

Stepping Into...

“Spiritual Awareness”

Mark 8:14-21 NLT

¹⁴ But the disciples had forgotten to bring any food. They had only one loaf of bread with them in the boat. ¹⁵ As they were crossing the lake, Jesus warned them, "**Watch out! Beware** of the yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod." ¹⁶ At this they began to argue with each other... ¹⁷ Jesus knew what they were saying, so he said, "Why are you arguing about having no bread? **Don't you know or understand even yet? Are your hearts too hard to take it in?**" ¹⁸ 'You have eyes-can't you see? You have ears-can't you hear?' **Don't you remember anything at all?** ¹⁹ When I fed the 5,000 with five loaves of bread, how many baskets of leftovers did you pick up afterward?" "Twelve," they said. ²⁰ "And when I fed the 4,000 with seven loaves, how many large baskets of leftovers did you pick up?" "Seven," they said. ²¹ **"Don't you understand yet?" he asked them.**

2 Kings 6:14-17 NLT

¹⁴ So one night the king of Aram sent a great army with many chariots and horses to surround the city. ¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere. “Oh, sir, what will we do now?” the young man cried to Elisha.

¹⁶ “**Don’t be afraid!**” Elisha told him. “**For there are more on our side than on theirs!**”

¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed, “**O LORD, open his eyes and let him see!**” The LORD opened the young man’s eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.

Genesis 28:10-13, 16-17 NLT

¹⁰ Meanwhile, Jacob left Beersheba and travelled toward Haran.

¹¹ At sundown he arrived at a good place to set up camp and stopped there for the night. Jacob found a stone to rest his head against and lay down to sleep. ¹² As he slept, **he dreamed of a stairway that reached from the earth up to heaven. And he saw the angels of God going up and down the stairway.** ¹³ At the top of the stairway stood the Lord, and he said, “I am the Lord, the God of your grandfather Abraham, and the God of your father, Isaac...

¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, **“Surely the Lord is in this place, and I wasn’t even aware of it!”** ¹⁷ But he was also afraid and said, “What an awesome place this is! It is none other than the house of God, the very gateway to heaven!”

1. The Word of God

Hebrews 4:12 NKJV

¹² For the word of God is **living and powerful**, and **sharper than any two-edged sword**, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is **a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart**.

Jeremiah 23:29 NLT

²⁹ “Does not my word burn like fire?” says the Lord. “Is it not like a mighty hammer that smashes a rock to pieces?”

Informative and transformative!

↑↑↑ **awareness:** divine appointments /times/ seasons/ directions

Characteristics of living things

Psalm 19:7-11

Stepping Into...

2. The Holy Spirit

He is not: what, it, wind, fire, dove, oil, ...

- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Living God.
- He is a gift that every follower of Jesus receives at the moment of their salvation.

John 14:26.... counsellor and teacher

John 16:7&13... Helper and Guide

Romans 8:26-27... our intercessor

Are we aware of His... Presence, Power, Voice, Touch, Prompts, nudges, teachings?

3. Kingdom of Light and Darkness

Two Kingdoms - in opposition always: God's Kingdom Vs Satan's Kingdom but be aware they are not equal!

Col 1:16 NKJV "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether **thrones** or **dominions** or **principalities** or **powers...**"

Vs

Eph 6:12 KJV "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against **principalities**, against **powers**, against the **rulers of the darkness of this world**, against **spiritual wickedness in high places.**"

Know this... God is Sovereign and he has no rival (Isaiah 40)

"The name of Jesus is not a tag line" Deborah Holman

Stepping Into...

4. Role/Use of People

It is important to know that God uses people, so does the devil !!

Mark 8:31 NLT “³¹Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected...He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead. ³² As he talked about this openly with his disciples, Peter took him aside and began to **reprimand him for saying such things**. ³³Jesus turned around and looked at his disciples, **then reprimanded Peter**. “**Get away from me, Satan!**” he said. “You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.”

*To Discourage *Urge...**David** 1Chro 21:1

*Deceive... **Ananias** Acts 5:3

*To hurt/ plot evil... **Judas Iscariot** Luke 22:3

Stepping Into...

“The more deeply one enters into the experience of the sacred, the more one is aware of one's own personal evil and the destructive forces in society. The fact that one is alive to what is possible for humankind sharpens one's sense that we are fallen people. The awareness of sin is the inevitable consequence of having met grace... this grace-judgment dynamic reveals that the centre of Christian life is repentance.”

John Shea

Stepping Into...

5. Self Awareness

Self awareness ≠ heightened senses/ self centeredness or focus

It is knowing who and what you are, and can be!

Encounter with Christ produces true self awareness.

Psalm 19:12 “How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart?
Cleanse me from these **hidden** faults.”

Without Christ, then your **SELF** is:

S = Sinful/Selfish/shallow

E = Evil/Envious

L = Low/Loathsome/Lazy

F = Fake/foolish

Isaiah 6:5; Luke 5:8

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