

Outline

- I. John 4:24 says, *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”*
 - A. God moves in the spirit realm before something manifests in the physical realm; there's a process.
 - B. From the time God moves and commands, there are things that have to take place, and sometimes that takes time.
 - C. In Daniel 9, God spoke and it took about three minutes for the answer (Gabriel) to show up (Dan. 9:20-23).
 - D. Then in chapter 10, God spoke and it took three weeks for Daniel to receive the answer (Dan. 10:12-14).
 - E. God wasn't the variable in these two instances; a demonic power withstood God's power the second time.
 - F. When you pray, there may be a period of time in between your “amen” and when the answer shows up.
 - G. Demonic powers or your doubt could be delaying your answer, or sometimes even other people are involved in answers to prayers.
 - H. You can't microwave your ministry.
 - I. Mark 4:28 says, *“For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.”*
 - J. There's a growth process in the things of the Lord, but some people just ignore this.
 - K. They pray, and if they don't see immediate results, they think, *Well, God, You didn't answer my prayer*, and they move into unbelief.
- II. You have to get to a place where you're practicing Mark 11:24: *“What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”*
 - A. For instance, let's say that you have a pain in your body.

- B. You say, “God, I pray and believe that I am healed,” but you still feel pain.
- C. Many people will think, *Well, God didn’t do anything.*
- D. That’s because they don’t understand that there are things taking place in the spirit realm.
- E. Jesus spoke to a fig tree, cursing it and saying, “*No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever*” (Mark 11:14).
- F. If someone had gone up and looked at that fig tree immediately, it wouldn’t have reflected that a single thing happened.
- G. What would have happened if Jesus had thought, *Well, I cursed the fig tree and it still looks fine; the leaves are still good?*
- H. If He had gotten into unbelief, it would have stopped the power of God.
- I. But of course, Jesus spoke and knew His words would be accomplished, even though it didn’t look like it was true.
- J. It just took a brief period of time for what had happened below the surface, out of sight, to become manifest in those physical leaves.
- K. You have to believe that you receive at that exact moment and that God has touched your body.
- L. Whether you still have pain, whether you look better, whether you feel better—anything—you just believe, saying, “I’ve got it right now, and it’s manifesting because I’ve got it. It’s a done deal!”

III. Many people are what the Bible calls *carnal*.

- A. We often think of being carnal as being ungodly, demonic, and terrible, but it simply means to be of the flesh or dominated by the senses.
- B. So, carnal doesn’t always refer to some terrible, ungodly God hater.
- C. A person could love the Lord with their whole heart and still be carnal if they are controlled by their physical senses, if they just can’t believe that anything exists that they can’t see, taste, hear, smell, or feel.
- D. Carnal-mindedness equals death:

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For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Romans 8:6

- E. It doesn't tend toward death, it's not a leading cause of death, and it doesn't produce death in some people—carnal-mindedness *is* death.
- IV. People don't have to be present when you sow seed in your garden in order for them to know what you've planted.
- A. Just let them be there when something sprouts up.
 - B. They will be able to tell what you planted because it will be there growing and bearing fruit.
 - C. When people list all of the negative things they have growing in their lives, others can tell what they *haven't* been doing:
 - 1. They haven't been seeing who they are in Christ.
 - 2. They haven't taken their authority.
 - 3. They don't believe that it's already been done.
 - 4. They beg God out of desperation to "please move," but they don't believe that He's already given them power.
 - 5. They aren't standing their ground and resisting the devil!
- V. If you're being dominated and controlled by the devil, you haven't resisted him:

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:7

- A. The word *resist* means to actively fight against.
- B. You may have begged for help; you may be pitiful and desire help, but you haven't taken your authority in Christ and fought against Satan in the power and name of the Lord.
- C. You haven't taken Ephesians 1:19-20 and said, "I've got the same power

living on the inside of me that raised Jesus Christ from the dead.”

- VI. God's eyes are going to and fro throughout the whole earth just looking for somebody to bless (2 Chr. 16:9).
- A. He wants to bless us more than we want to be blessed, but we're carnally minded, dominated by sense knowledge.
 - B. What's normal for a born-again believer, according to the Word, is to walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7).
 - C. We need to get to where what God says to us is more real than what our bodies say, what the doctor says, what the banker says, what the people on the news say, or what the government says.
 - D. We need to get to where God's Word is the absolute, final authority, and if anyone or anything opposes it, they're wrong.
- VII. It's easy to say God's Word is first place when reading an inspirational book; but if you go to work and people start ragging on you, talking bad about everything that stands for good, and countering everything moral, would you fold like a two-dollar suitcase?
- A. Or would you stand up and speak the truth in love?
 - B. Many Christians need to rise to their feet and get to where they believe, act on, and speak the Word of God.
 - C. It ought to be the unbelievers who feel embarrassed instead of Christians.
 - D. Instead of you feeling weird, the people who don't believe in God ought to feel weird.
 - E. Psalm 14:1 and 53:1 say the same thing: *“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.”*
- VIII. If you say, “I just don't believe anything that I can't see, taste, hear, smell, or feel,” then all that means is that you aren't very smart.
- A. There are radio and television signals right there in the room where you are, but you can't see them.

