

## Whose Reality Will You Believe?

### Introduction

1. We as Christians live in two realms or dimensions..
  - a. These realms are
    - i. Spiritual and physical
    - ii. Visible and invisible
    - iii. Tangible and intangible
  - b. We as Christians have to learn how to put these two realms in proper perspective with  
  
each other, if we really plan to live a victorious life
2. The world's answer to Reality is based on the five senses
  - a. Reality is "what you can see, touch, taste, smell, and hear,"
  - b. Since we are human, we are prone to believe on the basis of our five senses.
    - i. I can feel it, so it must be real.
    - ii. I can smell it, so it must be real.
    - iii. I can taste it, so it must be real
    - iv. I can hear it, so it must be real.
    - v. I can see it, so it must be real.
3. Based on our senses, we have a tendency to conclude that the obvious is reality and the  
  
unobvious is non-reality.
4. This leaves us, as Christians in a dilemma.
  - a. We try to live with eternity in view, but we are consigned to live out our lives in terms

of the world's definition of reality.

b. When our view of reality is based on the five senses, we find ourselves crippled for the dimension of the Spiritual,

c. The things that are Spiritual are not based on the World's definition of reality, therefore the Christian struggles with what is real and with what is not real.

5. Judy came in the other day from showing a house, and she was frustrated

a. The showing did not go well, and in her perception they were not interested

b. She had wasted her time, and she was not sure that she would take more referrals like

this one

c. She calls me Friday as I am traveling to Kansas and back, and she was to meet those

same people at McDonald's in Bald Knob to write up an offer

d. The obvious brought about by her feelings was not obvious at all, because God was at

work in our lives

**Note:** There are times that the majority of us, if not all of us react in this fashion because we

are responding to our senses.

6. Let us try to not let circumstances dictate to us how we feel, but remember who we are in

Christ, and what God has promised us in His Word

**Note** 2 Corinthians 9:8

i. KJV

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

ii. NLT

And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

iii. Amplified

And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient (possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation).

I. God is the Ground of Reality

A. God is the ground of all that is, and He is the source of all reality.

1. If we waver from what is truth or reality (spiritual things), then we shall find

ourselves in continual confusion and ceaseless chaos.

a. Our trouble is that reality is what we see, and we are crippled.

b. We find that God really has very little place in our thinking.

2. Since God is the source of all reality, and God is a Spirit,

a. Then the basic makeup of reality is Spiritual.

b. We must believe Romans 11:36

i. KJV

For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever.  
Amen.

ii. NLT

For everything comes from him; everything exists by his power and is intended for his glory. To him be glory evermore. Amen

iii. NEB...Source, Guide, and Goal of all that is--to him be glory forever.

3. Everything

- a. Comes from God.
- b. Goes to God
- c. Exist through God.

**Note:** God is all in all!

4. The things we see are not depreciated in value, but they are placed in their highest

perspective with their spiritual counterpart.

a. God is the ground or source of what is, and what we see in the visible is a counterpart of the invisible reality.

i. Romans 1:20 from the NLT

From the time the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky and all that God made. They can clearly see His invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse whatsoever for not knowing God.

ii. Hebrews 8:5 from the NIV

They (the priests) serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

b. Thus, the true value of what our eyes see, rest upon us as Christians seeing through the visible to see the invisible things of Him which are real

i. This world..... a new world

ii. This body.....a new body

iii. This life.....Life with God for eternity

iv. Wealth here.....Wealth in heaven

**Note:** We as Christians have the ability to see through the obvious to the actual.

5. God is Reality!

- a. He is the Real reality
- b. All we see in the universe is a reflection of God's handiwork.
- c. Of Him, Through Him, and To Him are all things. (KJV)
- d. For everything comes from him; everything exists by his power (NLT)
- e. Source, Guide, and Goal of all that is (NEB)

**Note:** Everything must be viewed from this perspective.

B. Only the Spirit can discern Spiritual things.

1. Let us look at what God says about reality in 2 Corinthians 4:18

a. KJV

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.

b. NIV

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

c. CE

Things that are seen don't last forever, but things that are not seen are eternal. That's why we keep our minds on the things that cannot be seen.

d. NLT

So we don't look at the troubles we can see right now; rather, we look forward to what we have not yet seen. For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.

## 2. Now, look at 2 Corinthians 4:16-17

### a. CE verses 16-17

We never give up. Our bodies are gradually dying, but we ourselves are being made stronger each day. These little troubles are getting us ready for an eternal glory that will make all our troubles seem like nothing.

**Note:** And then Paul goes into verse 18

Things that are seen don't last forever, but things that are not seen are eternal. That's why we keep our minds on the things that cannot be seen.

### b. NLT verses 16-17

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are quite small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us an immeasurably great glory that will last forever!

**Note:** And then Paul goes into verse 18

So we don't look at the troubles we can see right now; rather, we look forward to what we have not yet seen. For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever

## 3. Only through Spiritual eyes can we discern the real reality

a. Through spiritual eyes we see that God's reality is forever, while things here pass

away

b. Paul said in v18 of 2 Corinthians 4

i. NIV

That the things that are seen are temporary, but the things unseen are permanent.

ii. The King James says in v18 that the things which are seen are "temporal."

1) "Temporal" comes from the Greek word "proskairos."

2) "Pros" is a preposition meaning toward or pertaining to.

3) "Karios" means for awhile, for a time, for a season.

4) The combined meaning is "The things that are seen pertain to a season."

iii. Let us look again at v18 in the KJV with this definition

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 (pertain to a season); but the things which are not seen are eternal.

#### 4. Scriptures

a. Matthew 24:35

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

**Note:** Because this heaven and earth pertain to a season, but there is coming a new heaven

and earth

b. James 1:10

But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away.

