

Growing In

# **SPIRITUAL INTELLIGENCE**



'But solid food is for the mature, whose spiritual senses perceive heavenly matters. And they have been adequately trained by what they've experienced to emerge with understanding of the difference between what is truly excellent and what is evil and harmful.' Hebrews 5:14 (TPT)

God did not design His children to be disadvantaged in life, which is why He made resources available to us to enable us to live victoriously and fulfill our destiny. But for us to maximize these resources, a measure of intelligence is required.

The dictionary defines intelligence as the ability to acquire and apply knowledge and skills. Intelligence is not limited to the natural realm alone, there is also spiritual intelligence that can and should be acquired by all believers. This series we are looking at 5 forms of spiritual intelligence we need to apply to life to live as God intended.

## Day 1 Sight

'And Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.' II Kings 6:17

There are many times we may take wrong decisions out of ignorance, fear or other reasons because we can't see what's really going on. Life is spiritual – anything we can physically see is controlled by what we cannot see with our physical eyes. In the scenario above Elisha's servant panicked because he and Elisha were surrounded by a vast army from an enemy nation, however Elisha was calm because he could see what his servant couldn't and knew the odds were in his favour.

"Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." Jeremiah 33:3

There's a spiritual intelligence that opens us up to what is currently happening in the spiritual realm and what is going to happen in the future. God gives this to us so we have the advantage of advance information and aren't constantly reacting to things around us. How then do we get this information?

'I counsel you to buy from Me... anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.'  
Revelation 3:18

Jesus counselled the church in Laodicea to buy eye salve (ointment) from Him so they could see. As they were not physically blind, this means the ointment Jesus counselled them about was spiritual. We know Jesus doesn't need money so what type of currency was He expecting to be used for the purchase? The cost of spiritual sight is time spent with Him. Not in business or a multitude of requests, but actively seeking His presence. This sight is something all believers have access to through the Holy Spirit, but not many activate the access.

As we get a personal revelation and appreciate how valuable sight is, it will reshape the things we go to God in prayer for. As we release ourselves to actively seek His presence more than anything else, the Holy Spirit sharpens our sight until we can "see" clearly.

**Prayer:** Lord open my eyes that I may see what is really going on around me and show me what is to come.

## Day 2

### Hearing

'He who has ears to hear, let him hear!' Matthew 11:15

When Jesus made the statement above, He was not speaking to people who were physically deaf or hard of hearing – He was talking about hearing in another dimension where we can hear what is being said in the spiritual realm.

'For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing...' Matthew 13:15

Jesus made what would be a seemingly odd connection between our hearts and our ability to hear. In biological terms these are two completely unrelated organs, however in spiritual terms, the state of our heart (conscience) is directly connected to how well we hear, if at all. When our hearts are dull, it implies we rely solely on our physical senses and live life based on what we see. However, when we have an active spiritual life, it's easier to receive direction/instructions from the Holy Spirit as well as hear things supernaturally.

"None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom." 2 Kings 6:12

In the scenario above the king of Syria found that Israel always knew what he was planning, so he was sure there was a spy in his camp. However, one of his men confirmed that what was happening was that Elisha seated in Israel could hear the discussions in the king's bedroom, which he used to warn his own people. So Elisha was the one feeding the army in Israel accurate military intelligence. Imagine walking in such accuracy.

'Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left.' Isaiah 30:21

There's a level of spiritual sensitivity we must have to pick the intelligence the Holy Spirit is giving us. The good thing is that it is God's desire that His children function this way so it is an ability that is open to all believers.

**Prayer:** Lord open my inner ears to hear.

## Day 3

### Power of Perception

“Yet the Lord has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day.” Deuteronomy 29:4

Perception is a critical and powerful weapon in the believer’s arsenal. The difference between perception and sight or hearing is that perception is more of a ‘knowing’ based on insight that the Holy Spirit gives rather than something seen or heard.

