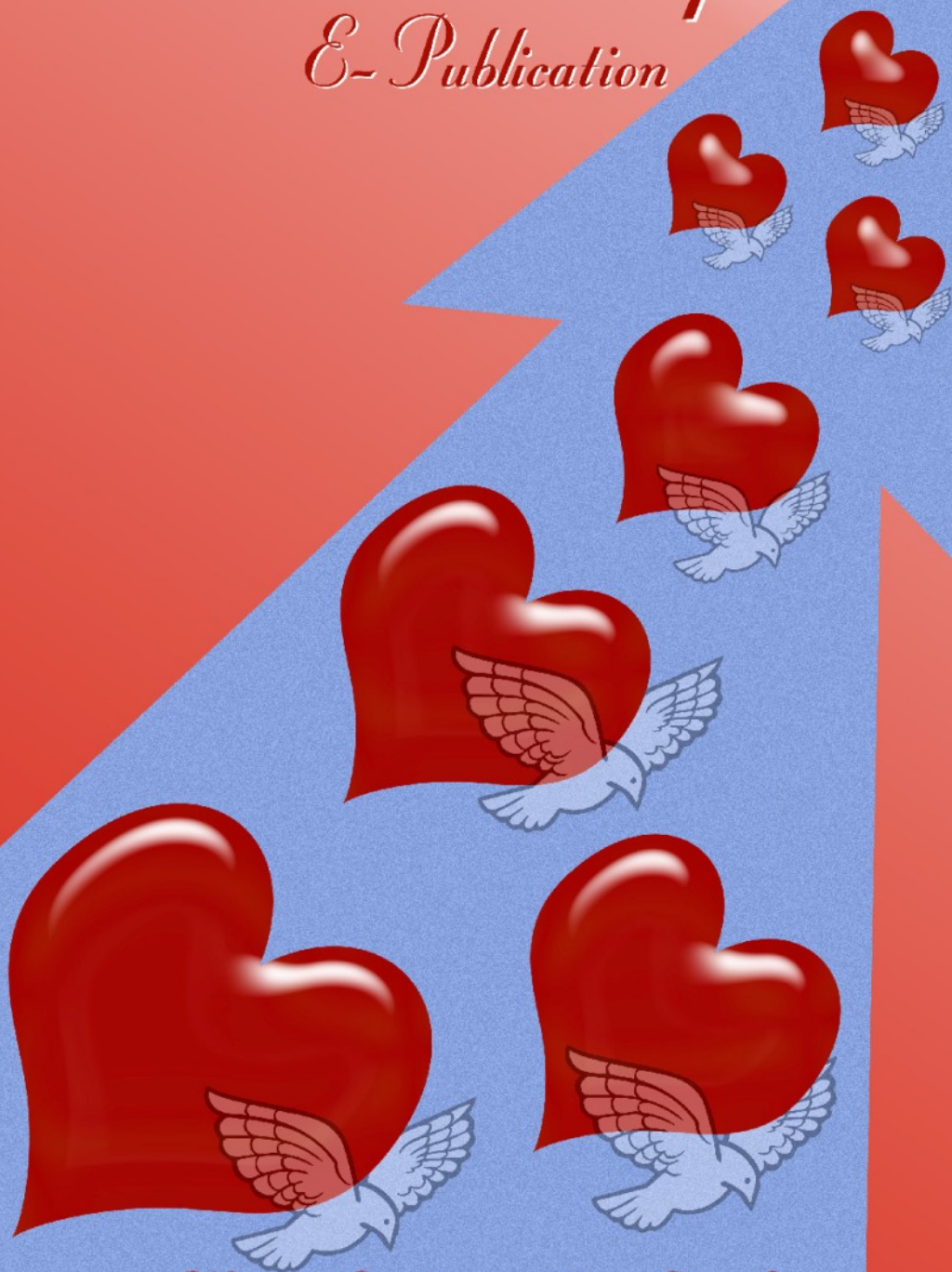


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[Statement of Faith](#)

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KEY IN-SIGHTS

Many of the New Testament books are letters written from one person to other believers. For example, 1 Timothy and 2 Timothy were letters written from Paul to Timothy. Clearly there are many directives, commands, and advice that those letters contain for believers, both then and now. You probably already know these things.

We also know that “all Scripture is God-breathed” (2 Timothy 3:16).

