

Navigating your Spiritual Journey Intro

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday June 22

Perspective is Powerful because it affects our Perception.

Perception is not the same as “Reality”!

1. Our Reality is based on our ability to:

A. Accurately Perceive what’s happening.

1) Physically we do this through our God given physical senses.

1 Cor 2:14 *“the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God... Neither can he know them Because they’re spiritually discerned.”*

2) When we’re born again, God gives us spiritual senses. Taste (Ps. 34:8; Heb 6:5; 1 Pt 2:3); Sight (Mt 13:16 Heb. 2:9); Feeling (Acts 17:27); Smell (2 Cor 2:14; Eph 5:2); Hearing (Mt 13:16; Heb. 3:7; 15; 4:7)

Heb. 5:13 *“But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*

B. Accurately Process what we sense.

1) Physically through the brain soul. (Mind, will, emotions) Mt 13:13

2) Spiritually through the spirit. (Mt 13:16; 1 Cor 2:15; Jn 16:13)

2. Our Reality can be distorted by:

A. Our Perception:

1) Mirages can affect our visible perception and therefore our perceived “reality”.

a) They’re created by the refraction (twisting) of light.

2) Consider the confusion AI has brought to our information and perceptions. (see Rev. 13:13-15)

B. Our Processing and/or Programing.

1) That’s why God warns to: *“avoid...oppositions of science falsely so called”* 1 Tim. 6:20

See also Pr. 4:23; Ro. 12:2; 2 Cor 10:3,4

If natural phenomenon or artificial intelligence can so easily deceive us,

3. Why do we doubt that a supernatural and seductive Devil can do so?

Gen. 3:1 *“Now the serpent was more subtil than any ... which the LORD God had made... yea hath God said...?”*

A. Notice Jesus’ testimony about him. Jn 8:44 *“... there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”* (John 10:10)

B. Notice the effect of his lies! Jn 8:45 *“And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.”*

2 Cor 4:4 *“the god of this world hath blinded the minds (noema: perception) of them which believe not...”*
(Apistos: without faith, confidence, conviction) {without a firm “landmark”. (Heb. 6:18,19)

What’s the solution to all the distortion?

4. God Intervenes with Truth. 2 Cor 4:6 *“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, (skotos: from skia: shadow, adumbration {mirage}) hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”*

A. This is why Jesus Came! John 1:4-12 *“But as many as received him, (Lambanō: to take, accept, associate with) to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe (pisteuō: trust, commit to, put confidence in) on his name:”* (on’oma: authority, character) 13 *Which were born, (gennaō: regenerated) not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”*

B. Light is synonymous with Truth! John 1:14 *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."*

Alētheia: from a (not) and lanthanō (concealed)

- 1) Jesus' testimony to Pilate Jn 18:37 *"To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice."* (See John 10:27)
- 2) Pilate's response revealed his conflicted and/or corrupted perceptions: 38 *"What is truth?"*

Conclusion:

Jesus challenged people's perspectives and "called" them to the Truth.

John 14:6 *"I am the way, the truth, the life"*

- 1) The first words of his ministry were: *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* (Mt. 4:17)
- 2) His next recorded words were: Mt 4:19 *"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

Halieus (from hals): sailor!

Application:

John 10:10 *"The thief comes to steal, kill, destroy.
I am come that ye might have life, and that more abundantly."*

Jesus offers us the same choice and challenge:

- 1) A New Perspective: Mt 4:17 *"Repent (Reconsider {Lk 13:3,5}) For The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand"*
- 2) A New Path (Direction) Mt 4:19 *"Follow Me (Rearrange) {Lk14:33}: 2 Cor 5:17*
- 3) A New Priority: *"Fishers of men" (Reprioritize) (Mt 28:18-10; Col. 1:18; Revelation 4:11)*

Jesus still intercepts our lives in the middle of our distorted perceptions, perspectives, purposes and priorities, and asks the same of us! (Mt 16:24; Mk 8:34; Lk 9:23)

Just like the apostles, he's calling us to "navigate" our lives according to God's

Compass/Charts. (aka: Truth!) (Pr. 3:5,6; Ps. 119:105)

What will your answer be?

Any Successful "navigation" requires that you consider:

- Your Current Location;
- Your Final (desired) Destination;
- The Best path (course) to connect the two;
- How you'll deal with any obstacles or enemies along the way.

If you get any of these wrong, you risk ending up adrift or shipwrecked!



1 Timothy 1:18,19 *"This charge I commit unto thee,
...according to the prophecies which went before on thee,
that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;
Holding faith, and a good conscience;
which some having put away concerning faith
have made shipwreck;"*