

Angels, Demons & You

Seeing the Invisible

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **March 02, 2025**



Today, we are talking about “seeing” the invisible or the unseen. It's a paradox, but it's possible to have vision, understanding, and awareness beyond your physical self. Romans 1:20 tells us, *“God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”* This verse makes it clear that from the beginning of our God-story until today, there's something we can perceive that is beyond what we can discern with our five senses. Unfortunately, we've ignored spiritual things for so long and to such a stunning degree that we find ourselves almost immobilized spiritually. We must live with enough spiritual awareness to understand what's happening in our world. In times of great stress and great need, paying attention to the fundamentals is the key to the best possible outcomes. And for those of us who are Christ-followers, that leads us back to diligently doing the things we know to do including praying and reading God's Word. God, in His mercy, is awakening us!

I. UNDERSTANDING THE UNSEEN

Romans 1:20 *For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.*

Hebrews 11:3 (NASB®) *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.*

***How does a lack of spiritual awareness impact our relationship with God and our ability to follow His will?**

II. TO UNDERSTAND THE SEEN, WE MUST FIRST UNDERSTAND THE UNSEEN.

Acts 16:16-24 *Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.¹⁷ This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved."¹⁸ She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.*

¹⁹ *When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities.²⁰ They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar²¹ by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."²² The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten.²³ After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully.²⁴ Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.*

Ephesians 6:10-13 *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.*

***What are some common tactics demons use to harass believers? What does it mean to "put on the full armor of God," and how can we apply this to our daily lives?**

III. A MATTER OF FOCUS

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NASB®) *Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet **our inner man** is being renewed day by day.¹⁷ For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,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.*

A. Our “Inner Man” Is Being Renewed

Ephesians 3:16 (NASB®) *...that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in **the inner man.***

1 Peter 3:3-4 (NASB[®]) *Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; ⁴ but let it be **the hidden person** of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.*

Colossians 3:9-10 (NASB[®]) *Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, ¹⁰ and have **put on the new self who is being renewed** to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him...*

B. "Troubles Produce for Us . . . "

***What are some cultural or societal pressures that can lead us to prioritize physical maintenance over spiritual growth, and how can we resist these pressures?**

IV. REWARDS FROM "UNSEEN" SOURCE

Matthew 6:6 *But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and **pray to your Father, who is unseen**. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

V. UNSEEN INFLUENCES IN VISIBLE PLACES

Matthew 17:27 *"But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."*

Mark 5:27-30 *When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed."²⁹ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. ³⁰ At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"*

Acts 13:6-12 (NASB[®]) *When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-Jesus, ⁷ who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. ⁸ But Elymas the magician (for so his name is translated) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.*

⁹ *But Saul, who was also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him, ¹⁰ and said, "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord? ¹¹ **"Now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time." And immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand.** ¹² Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened, being amazed at the teaching of the Lord.*

Isaiah 54:17 *...no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me," declares the LORD.*

Psalms 91:7-11 *A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. ⁸ You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. ⁹ If you make the Most High your dwelling — even the LORD, who is my refuge — ¹⁰ then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. ¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.*

***How does ungodliness diminish our potential, and what are some specific areas of our lives where this can be seen? What are some of the long-term consequences of ungodliness?**

PROCLAMATION/DECLARATION FOR YOUR LIFE — GOD'S PROTECTION

I rejoice in the protection of Almighty God over my life. I am the Lord's servant; I rest in the completeness of His strength and care. No weapon formed against me will prevail. I will refute every tongue which rises against me. This is my heritage as a servant of the Lord. A thousand may fall at my side, but destruction will not overwhelm me. I have made the Most High my dwelling place. God is my refuge and my security. No harm will befall me; no disaster will overtake me. God has commanded His angels to watch over my life. My life and my future are secure through the strength of my Lord and my Redeemer.