Couple those two observations together. As you read from the letters, hold back in terms of thinking for example, “James said such-and-such to believers.” Instead think, “God’s Spirit through James said” When reading Ephesians, think something like this: “God’s Spirit through Paul said....” Or when reading Hebrews, think “God’s Spirit through the writer of Hebrews said....”

When we refocus on the fact that the writer of the book or letter was simply a tool for the Spirit of God, then we can begin to have a greater awareness that what was written wasn’t about the writer’s personal opinions. It is about God’s Spirit trying to communicate some application to *us*, as well as the original recipients! While Peter, Paul, or whoever may have known the believers to whom they were writing, the Spirit of God knew that one day *we* would be reading it. God intended that we hear, even if we have to work a bit harder to understand the context than did the original recipients. God knew it had personal relevance, value and meaning for us too!

THE BIBLE’S BIGGER PICTURES

How Do We See Spiritually Versus Physically? How Do the Challenges of Spiritual Seeing Affect Us as Christians?

This article is written in response to another question submitted by one of our readers through KeysToUnderstandingLife.com contact page. The reader also requested we provide Bible references (*italics* and CAPS in the verses are part of the translation). If you have a question you’d like to have us write about, you too may send your request through our [Contact Us](#) page.

Let’s hit a couple things up front.

1. The question, “How do we see spiritually?” is a really good one. Jesus provides the simplest answer in the form of two commandments (Matthew 22:37-39):
 - a. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind;
 - b. Love your neighbor as yourself.

The problem we often have with His answer is that those two straightforward commandments involve a whole lot when it comes to the challenges of spiritual battles and practical application in real life. We have trouble “seeing” everything they imply. In this

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article we’ll try to hit on some issues of spiritual seeing and hearing, along with some of the “how to.” But frankly, when we are struggling with specific trials like “How do I spiritually hear what God wants me to do now that I lost my job?” or “How do I spiritually see how God wants me to resolve these issues in my relationship?” then we usually need a more comprehensive explanation coupled with “hands on” training. That takes more than this article can address, and is why we wrote *Feelings 101: Pain to Peace*. With that said...

2. As you may notice in this article, spiritual hearing and spiritual seeing are often used in the Bible to mean the same basic thing. Similarly, in this article spiritual “hearing” and “seeing” are generally used interchangeably.
3. Spiritual seeing and hearing isn’t just about whether a non-believer’s heart opens up to a salvation message and chooses to believe in Christ Jesus. Spiritual seeing and hearing is absolutely crucial for those who *already* believe and are actively seeking to live for God in their trials.
4. Spiritual seeing and hearing is a gift of God, and it involves working through the heart with the Holy Spirit. It is also a gift which *all* believers have the potential to experience and duty to cultivate in partnership with The Teacher and Counselor (the Holy Spirit) within. It is vital to actually winning more of our spiritual battles in Christ.
5. Several of the references provided in this article are from the Old Testament. In 2 Timothy 3:16, the Spirit of God through Paul says all Scripture is from God and is useful for teaching, etc. That includes passages from the Old Testament. Remember, when Paul wrote to Timothy, the only Scripture that was really available to Christians was the Old Testament! The New Testament hadn’t been compiled yet. So, the Old Testament is just as important to Christians today as it was to 1st Century Christians! Why? One reason is because the tenets of spiritual hearing/seeing are demonstrated and can be seen in it. Old Testament histories and stories of trials show the various principles of listening to God! While those principles and tenets aren’t always presented in a straightforward list, we can work to see them.
6. God designed certain laws and tenets which govern the physical world we live in. One of those is the law of gravity, for example. You can’t physically see the forces of gravity themselves, but you can see the effect. Similarly, God also designed our hearts and minds to function in certain ways according to “spiritual laws, tenets and principles,” if you will. Whether our spiritual seeing and hearing is skillful or not hinges greatly on how we work in cooperation with those spiritual principles and tenets. In short, if you ignore the law of gravity and step off the roof, you will fall, and the consequences can be disastrous. Similarly, when you break the tenet that represents our responsibility to do our part in cooperation with God’s Spirit to transform and use our hearts properly during trials, then you will fall (at least in a spiritual sense), and the consequences can be disastrous. In this article, we’ll try to point to some of the “tenets and laws” to which the Bible speaks.

