrines contrary to his own book.

Jehovah's Witnesses began by taking some of the Adventist "revelations" like Christ's second coming being in 1874 and when that didn't happen they claimed He came invisibly. A young man named Charles Taze Russell believed this and they even twisted some scripture to support it, this man went on to start the Watch Tower publications teaching these false doctrines and revelations as though they came from God.

Many cults begin with some kinds of "new revelation". Some guy "hears from God" and it's something new and improved that since it's more recent, it's of higher authority than the bible.

If you ever hear something like that.....STAND AGAINST IT!

There are people out there still today deceiving people into believing these false revelations and doctrines. They claim to be and may even appear to be Christians but they are deceivers.....

2 Corinthians 11:12-14 (NKJV)

But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast. 13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

How do you know?

Galatians 1:8-9 (NKJV)

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

You need to know that God does speak to us in various ways. (I may even do a series on that this year) I believe that we may even have angelic visitations. Even Jesus can appear in dreams and visions. But no matter the being or the form, if it is from God.....it WILL NOT to any degree, or for any reason, disagree with the scriptures which we call the bible!

The bible is truth. It is the inspired Word of God. The writers wrote it under the influence of the Holy Spirit and this is truth. It does not go out of date, out of style, there are no errors in it, therefore we do not need "new revelation" that has more authority than God's Word.

Any and all revelation or "enlightenment" that someone claims to receive may be from God if it aligns with His Word but certainly is not God if it does not align with His Word.

John 16:13 (NKJV)

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth so he reveals TRUTH.....THIS is TRUTH.

I'm sure that for most of us here, you have heard some things from the bible, maybe even read them, but you just didn't buy it. Maybe you even wanted to but you didn't understand it. There are probably things you STILL don't understand. I find that the more I learn the less I know....there is so much to the Word of God.

One of the most important things of the Spirit is revelation....revelation of truth....God's Word.

1 Corinthians 2:10-13 (NKJV)

But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

Church.....we need Holy Spirit revelation! There is a mighty difference between knowledge and revelation. We can all know...even memorize the words of the bible. We can know who Jesus is, what He has done, and could even recite it to others. But knowledge only gets you so far....

You need revelation....

To reveal means to remove the cover from. It's like something had a lid on it but the lid has been removed.

See for God's Word to go past the head to the heart, we need revelation. We need the cover removed from it. That's a job of the Holy Spirit.

“But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.”

Revealed what? The hidden wisdom. In the previous verses Paul said that the leaders of that time killed Jesus because they did not know.

They did not have that revelation. They knew the scriptures. They knew what God promised. It was all in the head.....it was all natural but they lacked the supernatural. Revelation by the Spirit.

Knowledge of the things of God is more of a spiritual thing than intellectual!

It doesn't really matter how smart you are. Actually, the smarter you are, the more difficult you may find it to gain Spiritual revelation. Some of the most brilliant minds are atheists, it's not because they are smarter than us and they know truth that we don't, it's that they think they are smarter than God!

They rely sooo much on their intellect and think so rationally that they think almost entirely carnally, worldly....and they don't let the Spirit reveal truth to them because everything has to make perfect sense.

The Spirit searches all things, the deep things of God! Things that you can't see unless He takes the cover off for you.

It's not that this is reserved for a select group of Christians, it's for any and every believer. YOU can know the deep things of God. You can have this spiritual understanding that goes way beyond reading words on a page and instead radically transforms your soul!

Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave so that you could know Him! Eternal life is not just heaven but eternal life is knowing Jesus HERE and NOW!

Do you want to know the deep things of God?
No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God!

It doesn't matter how well someone knows you, they don't know you better than you do. Even in a marriage. I can predict what Kristi would think or say. Often times one of us will say something and the other one will have been thinking it. It seems like they know you better than you know yourself!

But have you ever had someone try to tell you what you meant? Or what you are thinking?
And you are like, "NO! That's not what I meant".

Sometimes we are this way with God. We think He means X and the Spirit is yelling 'NO! That's not what I meant'. We think we know better but no one knows the things of God better than the Holy Spirit!

We must be constantly growing and seeking revelation. "Holy Spirit show me more, teach me more of Your truths"

A group of Christians gathered in a church auditorium for an evening Bible Study. Some were talking while waiting for the study to begin. One man began to share with the leader about a church breakfast he'd attended. A well-known Bible scholar had been invited to speak at the breakfast. During the course of his remarks the scholar stated that he had recently gained new insight into a verse of Scripture that had puzzled him for years. "When I heard this," the man said to the Bible Study leader, "I thought to myself, 'If this scholar who has written commentaries and books and who has studied the Bible for years is just now understanding a verse of Scripture, how can I, an ordinary church member, understand the truth?'"

"You know," replied the leader, "rather than being discouraged by the scholar's remarks, I'm encouraged. It just goes to show that understanding God's truth doesn't depend on our intellectual ability or number of theological degrees earned. Rather, God's truth is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit."

There is always more to be had in Christ! No matter how far you have come, there's always more!

Do you ask for it? Do you pray for the Spirit to reveal the secrets of God to you? He can....and will!

It's the longing of your heart....to know Jesus more. And the only way that happens is by the Spirit revealing more of Him to you. It's not something that you just do, it's not just something that you study. You do have a responsibility but again....this is a spiritual thing!

1 Corinthians 2:14-16 (NKJV)

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. 16 For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Do you have the mind of Christ? Has your mind been renewed like we're told in Romans?

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

This world is full of "natural men" those who walk according to the ways of this world. Those who live based on what they feel and want. Those who are socially and politically correct.

But we are called to something higher. That's right, higher....we are not to conform to the standard that man has set but we are to be transformed by the renewing of our mind.....by Spirit revelation.

We are spiritual people. We live by faith not by sight. That means we believe things that don't make sense to man....things that have been revealed by the Holy Spirit!

How else can you be saved? Do don't you have to believe that Jesus came from heaven, was born as a baby, lived a sinless live, died on a cross, rose from the dead, ascended to heaven, sent us the Holy Spirit, and is one day coming back for His church (which by the way is His bride)?????

Those things are not received by the natural man....they are foolishness to him....because they don't make sense. They take spiritual revelation or they can't be received!

It's the Holy Spirit that even reveals to you that you are a sinner!

This is why for most people, you can't evangelize by walking up and saying "you are a sinner and you need Jesus".....that's offensive. Who in the world wants to be told something like that? They don't even believe that's true so why would they receive it?

Only if it's revealed by the Spirit! It's the Spirit that opens our eyes to the things of God, the elementary things, all the way to the deep things.

Ephesians 1:17-18a (NKJV)

that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened

In areas where you have been in the dark.....the Holy Spirit can shine and light it up!

In areas where you were blinded.....you can receive your sight for the first time!

How do you need God to open your eyes today? What do you need revealed to you?

- You are loved
- God's presence is here
- There is hope for your situation
- Jesus is at work
- It's not too late
- He can heal you
- He will give you the words to speak
- He's not done with you yet.....
- He has a plan!

May we become men and women who are looking for the Spirit to be the Revealer in our lives!