



Way of the Eagle

by Rhoda Collins

What Hinders Your Spiritual Life?

Did you know as a born-again Christian you have ten senses? You have five natural and five spiritual senses. In **Matthew 13:13** Jesus mentions that **“Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing they do not hear nor understand”**. People who are mature spiritually have developed their spiritual senses; they discern good and evil.

In **1 Corinthians 2:14** it talks about the natural man being spiritually dead, **“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”**

How do we activate the Spiritual senses?

The parable in **Matthew 25:1-13** teaches about spiritual senses; **“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish (thoughtless, without forethought) and five were wise (sensible, intelligent, and prudent). ³For when the foolish took their lamps, they did not take any [extra] oil with them; ⁴But the wise took flasks of oil along with them [also] with their lamps. ⁵While the bridegroom lingered and was slow in coming, they all began nodding their heads, and they fell asleep...”** Here the five foolish virgins have only five natural senses but the other five wise virgins are the ones who also have five spiritual sense. They kept their lamps filled with the oil of the Holy Spirit.

What are the five spiritual senses?

Spiritual Sight is the ability to see pictures from the Lord such as visions, which is like watching TV spiritually. There is also a spiritual sight called xtasy (read “Xtreme Big Game Hunting” eBook) which is the ability to go in the Spirit and be part of the vision; to be in it. There are people in the new age

that counterfeit visions and manifestations of God. Many Christians don’t operate in the Spirit because they are afraid of moving in the spirit realm, are afraid of being rejected by those who don’t and afraid of counterfeit manifestations.

One Biblical example of a vision or spiritual sight is in **Acts 11: 5** when Peter had a vision about four-footed animals and wild beasts. Visions, revelations and prophetic ministry should bring correction, repentance, and edification in the body of Christ. In the church nowadays you don’t usually have corrective prophecy going on.

Another example of spiritual sight is from Dennis Walker’s book “Catching the Initiative of Heaven”: “A young visiting pastor came into our meeting in Peru. I looked over at him and saw a sign on his chest that read *Adultery*. I went to him privately with Dennis and said” You’re in adultery aren’t you?” He got mad and said: “How could you say such a thing?” He denied everything. Well I see it written on your chest. So I’ll ask God who you’ve been with”. So I went home and prayed and the Lord gave me the name of the woman that happened to be someone I knew. Dennis and I confronted her and she broke down and confessed it all. Then we went and confronted the pastor and he confessed. We were able to get rid of the sin in the church that the enemy was trying to destroy. This gift brings healing, restoration and cleansing.”

Spiritual Hearing is the ability to hear from God and discern His voice. **“My sheep hear My voice and I know them and they follow Me”**. Messages can be God’s audible voice, or through an inner, still, quiet small voice, or through someone else’s voice that you bear witness in your spirit. Usually the thoughts from the Lord come in a spontaneous way, rather than through reasoning.

Spiritual Taste and Smell are the ability to discern good from evil. Discernment is what keeps us from deception. A good example of spiritual discernment is when Jesus rebuked Peter about going to the cross: **“But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.” Matthew 16:23** Here Peter was not discerning God’s plan for redemption but his natural wisdom. Later on when Peter grew in the Lord and was filled with the spirit of God he led three thousand people to Christ. The sweet smelling sacrifices. We bring sacrifices to the Lord when we are obeying Him and give everything to him. The sacrifice of repentance, a broken and contrite heart becomes a sweet fragrance. **Psalm 51:17** There is also the sacrifice of patience, when the Lord tells us to wait for an answer to prayer and we wait and we wait and we are frustrated and the flesh wants to go out there and do what it wants to do, but God says wait for my timing.

The sacrifice of praise as it is written in **Hebrews 13: 15** **“Through Him, therefore, let us constantly and at all times offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, which is the fruit of lips that thankfully acknowledge and confess and glorify His name.”** When we have terrible circumstances in our lives we bring a sacrifice of praise, instead of grumbling, murmuring, complaining and worrying.

Discerning good and evil. One way to discern is to measure it against God’s Word. Nothing contrary to the Word of God should be tolerated. For example if you are told at work to lie, cheat or do anything forbidden by the Scriptures, you can throw it out, since it’s against the Word of God, which teaches honesty, love, forgiveness and holiness.

There are things we need to test: every spirit should be tested. **1 John 4:1** **“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone into the world.”** Every messenger must be tested and you must test the means of communication. There’s a good example in **Acts 16:16-18** when a slave girl with the spirit of divination began to announce Paul as servant of the most high. The enemy does this to win trust and support of those with little sense of spiritual discernment. Just like Jesus said you will know them by their fruits. Finally we need to examine and test ourselves: **“Let a man [thoroughly] examine himself, and [only when he has done] so should he eat of the bread and drink of the cup.” (1 Corinthians 11:28)** We need to make sure that we live in surrender to the Lord free from habitual sin, bitterness and other garbage that contaminates the heart.

Many churches reject the manifestation of the Holy Spirit because the leaders have never been taught how to develop their spiritual senses. When people just want to be safe and ignore the legitimate power of God, they’re left with a powerless life and ministry. Groups that don’t teach spiritual sense development and spiritual maturity to their people end up “watering-down”the Gospel. They believe that miracles ceased so they feed their people with stale crackers and stagnant water. That is a main reason why people (spiritual beings desiring spiritual things) are bored and leaving spiritually dead churches.

To be able to develop your spiritual senses properly you must be born again, baptized in the Holy Spirit, reject sin and live in an ongoing relationship with the Lord. Ask the Holy Spirit to help your development.

Hindrances to Spiritual Senses:

Condemnation is one of the obstacles to hear clearly from God. Un-repent sin is this kind of heart. Hebrews 10: 22
An unforgiving heart harbours offense.
A lying spirit of reinterpretation. After an offence, a lying spirit enters where the enemy blows the offence out of proportion by reinterpreting the event.
A spirit of bitterness. Hebrews 12: 15 Bitterness is like drinking poison, hoping your enemy will die.
A spirit of deception. Such as Christians thinking we don’t need to do spiritual warfare or miracles no longer happen.

Spirit of fear and depression
Spirit of addictions and obsessions. Addictions to drugs, alcohol, pornography, gambling, etc.
Spirit of Control. Spirit of manipulation to control others to get what you want.
Embracing a suppressing spirit. A person’s identity begins to be suppressed by a demonic spirit that embraces the person. The words, action and behaviour of a person are influenced by a demonic spirit.