

Awaken to the Unseen: Living With Spiritual Awareness in a Natural World

Dr. John Carmichael

[2Ki 6:15-17 NASB95] 15 Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" **16** So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." **17** Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

- We live in a culture that believes only in what it can see, measure, and control. Unfortunately, much of the modern church has adopted the same worldview. A Christianity that believes in heaven but lives as if earth is all that matters.
- The Bible never tries to prove the spirit realm; it presumes it. The things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.
- From Genesis to Revelation:
 - Angels appear without introduction
 - Demons speak without explanation
 - Heaven opens without apology
 - God's glory manifests without metaphor
- Modern Western Christianity is one of the few expressions of the faith that tries to live as if the unseen is optional. This is not biblical Christianity; it is functional materialism.

What are some principles that pertain to being awakened to the unseen?

Here are five principles that pertain to being awakened to the unseen.

I. THE UNSEEN REALM IS REAL, ACTIVE, AND GOVERNING

- [2Ki 6:15-17 NASB95] **15** Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" **16** So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." **17** Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.
- Elisha does not pray for new angels. He prays for opened eyes. The armies of heaven were already there.
- This establishes a biblical principle: The unseen realm precedes the seen; the unseen realm interprets the seen; the unseen realm governs the seen.
- [Heb 11:3 NASB95] **3** By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.
- [2Co 4:18 NASB95] **18** while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.
- Faith is not denial of reality. It is alignment with the deeper reality.
- This is not mysticism or escapism. We do not deny the natural; we interpret it correctly.
- Pray: "Lord, open my eyes to what You are already doing around me."

II. WHEN THE SPIRIT REALM IS IGNORED, CHRISTIAN PRACTICES LOSE POWER

- [Eph 6:12 NASB95] **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual [forces] of wickedness in the heavenly [places.]

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- b. Paul does not say some battles are spiritual. He says our struggle is not against flesh and blood.
- c. Prayer Becomes Performative Instead of Combative.
 - i. Without spiritual awareness: Prayer becomes comfort language; Prayer becomes religious self-talk; Prayer becomes crisis management
 - ii. With spiritual awareness: Prayer is engagement; Prayer is resistance; Prayer is alignment; Prayer is enforcement of heaven's will
 - iii. Prayer is not asking God to do something He already decided—it is agreeing with what heaven is doing and releasing it on earth.
- d. [2Co 10:4-5 NASB95] 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 5 [We are] destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and [we are] taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,
- e. Not every problem is a demon, but every believer lives in a spiritual conflict. Ignoring that conflict does not make us mature. It makes us vulnerable.
- f. Declaration: "I refuse to fight spiritual battles with natural weapons. I engage heaven's authority in prayer."

III. SCRIPTURE IS NOT JUST TRUTH TO BELIEVE, BUT AUTHORITY TO ENFORCE

- a. [Mat 4:1-11 NASB95] 1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" 5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU'; and 'ON [their] HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'" 7 Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'" 8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; 9 and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'" 11 Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and [began] to minister to Him.
- b. Jesus does not argue with the devil. He declares Scripture. The Word is treated as a legal instrument in the spiritual realm.
- c. The Word creates. The Word confronts. The Word executes judgment. The Word establishes boundaries.
- d. Scripture Becomes Informational Instead of Strategic
 - i. Without the spirit realm: Bible reading becomes moral reflection; Bible reading becomes academic analysis; Bible reading becomes inspirational quotes
 - ii. With the spirit realm: Scripture reveals authority; Scripture exposes enemy schemes; Scripture teaches spiritual law; Scripture trains discernment
 - iii. The Word is not just truth; it is a weapon, a plumb line, and a legal document in the courts of heaven.
- e. [Heb 4:12 NASB95] 12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

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- f. [Psa 149:6-9 NASB95] 6 [Let] the high praises of God [be] in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand, 7 To execute vengeance on the nations And punishment on the peoples, 8 To bind their kings with chains And their nobles with fetters of iron, 9 To execute on them the judgment written; This is an honor for all His godly ones. Praise the LORD!
- g. We do not shout Scripture to impress people. We speak it because the spirit realm recognizes authority.
- h. Speak one Scripture you know aloud, not loudly, but intentionally; as an act of spiritual alignment.

IV. THE CHURCH IS AN EKKLESIA, NOT A WEEKLY EVENT

- a. [Mat 16:18-19 NASB95] 18 "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. 19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."
- b. Ekklesia is not a religious gathering; it is a governing assembly.
- c. The church: Legislates heaven's will; confronts darkness corporately; shifts atmospheres through unity
- d. [Eph 3:10 NASB95] 10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly [places.]
- e. [Act 12:5-11 NASB95] 5 So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God. 6 On the very night when Herod was about to bring him forward, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and guards in front of the door were watching over the prison. 7 And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and woke him up, saying, "Get up quickly." And his chains fell off his hands. 8 And the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." 9 And he went out and continued to follow, and he did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. 10 When they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened for them by itself; and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. 11 When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."
- f. When the church prays together, prisons open, angels move, and plans of hell are disrupted.
- g. In Scripture, the church is not: A service you attend; A sermon you consume; A building you support
 - i. It is: A called-out assembly; A governing body; A spiritual embassy of the Kingdom
 - ii. When the spirit realm is ignored, church becomes: Redundant, Replaceable, Consumer-driven
 - iii. When the spirit realm is recognized, church becomes: A place of corporate authority; A place where atmospheres shift; A place where heaven is enforced on earth
- h. Church is not a substitute for personal faith, but personal faith is incomplete without corporate authority.
- i. "I am not just attending church. I am part of God's governing assembly."

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V. TO BE “IN THE SPIRIT” IS TO SEE, HEAR, AND RESPOND FROM HEAVEN’S PERSPECTIVE

- a. [Rev 1:10 NASB95] 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like [the sound] of a trumpet,
 - b. “To be in the Spirit” is not emotional loss of control. It is spiritual location and perception.
 - c. Biblical markers of being “in the Spirit”: Heightened discernment; clear revelation; holy fear; willing obedience
 - d. [Eze 1:1 NASB95] 1 Now it came about in the thirtieth year, on the fifth [day] of the fourth month, while I was by the river Chebar among the exiles, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.
 - e. [Act 10:9-16 NASB95] 9 On the next day, as they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. 10 But he became hungry and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance; 11 and he saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, 12 and there were in it all [kinds of] four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air. 13 A voice came to him, "Get up, Peter, kill and eat!" 14 But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean." 15 Again a voice [came] to him a second time, "What God has cleansed, no [longer] consider unholy." 16 This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into the sky.
 - f. We do not chase experiences. We pursue sensitivity. Encounters follow hunger.
 - g. “Holy Spirit, recalibrate my awareness to heaven’s frequency.”
- **When believers lose awareness of the spirit realm, Christianity becomes hollow and optional, but when spiritual sight is restored, prayer becomes warfare, Scripture becomes strategy, and the Church becomes a governing force that shifts atmospheres.**
 - You don’t need: new theology; new methods; new programs
 - You need renewed spiritual sight.
 - The spirit realm has not gone silent. Heaven has not withdrawn. Authority has not diminished.
 - The question is not whether God is moving. The question is whether His people are awake.