Now let’s look at some of what the Bible says about spiritual hearing and seeing...

Romans 11:8 just as it is written, “GOD GAVE THEM A SPIRIT OF STUPOR, EYES TO SEE NOT AND EARS TO HEAR NOT, DOWN TO THIS VERY DAY.”*

* Romans 11:8 is considered to be a reference to Deuteronomy 29:4 and Isaiah 29:10.

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Tenet 1 of Spiritual Hearing/Seeing: There are two ways that Christians might view our potential for spiritual hearing and seeing. The way we approach our trials reveals which we hold to be true:

1. One view is that God unilaterally decides whether we see or hear spiritually. Whether or not we learn to do our parts better in following Him is NOT a determining factor in whether God opens our eyes and ears.
2. Another view is that God decided from the beginning that we would play a key role in whether we see and hear spiritually. This relates to our God-given free will. God’s Spirit tries to open everyone’s eyes and ears to Him, but because of our free will, sometimes we might make spiritual choices in trials that limit our spiritual hearing and vision in our trials. Whether or not we learn to do our parts better in following Him IS a determining factor in whether God opens our eyes and ears or not.

Take your time with the following discussion of this tenet; it has a number of aspects to it and they are very important to understand.

1. When we read verses like Romans 11:8, it sounds very much like number 1 (above) is how spiritual hearing and seeing works. Take a moment to re-read number 1. This view can cause us to connect spiritual concepts that aren’t supposed to be connected. It can cause us to separate concepts that *are* connected. This view subtly severs the interactive relationship we are to have with God when it comes to applying His Word to real life situations. This view leads to a point of thinking that implies that we have no responsibility to change when that change goes deeply against our “natural grain.” The idea that we play no real tangible part in receiving spiritual hearing or seeing implies that at some point in real life, we are not personally responsible for being the way we are in our old selves.
2. The other way to understand Romans 11:8 (above) is to recognize that God designed the principles and tenets of spiritual hearing and seeing, just like He designed the laws of the physical world. So, when we do not exercise our free will to live according to God’s spiritual principles and tenets in righteous ways, we basically invoke upon ourselves certain consequences that come as a result of not intentionally honoring them.
 - a. We can look at verses like Romans 11:8 as meaning that sometimes we act in ways that go against certain of God’s principles and tenets relating to spiritual hearing. When we go against them, one way to express the result of spiritual deafness is to say, “God gave us eyes which could not see.”
 - b. Let’s say a person gets too close to the edge of a roof, they fall and are injured badly. That is a result of interacting with the God-designed, physical world “Law of Gravity.” What we might typically say is something like, “I don’t know what he was thinking; he just got too close and he fell off!” However, we can re-state that scenario to focus more on the greatness of God and less on the person, just like in Romans 11:8. So, we could say (although we usually don’t like to think this way), “God blinded his eyes to how close he was to the edge of the roof, and God made him to fall so hard that he was badly injured!”
 - c. Why can we re-state the scenario that way? We can re-state the scenario in that way in the sense that God created the law of gravity which affected the person when he hit the ground. This does not mean that God took away the person’s free will. It simply means that the person was not paying attention to his proximity to the edge of the roof. The

person did not fully appreciate the potential danger represented by the God-designed law of gravity. When we look at it that way, then we recognize that the person’s lack of wisdom represented a choice that he didn’t pay attention to.

- d. With these things in mind, we can re-state Romans 11:8: “They did not pay attention to and live according to God’s direction to them, and as a result, their spiritual hearing and vision diminished to the point that spiritually speaking, they were in a stupor. Their lack of spiritual understanding was embraced by succeeding generations such that today they aren’t any more skillful in seeing and hearing with spiritual eyes and ears.
- e. There are two other important reasons for having to really understand the perspective from which Romans 11:8, and other similar verses, were written.
 - 1) Verses written like Romans 11:8 clearly appear to conflict with other verses that indicate we do play a part in increasing our spiritual hearing. When we don’t look closely at the perspective from which the verse was written, we will end up dismissing or overlooking the verses that seem to conflict with it.
 - 2) The other reason for looking at the perspective of verses like Romans 11:8 is because when we don’t, we are probably overlooking some critical angle from which the writer is writing. Romans 11:1-7 is focusing on the perspective of how Israel “pushed” God to invoke certain consequences upon them *because* they were not doing their part in cooperating with His leadership! The focus in Romans 11:1-10 is on God being right in handling Israel the way He did based on what they did and didn’t do! The verses are not saying God unilaterally or randomly decide who hears spiritually or not.**

