

SEEING THE INVISIBLE – AND MY CALLING

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Annotation: The Bible says “...the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal” (2Cor 4:18). Seeing the invisible reality is a faculty of a Christian that enables him/her to live and work according to the reality that will not pass away.

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**0. INTRODUCTION: DANGERS, DANGERS...**

- Before jumping to the “how” of *seeing the invisible* we have to understand the dangers and conditions of connecting to the unseen world of God

**0.1. DENIAL**

- [*The New Intellectuals*] Ayn Rand raises the standard of “reason, individualism, and capitalism” against today’s prevalent doctrines of mysticism, altruism, and collectivism. The novels that present her unconventional views have become modern classics.
- *The Fountain-head; Atlas Shrugged*; → ...one unifying theme: *man's rational mind is his sole means of gaining knowledge, survival, and happiness*. This, as will be seen, is: The Lesson of Objectivism.<sup>1</sup>

**0.2. FALSE CONNECTIONS**

- Drugs; Occultism; Spiritism; Eastern meditation; Psychoanalysis...

**0.3. THE GOAL**

- **2Cor 5:7** ...we walk by faith, not by sight. (διὰ πίστεως γὰρ περιπατοῦμεν, οὐ διὰ εἶδους)

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<sup>1</sup> BERNSTEIN, A. *Objectivism in One Lesson* (An Introduction to the Philosophy of Ayn Rand), Lanham : Hamilton Books, 2008.

- **Heb 11:27 [Moses]** By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible (τὸν γὰρ ἀόρατον ὡς ὄρων ἐκαρτέρησεν).

## 1. BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

The natural is not sinful, but the natural is not spiritual. When the Redemption of God has dealt with sin and delivered from it, then the natural must be sacrificed. (CHAMBERS, O. *The Psychology of Redemption*)

### 1.1. RECOGNIZING THE WHOLE OF REALITY

- the problem of **MONISM!!**
- The uncreated (the Trinity) ↔ the created (visible and invisible) p. [Col 1:16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, **visible** and **invisible**,...]
- Creation: spirits (angels, demons) ↔ bodies (humans, animals, matter)
- Spiritual realm: godly (subjected to God's will) ↔ ungodly (rebellious)

### 1.2. AWARENESS

- Spiritual "senses": (1) hearing [Heb 4:7 "Today, if you **hear** his voice, do not harden your hearts." Mt 13:9 He **who has ears**, let him hear.] (2) sight [Heb 11:1 ...**faith** is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.] (3) taste [Ps 34:8 ...**taste** and **see** (טעמו וראו) that the LORD is good!] (4) smell [2Co 2:14-15 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. 15 ...we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing] (5) touch [Acts 17:27 ...they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him (εἰ ἄρα γε ψηλαφήσειαν αὐτὸν) and find him.]
- spiritual senses blocked by:
  - **IDOLATRY: Ps 115:4-8** Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. <sup>5</sup> They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. <sup>6</sup> They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. <sup>7</sup> They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. <sup>8</sup> **Those who make them become like them**; so do all who trust in them.
  - **REBELLION: Is 6:9-10** "' Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' <sup>10</sup> Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."
  - **IMMATURITY: 1Cor 3:1** But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. **John 16:12** "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. **Heb 5:11** ...About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing."

## 2. BECOMING ALIVE

- We have been created for *the Christ!* and the Christ is *Jesus!* (Col 1)
- *Being* before *doing* (**John 8:47** Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.")

### 2.1. REGENERATION

- **John 3:3** "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ... **14-16** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

## 2.2. CHRISTIAN CALLING

### 2.2.1. GENERAL

- **1Cor 7:20** Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called.
- **1Cor 7:15** God has called you to peace. → the Beatitudes!! [(1) the poor in spirit, (2) those who mourn, (3) the meek, (4) who hunger and thirst after righteousness, (5) the merciful, (6) the pure in heart, (7) the peacemakers, (8) persecuted for righteousness, (9) persecuted on Jesus' account]

### 2.2.2. SPECIFIC/PERSONAL

- **John 21:22** "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!"
- love for *JESUS* – more than the “cause”, religion, faith, justice...!
- Rom 12:1ff ... **1** present your bodies as a living sacrifice ... **6** Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them
- WAIT on the Lord! **Ps 25:4-5** Make me to know your ways (יְהִי לִי יְהוָה הוֹדִיעֵנִי), O LORD; teach me your paths (אֲרַחֲמֶיךָ לְמַדְנִי). Lead me in your truth (הַדְרִיכֵנִי בְּאֱמֻנָתְךָ) and teach me (וְלַמְדֵנִי), for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long (אֹתְךָ קִיַּחֲתִי כָּל-הַיּוֹם).

## 3. APPLYING THE NEW SPIRITUAL FACULTIES

### 3.1. TRAINING!

**Heb 5:14** ...solid food is for the mature-- for those whose senses have been trained [τὰ αἰσθητήρια γεγυμνασμένα] to distinguish between good and evil.

### 3.2. SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

**1Cor 2:6-16** Yet among the mature (ἐν τοῖς τελείοις) we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. <sup>7</sup>But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him" – <sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit (ἀπεκάλυψεν ὁ θεὸς διὰ τοῦ πνεύματος). For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God (τὰ βάθη τοῦ θεοῦ). <sup>11</sup>For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God (τὰ τοῦ θεοῦ) except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. <sup>13</sup>And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual (πνευματικοῖς πνευματικὰ συγκρίνοντες). <sup>14</sup>The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God (ψυχικὸς δὲ ἄνθρωπος οὐ δέχεται τὰ τοῦ πνεύματος), for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned (πνευματικῶς ἀνακρίνεται). <sup>15</sup>The spiritual person judges all things (ὁ δὲ πνευματικὸς ἀνακρίνει [τὰ] πάντα), but is himself to be judged by no one. <sup>16</sup>"For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ (ἡμεῖς δὲ νοῦν Χριστοῦ ἔχομεν).

- An Example: *The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard*
  - **Mt 20:1-16** "For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his **vineyard**. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his **vineyard**. <sup>3</sup> And going out about the third hour ... Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ... about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. ... <sup>9</sup> And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ... 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ... <sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first last."

## 4. TO REMEMBER

- To connect with the invisible reality may be very *dangerous*.
- To “see” and get in touch with the spiritual reality is safe only through *Jesus Christ*.

- To follow the invisible reality wisely requires *training*.