“saying, “Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives.” Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul.” Acts 27:10-11

When Paul was about to sail to Rome, he shared his perception with the men he was to sail with, however they decided to go with the facts currently available to them and go ahead with the journey. If we were to relate this to our lives, as believers who carry the Holy Spirit in us, there were times the Holy Spirit gave us a knowing about something which we rejected because it didn’t tally with what was in front of us: however experience later taught us that the Holy Spirit was right all along.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” Romans 8:14

“The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, Searching all the inner depths of his heart.” Proverbs 20:27

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT

We’re not meant to live life by trial and error. There are many hurts and dangers we can avoid; opportunities God has created for us we can take advantage of by sharpening our perception. However, because we are so used to being physical sense led, we need to let the Holy Spirit teach us how to be led by Him as a part of life. This is the thrust of Proverbs 3:5 as we have our own understanding and ways of doing things, but we must be willing to put God first in all things. As we engage Him and His opinion about everything (big or small) and more importantly obey what He says, our perception becomes sharper.

**Prayer:** Lord please help me as I commit to being more obedient to you so my perception sharpens.

## Day 4

### Discerning of Spirits

'And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.' Acts 16:18

The slave girl following Paul and Silas wasn't lying when she called them men of God, but the spirit motivating what she was saying wasn't from God. The reason Paul was able to identify this was because he could discern the real nature of the spirit in operation. Think back on how many times someone has presented a seemingly good front and turned out to have negative motives which didn't play out until much later and what the outcome would have been if you could have discerned what was really going on.

'But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'" I Samuel 16:7

'But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, "Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.'" Mark 8:33

God doesn't want us to be taken advantage of by the enemy or to be confused in any way – He loves us too much for that. This is why we gave the gift of the Holy Spirit. As people we see the actions of others, but through the Holy Spirit, all believers have access to the gift of discerning of spirits – the ability to know which spirit is the real motivator of the act. This is how Paul knew that the slave girl was possessed with an evil spirit and how Jesus knew that it was Satan motivating Peter's statement. We can also know what is really behind the things we see, regardless of how good they may look.

'But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all... to another discerning of spirits...' I Corinthians 12:7,10

The Holy Spirit is always ready to respond to us if we genuinely ask Him what is really going on about a matter and are willing to follow His guidance. This means we need to be ready to lean on Him and not be unduly focused on what we think we know about a person or a situation.

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, I ask for the gift of discerning of spirits so I'm aware of what is really going on behind the scenes.



## Day 5

### Spiritual Understanding

“The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding....”  
Isaiah 11:2

Understanding gives us the power to comprehend, interpret and apply what we see, hear, perceive and discern accurately. When we lack understanding it simply means we don't know what to do with the information we're in possession of. So understanding by the Holy Spirit undergirds our ability to be spiritually intelligent. Jesus required a lot of understanding to function effectively and so do we.

“But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.” 1 Corinthians 2:14 NLT

“And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.” Luke 24:45

There's an understanding people are naturally endowed with at various levels, but there's a spiritual understanding that enables believers to function in a different dimension. When the Holy Spirit open our understanding, we are set apart from others, because we will be functioning according to His strength and not ours. Solomon's understanding distinguished him among kings, Daniel's understanding established the superiority of God to several pagan kings and positioned him to pray the deliverance of Israel from captivity into reality. No matter the situation Jesus found Himself in, His understanding equipped Him to always know what to do. Understanding matters.

In accepting Jesus as our saviour, we are accepting God's Holy Spirit to take residence in us. And as we let Him be Lord over our lives, He transforms the way we assess and address situations because we start thinking and functioning like Him. The believer who doesn't utilize the tools the Holy Spirit has made available will end up being quite frustrated because such a person will constantly be reacting to situations and wondering why God seems to be letting things happen, rather than being adequately prepared to respond accurately. These tools are available to us in the place of prayer, study and obedience, let's make good use of them.

**Prayer:** Lord, open up my understanding

Thanks for completing the study. We'll love to hear from you, connect with us on:

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

[YouTube](#)

**You can also listen to our Podcasts on:**

[Spotify](#)

[Anchor FM](#)

[Google Podcasts](#)

[Apple Podcasts](#)

Or send us an Email: [aheartofwisdom@gmail.com](mailto:aheartofwisdom@gmail.com)

©Aheartofwisdom