** This same perspective issue can also be seen in Exodus 7:3 where God is quoted as saying, “I will harden Pharaoh’s heart...” The emphasis there is on God and that He is bigger than the whole situation Moses must face. This is appropriate because Moses is coming up short on confidence. It is also appropriate because in the previous chapters we see that Pharaoh was clearly NOT living according to God’s spiritual principles, laws and tenets that would otherwise facilitate great spiritual hearing and seeing! Pharaoh had been exercising his free will in such a way that according to those same spiritual principles and tenets of spiritual hearing, Pharaoh had basically been doing what he could to make himself spiritual deaf and blind, though he probably didn’t see his own actions that way!

Isaiah 30:21 Your ears will hear a word behind you, “This is the way, walk in it,” whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

This verse from Isaiah is sometimes quoted by Christians as indicating how we are to hear/see spiritually. The idea that some Christians cling to is that this verse means that so long as you *are* a Christian and you study God’s written Word, pray, and set your *intention* to hear His will for you in a trial, then whatever occurs to you to do or not do in a trial is “the word behind you” (as indicated by the verse above) and is of God.

The problem is that while this view of spiritual hearing is *generally* true, it can also be overly simplistic in a misleading way. The “word” we often hear from the back of our minds is not always of God. “The road to hell is paved with good intentions (author unknown).” So...

Tenet 2 of Spiritual Hearing/Seeing: When it comes to spiritual hearing, as followers of God we cannot expect that the only side of spiritual battles which affects us is God’s side! Even as believers, spiritual hearing involves discernment between God *and* Satan during each trial.

The two verses below are the *first two* verses of the same chapter as the verse above!

Isaiah 30:1-2 “Woe to the rebellious children,” declares the LORD, “Who execute a plan, but not Mine, and make an alliance, but not of My Spirit, in order to add sin to sin; who proceed down to Egypt without consulting Me, to take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!

Spiritual hearing and seeing involves skillfully discerning between two opposing influences: God’s and Satan’s. Just because Satan’s influence is evil, wrong, unrighteous, or however you want to describe it, that does NOT imply that his influence is always obvious!

By itself, Isaiah 30:21 essentially says our ears will hear His Word, but the context of the chapter indicates that such spiritual hearing is conditional. It requires that we actually change... continually! Isaiah 30:1-2 imply that another voice we may hear and respond to is not of God’s Spirit. While the verses don’t come straight out and say it, the “other voice” is of darkness; it is of Satan.

That “other voice” (Satan’s) often makes perfect sense to us *because* we don’t recognize it as being Satan’s! This is one reason he is called, “The Deceiver!” Isaiah 30:1-2 tell the story of the Israelites coming up with their own plan to ally themselves with Pharaoh in order to be protected from their enemies. Being safe is good; surely God would want us to be safe, right?! So seeking the alliance with the Pharaoh made sense to them. But, the verses indicate that the other voice, Satan’s voice, is also heard, and it can lead us to make decisions based on our own understanding of the external things happening in our lives. The Spirit of God through the writer was telling the Israelites that being safe was not always a matter of trying to make things turn out in a way so they’d be safe physically (externally). Trusting God sometimes means hearing the Lord’s will so clearly that we can know when He wants us to be safe in Him spiritually, even when doing so might seem to be quite unsafe externally! Clearly, skilled spiritual hearing and seeing is very important in handling real-life situations as God would have us to handle them in the course of living FOR Him!

Proverbs 13:2 Every man’s way is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts.

Tenet 3 of Spiritual Hearing/Seeing: When we are trying to solve a problem or deal with an issue in life, just because we *say* we want to do God’s will, and just because an external course of action *seems* Scriptural, beneficial and logical, those things alone do not mean our actions will be led by God. While the mind generates our logical thinking, the heart is a Key that shapes the extent of our

spiritual hearing, or lack thereof.

