

## Spiritual & Physical Senses

### Psyche

- Psyche has function of decisiveness — judging, decision-making
- Conclusion: One of the psyche's major functions is decisiveness, receiving inputs from the physical and spiritual senses and deciding how to respond, which includes moral and defensive aspects

### Physical Senses

- What part of our structure includes the physical senses (spirit, psyche, body)?
- What part of our structure is “aware” of our physical senses?

### Spiritual Senses

- **Spiritual sight**
  - Mt 4:8, “Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.”
    - Was this a physical experience or spiritual?
  - Mk 6:47-48, “<sup>47</sup> When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and [Jesus] was alone on land. <sup>48</sup> He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them.”
  - Lk 16:22-24, story of the rich man and Lazarus; a true story, not a parable
    - <sup>22</sup> “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’”
  - Mk 16:12, “Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country.”
    - “appeared” (Gk, *phaneroo*): reveal, show something hidden, cause to be seen
    - Mk 16:14, “Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating.”
    - Jn 21:14, “This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.”
  - 2 Co 4:18 (ESV), “as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”
    - Where do the “unseen” and “eternal” things exist?
    - What does the first part of this verse suggest about the intentionality of using our spiritual senses?

- Eph 1:18, “I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you ....”
  - “eyes” (Gk, *ophthalmous*): physical eye, sight, perception
  - “heart” (Gk, *kardia*): physical heart, inner self (figuratively, “spirit”)
  - What does the phrase, “eyes of your heart,” likely describe?
- Col 2:5, “For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.”
  - How is it possible for him to be present with them in spirit and see how they’re doing though he’s not physically with them?
- **Spiritual hearing**
  - Jn 10:27, “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”
    - Jesus is no longer on earth, so how can we hear his voice?
  - Jn 16:13, “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”
    - What part of our structure hears the Holy Spirit speak?
  - Acts 10:19-20, “<sup>19</sup> While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, ‘Simon, three men are looking for you. <sup>20</sup> So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.’”
    - Which spirit spoke to Peter and how do we know?
- **Spiritual taste**
  - Eze 3:3, “Then he said to me, ‘Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it.’ So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.”
  - Rev 10:10, “I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour.”
- **Spiritual touch, feeling**
  - Dan 10:8-10, <sup>8</sup> “So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. <sup>9</sup> Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground. <sup>10</sup> A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.”
  - Lk 8:46, “But Jesus said, ‘Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me.’”
    - How did Jesus know someone touched him?
    - Did he feel a physical sensation like electric power, or was this a spiritual sensation?

- **Spiritual smell**

- Ps 45:8, “All your robes are fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.”
  - Was David writing about God’s physical or spiritual fragrance? Explain.
- 2 Co 2:14-16, <sup>14</sup> “But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the *fragrance* of the knowledge of him. <sup>15</sup> For we are to God the *aroma* of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. <sup>16</sup> To the one we are the *smell* of death; to the other, the *fragrance* of life. And who is equal to such a task?”
- Eph 5:2, “... just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

- **Spiritual hunger, thirst**

- Matt 5:6, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”
- Jn 4:13-14, “Jesus answered, ‘Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’”
- Jn 6:35, “Then Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.’”
- How would you describe spiritual hunger and thirst?

- **Spiritual revelation, insight, intuition**

- Mk 2:8, “Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts.”
  - “knew”(Gk, *epiginosko*): to know intensely, thoroughly, exactly; to recognize
  - What kind of sensory ability would Jesus’ spirit need to know what someone was thinking?
- Lk 2:25-28, <sup>25</sup> “Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God.”
  - What ability must our human spirits have for this to be possible?
- Eph 1:18, “I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you ....”

- In what ways might using our spiritual senses be essential to receiving spiritual revelation, insight or intuition?
- Intuition is the attaining of direct knowledge, perception or conviction beyond the means of reason alone
- Intuition likely is spiritual sensing or spiritual discernment

## **Spiritual Disciplines — Activating Your Spiritual Senses**

- **Choose to use your spiritual senses**
  - You can help activate your spiritual senses by choosing to use them
- **Use your imagination**
  - Your imagination is the receptor for revelation, intuition and insight
  - It's designed to process things you've never experienced before or even thought about; it allows you to receive *anything* from God
  - Your imagination allows you to process what you detect with your spiritual senses
- **Journaling**
  - Advantages of journaling:
    - Allows you to record your experience; can be invaluable in the future
    - Journaling allows you to evaluate much more than a few words or sentences; can receive several paragraphs or even pages from the Lord at one time
    - Easier to evaluate something written than something in your memory. Besides, our memories change with time; you can forget or your perspective can change
    - Journaling allows you to meditate on what you detect with your spiritual senses, test it and gain insight from it
    - Journaling keeps your mind preoccupied so it's easier to receive from your spirit; mind less likely to interfere

## **Closing**

- Your spirit has senses similar to your physical ones. Your spirit and body both inform your psyche what they are sensing and your psyche decides how to respond.
- Imagination is an important faculty because it allows you to process what you detect with your spiritual senses. It's designed specifically to process things you've never experienced before or even thought about.

## Daily Activity

- Read the following verses with spiritual senses in mind and imagine what it would be like to experience these things yourself.

2 Ki 6:17

Dan 10:4-7

Luke 6:21

Lk 9:47

Lk 11:17

Jn 1:50-51

("you" is plural in both cases)

Jn 5:19

Jn 7:37

Acts 7:55-56

Acts 8:23

Acts 8:29

Acts 14:8-10

Acts 22:14

Heb 6:4-5

Heb 11:27

Rev 21:6

Rev 22:17

## Blessing

The Lord is activating your spiritual senses so you can receive greater insight and revelation from him about the spiritual realm.

## Proposed Model for Human Structure

Human Spirit	
<b>Description</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● eternal</li> <li>● exists in spiritual realm</li> <li>● stable</li> </ul>	<b>Traits or functions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● source of human life</li> <li>● matures, strengthens</li> <li>● interacts with God</li> <li>● basic character (true self)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ aptitudes (spiritual gifts, natural abilities)</li> <li>○ traits (fruit of the spirit, other godly traits)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● thought, knowledge &amp; memory</li> <li>● intuition, revelation</li> <li>● will</li> <li>● worship, relationship, communion</li> <li>● courage, vitality</li> <li>● spiritual senses</li> </ul>
Human Psyche	
<b>Description</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● eternal</li> <li>● exists in spiritual realm</li> <li>● volatile/dynamic</li> </ul>	<b>Traits or functions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● personality (expression of oneself)</li> <li>● thought</li> <li>● knowledge &amp; memory</li> <li>● decisiveness</li> </ul>
Human Body	
<b>Description</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● exists in physical realm</li> <li>● temporal</li> </ul>	<b>Traits or functions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● physical senses</li> </ul>