

Energizing Your Spiritual Senses

Part 1

Spirit Dominance

- Rom 8:9, “You, however, are controlled not by the [*sarx*] but by the [spirit], if the Spirit of God lives in you.”
 - How is the effectiveness of our spiritual senses related to the maturity or strength of our spirits?

Practical Steps

- Be receptive to God’s work in you
 - Heb 13:20-21, “May the God of peace . . . work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ.”
 - Who is doing the work and what is his goal, according to this verse?
 - 1 Ptr 1:1-2, “To God’s elect . . . who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ.”
 - Who is doing the work and what is the nature of that work?
 - sanctification (Gk, *hagiasmos*): (1) holiness, i.e., dedication to the Lord; (2) dedication to moral purity
 - How does sanctification relate to our obedience to Jesus?
 - Eph 4:22, 24, “You were taught . . . to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”
 - What does this verse suggest the ultimate goal of putting on the new self might be?
 - righteousness (Gk, *dikaiosyne*): righteousness, what is right, justice
 - holiness (Gk, *hosiotetes*): (1) divine quality of holiness; (2) dedication, consecration, state of being dedicated to God
 - What is the relationship between holiness & sanctification?
 - 2 Co 3:18, “And we . . . are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory.”
 - likeness (Gk, *eikon*): (1) image, portrait; (2) likeness, same form as something else; (3) representation, pattern
 - God’s ultimate goal for you is to transform you into his image.
 - What is God’s will for you?

- How do you think your spiritual senses will function as you're increasingly transformed into God's image?
- Explain how becoming increasingly like God — which includes becoming spiritually strong and having functional spiritual senses — will affect your activity in the spiritual realm.
- Why it's important to allow God to make me increasingly like him:

- prayer: Father, I want to grow and become spiritually mature. I will pursue you no matter what. As much as I know how, I'm opening the door to you and inviting you to do whatever you want in me.
- Repent
 - What is definition of "repent"?
 - What do you think about in your spare time?
 - When you realize you're thinking about all these self-centered things, need to aggressively change what you think about:
 - Php 4:8, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things."
- Eliminate internal contamination
 - 2 Co 7:1, "Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God."
 - purify (Gk, *katharizo*): (1) cleanse, make clean; (2) purify ceremonially by washing
 - [everything that] contaminates (Gk, *molusmos*): defilement, ritual and/or moral contamination

^{6:14} Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? ¹⁵ What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

¹⁷ “Therefore come out from them
and be separate,
says the Lord.

Touch no unclean thing,
and I will receive you.”

¹⁸ “I will be a Father to you,
and you will be my sons and daughters,
says the Lord Almighty.”

^{7:1} Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify
ourselves from everything that contaminates body and
spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

- problem: spiritual contamination/pollution
- problem: disobedience, continuing sin
- problem: self-centeredness

Blessing

- May the Holy Spirit reveal any areas in which you’re
not receptive to God’s work in you, you need to repent,
or you need to eliminate internal contamination.