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October 2018
Ruled By Perception

Dear Friend,

Have you ever heard anyone say, “Perception is everything”? Perception is defined as the ability to **see, hear, or become aware of something through the senses**. Perception is used predominately in advertising. For example, a toothpaste company promoting a tooth polish that whitens teeth advertises with a person using the product and afterwards their teeth are bright white. They have a big smile on their face as they talk to someone of the opposite sex. You see, the trick with perception is that it doesn’t necessarily need to be true in order to work; we just need to **believe** it is true in order to act on the perceived idea.

The perception the toothpaste company wants you to walk away with is that by using their product your teeth will be whiter and you will be a more attractive person. People who believe this and want those kinds of results will buy their product. Our five senses play a tremendous role in what we perceive. In other words, if you can see it, feel it, taste it, smell it, or hear it, then you believe that whatever your senses perceive is exactly the way it is.

Let’s say you see an apple pie coming out of the oven nice and hot and golden brown with steam rolling off the top of the beautiful laced crust and a wonderful cooked apple smell fills the air. What is your conclusion? Based on the information at hand, you conclude that the pie probably tastes as good as it smells. So, you grab a knife and fork and cut a nice big piece and put in on a plate. You smother it with ice cream and get a fork full of what you believe to be a tasty treat. Low and behold, your senses have lied to you. Instead of a luscious tasting pie you discover they used the sourest apples imaginable. Your perception was 100% wrong.

My point is that your senses are only as accurate as the information given to them, along with your frame of reference based on past experiences. Every pie you have ever seen that looks and smells the way this one does has always been delicious. Consequently, your conclusion is that this one must also be delicious. The problem is, this one isn’t. Your perception is wrong.

Or, you perceived that by using that particular toothpaste you would become irresistible, just as the commercial demonstrated. Sadly, reality was much different than you perceived. Your teeth became blindingly bright and no one could stand to be around you. Again, your perception was incorrect.

Perception deals with what and why we believe what we believe. For most people their perception of the world around them is based almost entirely on information given to them by their five senses. This in turn becomes the source they rely upon in making their decisions. **So, if what a person perceives and believes to be truth isn't really truth at all, then it's void of the power of God to bring it to pass. Even worse, believing something other than truth can keep a person in bondage.**

For example, remember the time Jesus fed the multitude with the boy's lunch and how the natural circumstances appeared bleak. Jesus looked beyond the limitations of this world and tapped into the source of all supply; God. By looking beyond the immediate circumstances and focusing on truth the multitude was fed with an abundance to spare.

God created mankind with the ability to believe what his five senses told him. He placed man in a perfect world and through his five senses man was able to draw accurate conclusions about the world he lived in. Adam's sin changed all that. Once Adam fell, not only did he become corrupt, but the world around him became corrupt with sin and death.

The world was now heading in a negative direction, opposite to the ways of God and death became Adam's master. The source of all truth had limited access to the world He had created and man's soul was now his only guide.

The only information man was now able to gather with his five senses was originating from a corrupt world. As a result, his conclusions were corrupt because his perception of the world around him was being formed by corrupt information. It wasn't until the source of all truth was able to once again get His word, Jesus, into the earth that man was finally able to have their perception influenced by truth.

Our world is still in a fallen state and heading in a negative direction as fast as it can go. **The key to living a victorious life is to stop allowing our perception to be ruled by this natural world.** As long as a person limits themselves to what they can see, hear, taste, smell or touch they will be unable to see beyond the limitations of this fallen world. Jesus came to demonstrate to us the limitless

possibilities if only we could believe beyond what our five senses perceive. That's why He said: (Mark 9:23)

“...if thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.”

In case you haven't noticed, all things are **not** possible if we only rely on the limitations of this natural world. Jesus was saying that limitless possibilities exist for anyone able to see beyond the natural world by focusing on truth. God's word is truth. Jesus even identified Himself as truth. (John 14:6)

“Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.”

Truth had to come from outside this natural world and enter through the door of the womb of Mary. Now, we are no longer held captive to a fallen world with its limitations. We now have access to the limitless possibilities available by believing truth.

When truth came in the person of Jesus and walked this earth, His life exemplified a life lived beyond the limitations of this world. In so doing, He was actually demonstrating to us the life our Father was expecting us to live, once we were born again, if only we believe truth.

The circumstances of this natural world may paint a picture of lack, but the truth says; **“My God shall supply all of my need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”** (Philippians 4:19) Now, what am I going to believe? Am I going to believe the circumstances presented to me by this fallen world or truth? If I am not careful and I continue focusing on the natural circumstances I see with my eyes, my perception will be that I am in lack. I must take God's word and put it before my eyes until my perception is formed by the truth instead of the immediate circumstances. Then and only then will I walk in the truth instead of being governed by a fallen world.

Think back to the lesson Jesus taught the disciples in Mark chapter 4 about the sower sowing the word. What did Jesus say about this parable? (Mark 4:13)

“And He said unto them, Know you not this parable? And how then will you know all parables?”

The reason I believe Jesus identified this parable as the key to understanding all parables was because in order to comprehend the things of God we must begin with His word being planted in the soil of our hearts. Truth must grow up inside

of us to the point that it becomes more real to us than the natural world around us. We must believe His word over everything we see, hear, taste, smell, and touch in the natural world. So long as we are ruled by the perception gained from this world we will be subject to it instead of being the victorious overcomers God has made us to be.

The instructions God gave to Joshua shows just how important it is to keep God's word before our eyes in order to be victorious in this life. (Joshua 1:8)

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

The success God is speaking about here is not necessarily what the world calls success, but rather what God calls success. His success comes when we refuse to be ruled by what we perceive to be truth that originates from the fallen world. Success according to God's standards comes when His word is established in our hearts and it governs the way we think more so than what our five physical senses tell us.

Hold fast to God's word until His word is more real to you than anything in the natural world. This will bring you true success.

~ Jesus Loves You!

Mark Jenkins