CHAPTER 4
More than Meets the Eye

God designed us to look at things we cannot see and listen to sounds we cannot hear. Natural and spiritual senses enable us to perceive what the Holy Spirit is saying both on an internal and external level. Mindful of his spiritual acuity, Paul wrote:

...we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Cor 4:18 NKJ)

Our Heavenly Father exerts profound influence from behind the scenes, beneath the surface, and above the fray. As we follow, He leads us beyond business as usual. Filled with the Spirit, we peer through layers of wisdom and levels of revelation. God designed us to notice the truth as we participate in His divine perspective.

Birds, Bats, and Belugas

Birds see details that we cannot see. They observe colors in distinctive shades and dynamic hues beyond our range of view. The eyes of an owl are 100 times more sensitive to light than the average human eye. Owls have the capacity to see over one million stars under the same conditions that a human sees only 6,000.¹

Birds possess exceptional sight unique to their visual architecture. We only have about 10,000 color-sensing cones per square millimeter in our retina (each with 3 pigments). Some birds possess up to 120,000

cones per square millimeter (each with 4 or 5 pigments). Humans see colors in wavelengths of light between 400 and 700 nanometers. Birds also see colors below 400 nanometers in the ultraviolet range.

God endowed shrimp to see spectacular infrared sights invisible to the human eye. Unlike us, they polarize light simultaneously in both linear and circular patterns. The Mantis shrimp blends 12 primary colors compared to our red, green, and blue.

Other animals listen to sounds that we cannot hear. The audible range of the human ear lies between 64 and 23,000 Hertz (Hz). Dogs hear sounds between 67 and 45,000 Hz. Ferrets detect frequencies as low as 16 Hz. Bats distinguish frequencies as high as 100,000 Hz. Whales and dolphins identify frequencies of sound over 125,000 Hz.

As mortal human beings, we are oblivious to many sights and sounds experienced by the animal kingdom—but they exist nonetheless. As Paul wrote:

_There’s far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can’t see now will last forever._ (2 Cor 4:18 MSG)

In Christ, our spiritual perception exceeds that of bluebirds and beluga whales. The Bible focuses our attention on God’s priorities—His divine attributes and eternal accomplishments. We possess a profound spiritual advantage that sets us apart from shrimp, bats, dogs, and the rest of the animal kingdom. By connecting with the Holy Spirit, we discern invisible sights and perceive silent sounds. In Christ, we detect spiritual reality.

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Before we Go and Do we should Know and Be

God offers us “the Spirit of wisdom and revelation” primarily, “so that you may know him better”. Our Heavenly Father is preparing an informed bride with the capacity to connect permanently with His passionate Son. Therefore, He wants us to know Him and be who He made us to be before we go and do His will. Knowing the truth about God is essential if we are to embrace a long-term working relationship with Him.

The spirit of wisdom and revelation supersedes natural intuition and speculation. The more completely we connect with Jesus, the more evident His ways become. We live by faith not by dubious hunches or unreliable instincts. Transformed by the power of His resurrection, we follow Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life. We connect with Him as the fullness of God in bodily form. He is neither a vague approximation nor an abstract abbreviation. Jesus personifies divine reality with infallible certitude.

With reliable insight, the spirit of prophecy testifies about Jesus—not as a concept but as a living person. Jesus personifies the spirit of prophecy. With dependable foresight, He escorts us into reality. God’s word operates as a lamp unto our feet and a light for our path. Our Heavenly Father sent the Spirit of Truth to guide us into all truth. Paul prayed for enlightened knowledge in conjunction with God’s power.

that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his

4 Ephesians 1:17 NIV
5 John 14:6
6 Rev 19:10
7 Psalms 119:105
8 John 16:13-14
mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms (Eph 1:18-20 NIV)

God’s word collaborates with God’s Spirit to illuminate the future, on a need to know basis. As we embrace the purpose behind His passion, our future course becomes more apparent. As we recognize the reason for His provision, our assignments become more obvious. As we understand the importance of His promises, our direction gains clarity. Connecting with the knowledge of the truth recalibrates our moral compass and puts us in touch with the core sentiments that drive God’s heart.