The first thing this verse reveals goes back to the first tenet. Remember, that tenet dealt with whether we play a role in having our eyes and ears opened spiritually. Why would the Lord weigh our hearts if He is unilaterally deciding what’s in them? The answer is He wouldn’t. The Lord weighs our hearts because He gave us free will, and we will choose (one trial at a time being fully accountable whether we are fully aware or not) whose voice we actually hear in each trial.

Secondly, when we look at this verse in the light of the others we looked at from Isaiah, this proverb basically says that when we do something or avoid doing something in a trial, 99% of the time we will have our reasons for doing so, and we’ll think we are justified. More importantly, the verse implies that from God’s perspective, **our sense of being right isn’t sufficient to actually make it right** in His eyes. Spiritual seeing involves looking at our hearts so well in a trial that we are able to see how we actually aren’t right in God’s eyes! That implies we must then discover how God would have us change. This proverb implies the importance of godly introspection. It also implies that from the world’s perspective, followers of the Lord have to do “extra work” to see spiritually.

Ephesians 1:18-20 *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places....*

Tenet 4 of Spiritual Hearing/Seeing: Spiritual hearing and seeing is not automatically obtained just because we choose to follow Christ. Only the *potential* to hear and see spiritually is automatically obtained.

In these verses, the Spirit of God through Paul was saying that our spiritual eyes *may* be opened. Again, God’s Spirit is saying we have potential for spiritual hearing and vision. The power of God that raised Christ from the dead is the same power to which we have the potential to experience in our own unique trials and spiritual battles! Wow!

Zechariah 7:11-12 “But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears from hearing. They made their hearts *like* flint so that they could not hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets; therefore great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.”

Tenet 5 of Spiritual Hearing/Seeing: Spiritual hearing and seeing involves paying attention to God’s Spirit. In trials, Satan often gets us to actually be stubborn, even inadvertently, when it comes to hearing God’s Spirit trying to tell us things we need to correct in our lives.

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This tenet really points to continual change as being vital to continuously being able to see and hear spiritually. It also reinforces the fact that what we do or don't do with our hearts in a trial totally plays a role in whether we hear or see spiritually. Seeking out change in us during a trial is critical to spiritual seeing and hearing.

Isaiah 42:18 Hear, you deaf! And look, you blind, that you may see.

Isaiah 42:20 You have seen many things, but you do not observe *them*; *your* ears are open, but none hears.

Isaiah 42:23 Who among you will give ear to this? Who will give heed and listen hereafter?

Tenet 6 of Spiritual Hearing/Seeing: Training in the fundamentals of being disciplined by God's Spirit, and in the realities of skillfully fighting one's spiritual battles, greatly assists us in doing our parts to see and hear spiritually.

You're probably wondering how this tenet is derived from those three verses. Keep in mind that the writer is telling Israel some things that they really don't want to hear, and he's claiming that his message is really of God. For this message to have fallen on ears capable of hearing it, embracing it, and changing according to it, the people would have had to have been actively practicing the fundamentals of godly introspection and been well-trained in how the heart is disturbed during spiritual battles.

Big Training Needs: The task of spiritual seeing and hearing requires that we train in recognizing patterns in spiritual dynamics, specifically within ourselves. It requires that we train so that DURING trials we can observe our heart disturbances and transform them back to peace with thankfulness (Colossians 3:15). It also requires we train in hearing the Lord's guidance and correction. These things help us recognize the times when His guidance is not about us acting in ways that are familiar to us or in ways with which we are naturally comfortable.

Proverbs 23:12 Apply your heart to discipline and your ears to words of knowledge.

Proverbs 15:31-33 He whose ear listens to the life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise. He who neglects discipline despises himself, but he who listens to reproof acquires understanding. The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom, and before honor *comes* humility.

Tenet 7 of Spiritual Hearing/Seeing: There is no actual living for God without exercising the discipline to train (see **Big Training Needs** above) to hear what God is saying to you about changing you. New self-discipline is key to doing one's part to be disciplined through the heart, and it is a non-negotiable duty of a servant and disciple of the Lord.

The external world does not emphasize the importance of spiritual discipline; discipline of the heart is a characteristic of the internal world to which the Lord calls us. What is the purpose of having the discipline to study God’s written Word if it is not accompanied by a greater discipline to study one’s self under the tutelage of God’s Spirit? If we cannot be disciplined to put our hearts into the discipline of being disciplined, then we have no true humility before God.