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- B. If you had a radio or television set, and you plugged it in, turned it on, and tuned it in, you could perceive those signals.
- C. Now, when you see and hear signals is not when they started; they were already there.
- D. In the spiritual realm, there are angels right there with you; God is there, and His glory is there.
- E. The same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead is not just out in heaven someplace; it's on the inside of every born-again believer, but how do you access it?

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand.

Romans 5:2

- F. According to *Strong's Concordance*, the Greek word translated *access* here literally means "admission."
- G. The way you gain admission to the grace of God is through faith.

IX. Faith is believing that something exists beyond your carnal ability to perceive:

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:17

The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

John 6:63

- A. If you want to know what's going on in the spirit realm, you have to go to the Word of God.
- B. God's Word is a window into the spirit world.
- C. When you ask "Lord, what have You done for me?" look at His Word.
- D. When God's Word is more real to you than anything carnal, then the things that you believe will come to pass.
- E. You don't get to this place by being carnal and constantly feeding your five senses; you're going to have to spend time in the presence of the Lord; you're

going to have to renew your mind, talk to Somebody you can't *see*, listen to Somebody you can't *hear*, and learn to operate in the supernatural realm.

- F. You do need to hear the preaching of the Word on a regular basis, but eventually you're also going to have to go directly to God yourself.

- X. In the same way that what God has provided in the spirit realm has to be accessed by faith, a curse has to be accessed by faith too.
 - A. This is called *unbelief*.
 - B. Unbelief is nothing but faith in the wrong thing.
 - C. If Satan comes against you—including with a curse—you have to put faith in that in order for it come to pass in your life.
 - D. You're the one who empowers the devil.
 - E. Faith works.

Discipleship Questions

1. Before something manifests in the physical realm, God moves where (John 4:24)?

2. *Discussion question:* Other than time, what does it take for a manifestation to occur in the physical realm?

3. True or false: Since it took about three minutes for God's answer to show up in the first instance and three weeks in the second instance, God was not the variable (Dan. 9:20-23 and 10:12-14).

4. When you pray and there is a period of time in between "amen" and the answer showing up, what could be the cause?

5. There is a _____ process in the things of the Lord (Mark 4:28).

6. *Discussion question:* According to Mark 11:24, how can you believe you receive something if you can't see, taste, or feel it?

7. What does *carnal* mean?

8. True or false: You can't love God with your whole heart if you're carnal.

9. *Discussion question:* What is an example of carnal-mindedness equaling death (Rom. 8:6)?

10. When people list all of the negative things they have growing in their lives, what *haven't* they been doing?

11. If you're being dominated and controlled by the devil, you haven't done what (James 4:7)?

12. What does *resist* mean?

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13. You have to _____ your _____ in Christ and fight against Satan in the _____ and _____ of the Lord.
- A. Call / brother / night / day
 - B. Take / authority / power / name
 - C. Hold / horses / saddle / wagon
 - D. Take / sword / wrath / cruelty
 - E. Trust / feelings / mercy / kindness
14. According to 2 Chronicles 16:9, God is just _____ for somebody to bless.
15. According to 2 Corinthians 5:7, what's normal for a born-again believer?
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16. True or false: You need to get to where what God says to you is more real than what your body says, what the doctor says, what the banker says, what the people on the news say, or what the government says.
17. True or false: You need to get to where God's Word is the absolute, final authority sometimes.
18. *Discussion question:* How do you respond when someone talks bad about everything that stands for good and counters everything moral?
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19. According to Psalm 14:1 and 53:1, "*The _____ hath said in his heart, There is no God.*"
- A. Wise
 - B. Misunderstood
 - C. Well-intentioned
 - D. Intelligent
 - E. Fool

20. How do you access what you can't see (Rom. 5:2)?

21. According to *Strong's Concordance*, what does "access" mean in Romans 5:2?

22. According to Romans 10:17 and John 6:63, what is faith?

23. If you want to know what's going on in the spirit realm, you have to go where?

24. God's Word is what?

- A. A glimpse into the spirit world
- B. A collage of the spirit world
- C. A window into the spirit world
- D. A day pass into the spirit world
- E. A mirage of the spirit world

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25. *Discussion question:* What do you plan to do to make God's Word more real to you than anything carnal?

26. True or false: A curse has to be accessed by faith.

27. What is this called?

28. If Satan comes against you—including with a curse—you have to put faith in that in order for it to what?

Scriptures

JOHN 4:24

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

DANIEL 9:20-23

And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God; [21] Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. [22] And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. [23] At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

DANIEL 10:12-14

Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. [13] But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. [14] Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days.

MARK 4:28

For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.

MARK 11:24

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

MARK 11:14

And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it.

MARK 11:20

And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.

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MATTHEW 21:19

And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.

ROMANS 8:6

For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

JAMES 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

EPHESIANS 1:19-20

And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, [20] Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.

2 CHRONICLES 16:9

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

PSALM 14:1

The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

PSALM 53:1

The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good.

ROMANS 5:2

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

ROMANS 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

JOHN 6:63

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

1 PETER 2:24

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:21

For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

PROVERBS 26:2

As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.

PHILIPPIANS 2:9

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name.