As a competent counselor and devoted advocate, the Holy Spirit offers flawless advice. Our greatest need however, is not decision-making. We need so much more than guidance and direction. Jesus did not ascend on high so He could micromanage our life. Controlling our conduct does not dominate His agenda. God’s priority for communicating is not performance driven. He is more concerned with the integrity of our relationship than the appearance of our behavior.

The Spirit of wisdom and revelation dispels myths so we will avoid misconceptions about God. Unlike conventional modes of communication, the word of God clarifies reality with infallible authority. It bridges the communication gap between heart and mind with words that are alive and active. God’s word is spirit and it exudes life. It fills in the blanks and connects the dots with well-timed revelation so we can embrace the truth with confidence and proceed with enthusiasm. The word enthusiasm comes from entheos, which literally means, divinely inspired.

As we understand God’s attributes, activities, and promises, His timing and methods begin to make more sense. Who He is, what He does, and where He plans to take us guide our steps. As we comprehend the

9 Hebrews 4:12
10 John 6:63
immense value that each person holds in God’s sight, His expectations become more obvious.

The Holy Spirit provides vital insight for daily living. By establishing a spiritual context for the way things are, He enables us to advance toward the way things should be. After removing our guilt, delivering us from evil, and restoring our soul, spiritual deception becomes less effective in distorting our opinions and perverting God’s will.

Understanding life from God’s perspective helps us face difficult circumstance without groping for an escape mechanism. God’s word does not promote pipedream illusions so we might escape from reality. It equips us with strength and courage to confront reality as it is, without being overwhelmed. The word of the Lord is the antithesis of fantasy. It stabilizes us with reliable faith so we might follow the Holy Spirit to where our own strength cannot take us.

**Sin and Temptation**

As God’s word generates strength, inspires courage, and confers comfort, Satan attempts to distract our attention. He attacks our mind with suggestive hints and alluring baits. Throughout the week, powerful forces attempt to tear us down, rip us apart, and strangle our faith to death.

As the father of lies, Satan throws diabolical schemes across our path to divert our progress. According to “Britannica Online,” diabolical means devilish. It features characteristics of the devil. From the Greek word *diabolo*, it literally means one who throws something across the path of another.11 The Septuagint usually translates *diabolo* as slanderer.

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Being tempted to eat an entire pie in one sitting does not make us a glutton. Being tempted to steal, kill, or fornicate does not make us a thief, murderer, or adulterer. In and of themselves, demonic temptations do not define us. Diabolical enticements serve Satan’s agenda to distract and destroy us. They attempt to exploit our desires and undermine our appetites with inordinate ambitions.

Temptations also remind us that we have another choice—a much better choice. As we pursue God’s best provision, temptations offer us an opportunity to fortify and reinforce our devotion to Christ. They prove our allegiance and strengthen our resolve to remain faithful. God always delivers the best!

Sin masquerades as a formidable fortress. It poses as an impenetrable barrier because guilt and shame undergird its ramparts with sorrow and regret. By confessing our sin, we transform remorse into repentance. Repentance propels us into God’s throne room of grace where mercy and truth dictate our future.

At the cross, Jesus defeated the power of sin along with its menacing death sentence. He redeemed us so we can tear down strongholds that separate us from His voice. The Holy Spirit reigns as the Master Communicator; His voice resounds with impeccable expertise. Jesus said:

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 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.” (John 16:12-13 NKJ)

God knows how to communicate, especially with intellectually flawed, spiritually impaired, and emotionally compromised children. As the gold standard for enunciating truth, He has something to say and we need to hear every word. To those who are listening, the Spirit of Truth conveys an accurate testimony of Jesus. His voice remains as
clear and effective as ever: “Today if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion”.12

12 Hebrews 3:7 NKJ; repeats in vs. 15