Proverbs 5:7-13 Now then, *my sons*, listen to me and do not depart from the words of my mouth. Keep your way far from her and do not go near the door of her house, or you will give your vigor to others and your years to the cruel one; and strangers will be filled with your strength and your hard-earned goods *will go* to the house of an alien; and you groan at your final end, when your flesh and your body are consumed; and you say, “How I have hated instruction! And my heart spurned reproof! I have not listened to the voice of my teachers, nor inclined my ear to my instructors!

Tenet 8 of Spiritual Hearing/Seeing: “The cruel one” (Satan) is the one who enables us to feel comfort and contentment when we are not consistently exercising discipline of self-examination and change that is commensurate with being disciplined by God’s Spirit. God often uses human teachers to assist us in learning how to be disciplined by His Holy Spirit to overcome Satan’s deceptions!

Practical application of God’s written Word to our individual real-life trials is supposed to be the point of studying His written Word. Satan knows this and it is a continual goal Satan seeks to thwart. Often the messages and lessons we hear are so general that they are hard to apply to our lives. This is why effective discipleship beyond the basics typically requires more spiritually intimate, small group and individual discipleship work. (The *Keys Series* book, [*A Disciple’s Heart*](#), talks about some of the challenges of being disciplined beyond the basics by human teachers and/or in small, spiritually intimate groups.)

Notice that the writer says, “My sons.” These proverbs of wisdom weren’t written just for one person’s sons, but rather it often represents the spiritual relationship that can exist between a human teacher and the disciple of Christ seeking training in discipleship beyond the basics from that teacher. In the New Testament, Paul often addresses believers in the same manner. Paul saw himself as many of the believers’ spiritual teacher; their spiritual “father.” It represents the spiritual roles we may fill in teaching and being taught. These kinds of relationships are not always comfortable, and they aren’t always experienced in today’s Christian world, but that doesn’t mean they are not vital to God’s training plans.

Among other things, *A Disciple’s Heart* talks about how important it is to be confident in whoever you are seeking to teach you how to learn from God’s Spirit within you! It also talks about some of the ways Satan seeks to undermine spiritually intimate training. We consider that book a good *overview and introduction* to discipleship beyond the basics and various environments in which we can train to increase spiritual hearing.

Isaiah 50:4-5 The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of disciples, that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens *Me* morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple. The Lord GOD has opened My ear; and I was not disobedient nor did I turn back.

Tenet 9 of Spiritual Hearing/Seeing: Spiritual hearing and seeing involves a quality relationship between us and God. When we learn more about how to do our parts in cooperating with God, HE gets all the credit. Our spiritual hearing and seeing increases the more consistent we are in doing our parts for Him in each of our trials, but again, He gets all the credit!

In the quote from Isaiah (above), the last sentence (verse 5) again shows that hearing spiritually involves a relationship between us and God. He opens our ears spiritually when we are not disobedient and when we do not turn away from what He wants us to do, regardless what cost or sacrifice that may involve in our lives.

Mark 6:51-52 Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished, for they had not gained any insight from the *incident of* the loaves, but their heart was hardened.

Tenet 10 of Spiritual Hearing/Seeing: Just because we believe in God doesn't mean we will always recognize His hand behind what is happening in our lives. Unlike the hardening of the arteries of our physical hearts, our spiritual hearts can be open in one trial and hardened during another. The same thing can be said about seeing and hearing spiritually.

The context of Mark 6:51-52 is that the Disciples had been with Jesus when He performed the miracle of breaking the loaves of bread to feed 5,000 people (Mark 6:30-44). They also saw Him walk on water (Mark 6:45-50). Yet they were afraid. Satan attacked them, and his goal was to block their spiritual understanding. The Disciples may have known things of Jesus with their minds, but that was insufficient to help them rest hearts in faith and peace in the Lord (Philippians 4:6-7). From this we see that it is not enough that we can recall what the Lord has done for us in the past. An issue of spiritual seeing has to do with cultivating the discipline of seeking out what the Lord is seeking to teach us and change in us during the present trial. This is non-negotiable to avoiding hardening of our hearts during a trial. Transforming our hearts to peace once they are disturbed is a huge part of that! When we do see what He seeks to teach us, even the simplest of trials, and we change, then we are seeing spiritually.

The Disciples were with Jesus for a relatively long time. Similar to us, they had a relationship with Him. However, they did not automatically become skilled spiritual soldiers of God just because they were around Him! They physically saw things that happened directly due to the spiritual intervention of God, yet that did not help them see spiritually the next time their hearts were disturbed! The same is true for us.

The idea is not to be content with the feeble way of living with an open heart in one trial followed by a hardened heart in the next. The idea is to actively engage in doing our parts more consistently as disciples, learning and changing at the feet of our Lord!

Mark 8:14-21 And they had forgotten to take bread, and did not have more than one loaf in the boat with them. And He was giving orders to them, saying, “Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.” They *began* to discuss with one another *the fact* that they had no bread. And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you discuss *the fact* that you have no bread? Do you not yet see or understand? Do you have a hardened heart? “HAVING EYES, DO YOU NOT SEE? AND HAVING EARS, DO YOU NOT HEAR? And do you not remember, when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces you picked up?” They said to Him, “Twelve.” “When *I broke* the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of broken pieces did you pick up?” And they said to Him, “Seven.” And He was saying to them, “Do you not yet understand?”

Tenet 11 of Spiritual Hearing/Seeing: Spiritual seeing and hearing requires not just remembering our successes in the Lord, but it requires studying the patterns in our failures so well that it serves to hone our awareness of spiritual goings-on in us *during* our trials.

This passage from Mark shows another time the Disciples failed to work on seeing spiritually. This time it happens right after Jesus feeds 4,000 people (Mark 8:1-13)! The Disciples were present with Jesus, He was influencing their lives, but they weren't actually paying attention! How often I do the same thing. The Disciples experienced what *Feelings 101* training calls, “A Do-over.” Do-overs can often be quite painful at worst; at the least they are “new self-disappointing” and humiliating before the Lord.

We must do our parts in Christ Who works to strengthen us. We must strive to avoid requiring Him to continually retrain us in the same lessons. We must avoid needing retraining in how to practically apply faith, trust and change to our real-life trials and battles, regardless how great or small they may be. When we don't, we are behaving like high-maintenance errant children with spiritual A.D.D.! We cannot claim to be learning from past trials unless we are changing in today's trials. This is why spiritual maturity cannot be measured simply by the number of years we've had a relationship with God. Since the same power of God's Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead has been made available to us (remember Ephesians 1:18-20), does the Lord not have the right to expect us to learn as *attentive* disciples ought to learn?

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 but just as it is written, “THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.” For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

Tenet 12 of Spiritual Hearing/Seeing: Jesus died and secured for us the permanent indwelling of God’s Spirit. We can’t physically see the Spirit, we can’t physically hear the Spirit, so learning to be disciplined by the Spirit and seeing spiritually means we have to get past dealing with life’s issues based on our thinking and five senses alone!

Are we going to rest on our laurels by focusing on the fact that Christ has saved us from all our sins regardless what we do? If so, how lax that is. In every trial we face, He seeks to actively save us from the act of sinning! His Spirit seeks to counsel us. But, we do not hear that counsel automatically without skillful effort. While God wishes to reveal so much to us, we must to our part in studying how Satan manages to turn our own hearts to flint during our trials. In so doing, we are better prepared to seek out the changes God would have us make in us. This enables us to see spiritually and overcome Satan’s subtle and deceptive temptations within us, even when, externally, things seem hopelessly out of control.

When we are being called to see and hear spiritually, we are usually in a trial. In those times we will have desires, but when we pay attention, we will also notice we have feelings – uncomfortable and unpleasant ones. This is why one of the *Keys Series* books is titled, “*Feelings 101...*” It is also why the subtitle to the book is “A Heart Designed to Hear the Voice of God.” It talks about how to transform our hearts to peace in Christ *during* trials, so that we may hear and see.



[Feelings 101: Pain to Peace](#) presents discipleship training that goes beyond the basics, which is available from the *Keys Series*. Other ministries may offer training too. The training in *Feelings 101* focuses on cultivating your spiritual hearing and vision during trials. It orients heavily on the “how to” of doing our parts in working with God’s Spirit so as to increase spiritual seeing. It offers Worksheet Questions and Exercises that help you apply the Bible’s teachings and principles of listening to God to your own real-life trials. Regardless from whose ministry you choose to get training, the training should provide you with Bible-based tools to help you see spiritual dynamics within yourself *while you are in the midst of your own trials*.

KEYS WEBSITE ALERTS



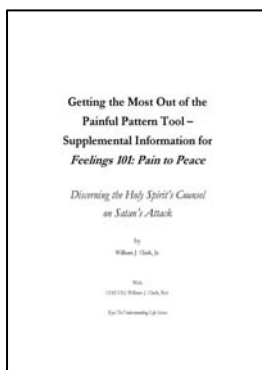
We’ve added several additional categories and cross-references to the [online Index](#) of articles, topics and Bible verses discussed and examined in “Hearts Up” editions. Some of those additional categories and cross-references include:

1. *7 Spiritual Principles* (of listening to God)
2. Diagrams and/or Charts (lists all articles that include diagrams or charts)
3. God’s Perspective (of our conduct)

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4. Jesus Christ
5. Personal UNtruth (a concept referring to how Satan’s attacks affect us, which is discussed in detail in the authors’ book *Feelings 101: Pain to Peace*)
6. Painful Pattern Tool (This refers to a tool offered in *Feelings 101* which is used to facilitate godly introspection – this topic points to more than 4 articles discussing the role and importance of godly introspection)

STATUS OF THE SERIES



Last month we published a 30+ page e-pamphlet called, “Getting The Most Out of the Painful Pattern Tool – Supplemental Information for *Feelings 101: Pain to Peace*.” You could call it a supplemental mini-course in godly introspection. This free study tool is for those who have read and are using the *Feelings 101: Pain to Peace* (F101) personal discipleship course. If you’ve been using F101’s Painful Pattern Tool to really get better at seeking out the old self so you can partner with God’s Spirit to kill it as much as possible, then you will want to download a copy of this e-pam ASAP! It is provided in an Adobe PDF format from the Supplemental Information

section of the *Keys* website.

The e-pam is best used after you have already begun using the Painful Pattern Tool in conjunction with the Worksheet Questions and Exercises presented in *Feelings 101*. It is also best used once you have intentionally used the *7 Spiritual Principles* to work through a few trials.

The “Getting The Most Out of the Painful Pattern Tool” e-pam is fresh material and has two main parts:

1. The first part is the hands-on portion of the e-pam. You can use it to increase your introspection skills and to get better at hearing the Holy Spirit’s counsel concerning your old self tendencies that Satan tries to reinforce in you during a trial. It consists of a variety of useful introspective questions. This first part is short and intended for practical use as you study a trial.
2. The second part consists of five appendices and is the bulk of the e-pam. This part is for increasing your general, practical spiritual warfare education. The appendices are intended for additional information, reading, and study when you are NOT in trials. The appendices give examples and detailed explanations of:
 - a. Different kinds of trials:
 - 1) Deceptively Simple and Seemingly Insignificant Trials
 - 2) “Single Issue” Trials
 - 3) Three Kinds of Complex Trials

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- b. Other issues and considerations you may want to keep in mind when using the self-evaluation questions to partner with God’s Spirit to discover Satan’s deceptions in you.

We hope that this material assists you in preparing to listen to God speaking to your heart in a trial, by assisting you in a godly introspection process. Remember, when it comes to trials, approach them with lots of prayer, patience, and a keen eye that looks inward for changes that God would have you make in you!

HEART TO HEART

If you write poems, psalms, lyrics or prose of faith, and would like to share one of them with others in a “Hearts Up” edition, you may submit it for consideration for the *Heart To Heart* feature. You may also submit a personal story or testimony of your own to share how one of the articles or the *Keys* materials helped you draw closer to God during a trial. You can email your submission through the [Contact Us](#) page or send it to the snail mail address provided on that webpage. Be sure to read the **Contribution Guidelines** before sending us your submission. You can view those guidelines by clicking the link provided on the Contact Us page itself.

If you find this e-publication beneficial to your walk with Christ and would like to give a financial gift to the *Keys To Understanding Life* ministry, you may do so by mailing your gift to our Snail Mail Address (our current Snail Mail Address is always listed on the [Contact Us](#) page on our website).

Our ministry is not yet a non-profit ministry, although our goal is to be a fully non-profit organization in 2012. As it is, at this time any gift that is given is a “true gift” in the sense that it is not tax deductible.

Gifts should be made to the name: William J. Clark.

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