**Note:** This pertains to all humanity, for this life pertains to a season'

c. 2 Peter 3:10-11

10) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11) Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved,...

**Note:** Because these things only pertain to a season

#### 5. What is real?

a. Look around you. What do you see that will last forever?

i. That which you see is not reality.

ii. You cannot hold anything in your hands that will last.

- iii. What you see is not deserving of our final trust
- iv. What you see is passing away
- b. Yet, people place their values and their faith on what can be seen.
- c. We need to understand that it is an unsound economy to have our trust placed in what our eyes can see and our hands can touch, because it is passing away.
- d. Things that are real will last, so what is real?
  - i. The things that are unseen are eternal (spirit, soul, God, heaven, etc)
  - ii. Therefore, the only dimension in which we can trust is the spiritual dimension.
  - iii. Yet Christians will say:

Let us not deal in the vague things of the unseen...I want something practical, because they want something confirmed by the senses, because it is easier to live by sight than by faith, but everything we get from God is by faith. Therefore, let us move into the realm of faith through the direction of the Spirit believing the impossible for with God all things are possible.

6. We have received the Spirit of God, so that through the Spirit of God we can know

the things that are freely given us of God

a. 1 Corinthians 2:12 from the NIV

We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

b. Only the spiritual man can receive the things of the Spirit of God because they are

spiritually discerned according to Paul in 1 Corinthians 2:14 (Niv)

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

c. Again, Only the Spirit can discern Spiritual things according to Paul in 1

Corinthians 2:11-16 (Nlt) (With some change)

11) No one can know what anyone else is really thinking except that person alone, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. 12) And God has actually given us his Spirit (not the world's spirit) so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us. 13) When we tell you this, we do not use words of human wisdom. We speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths. 14) But people who aren't Christians can't understand these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them because only those who have the Spirit can understand what the Spirit means. 15) We who have the Spirit understand these things, but others can't understand us at all. How could they? 16) For, "Who can know what the Lord is thinking? Who can give him counsel?" But we can understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.

**Note:** Only Spirit can discern Spiritual. Therefore, we have to move into the realm of the

Spirit to find reality, for as long as we stay in the natural or the flesh, we will think as the world thinks, and the plagues of this world will continue to plague us, and will never move into the depths of enjoying God's economy purpose for us.

II. God has a plan

A. God's plan involves us understanding three perplexing questions.

1. What is Reality...Reality is God, and what He says, not what our senses tell us.
2. Why are we here...We are here to be manifestations of God's reality.
3. What is God up to...

God is up to executing His eternal plan to glorify Himself and He desires to include every one of us in that plan.

B. God created the world as we know it including every living creature and MAN.

1. In Genesis 1:1, the Holy Spirit directs Moses to begin His Word with the answer to the age old question: "Where do we come from?" Moses wrote:

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

2. The Word of God begins with an answer to the questions of life, while philosophy begins with a question

a. God states that He created it all.

b. Did God wake up one eternal morning and decided to start creating? NO!!

c. The Bible teaches us that Jesus was slain from the foundation of the world, so God started with an eternal plan, and the creation of the world with everything on it, including you and I are a part of His plan. Let us note some scriptures

i. Matthew 13:35

...I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

ii. Matthew 25:34

...Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

iii. Ephesians 1:4-6 (Niv)

4) For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5) he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will--6) to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

iv. 1 Peter 1:20-21 (Kjv)

20) Jesus...was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 21) Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

v. In Revelations 13:8, we find that

Jesus was the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world.

C. In Genesis chapters 1 through 3, we see God's plan beginning to unfold.

1. Man was made to be In the Image of God as an extension of God.

**Note:** God desired and still desires to extend Himself through man.

2. Man was made to be In the Likeness of God as the expression of God's character.

**Note:** Our conduct is to reflect what God is like.

**Note:** Outward, our countenance is to reflect God, and inward, our conduct is to reflect God.

3. Man was made to have dominion as the exhibit of God's dominion and power.

**Note:** As long as man was submissive, he possessed with authority and ruled, but when he

was no longer submissive, then he no longer ruled.

**Note:** Listen!! If we will be submissive to God, then we can have dominion, but when we

rebel against God's command to us, then we lose our dominion and authority.  
The

thing God placed in us becomes perverted when we do not submit to the plan of God.

Furthermore, we cancel out the blessings and promises of God when we are not

OBEDIENT and WILLING for we have to be obedient and willing to eat the good of the land. (Isaiah 1:19)

### III. Whose Reality will you believe

#### A. Noah

1. It has never rained....Yet God says a flood is coming

2. On dry land, Noah is to build an ark...

Because he believes God's reality, so he prepares for a flood

3. Noah, being a preacher of righteousness preached a flood is coming

- a. Noah's wife, their three sons and their wives believed the reality of God, so they were saved by being on board the ark
  - b. The world perished because they believe what they could see, and the land was dry, furthermore, it had never rained
4. Everyone found out that God's declaration is reality, even if it was stated some 969 years earlier by Enoch naming his son Methuselah, meaning the Deluge, flood is coming

**Note:** Just because it takes a while does not mean that God's reality is false, for God will do

what God said He would do.

i. Jeremiah 4:28b

... I have spoken it, I have purposed it, and will not repent, neither will I turn back from it.

ii. Ezekiel 24:14a...

I the Lord have spoken it: it shall come to pass, and I will do it; I will not go back...

iii. Isaiah 14:24

The Lord of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:

iv. Isaiah 46:11b

...Yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

v. Matthew 5:18

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled

vi. You will find these words in Matthew 24:35, Mark 13:31, and Luke 21:23

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

**Note:** I guess what we have to do, is decide whether or not the Word applies to us, or what

part of the Word applies to us, then believe God's reality based on His Word, regardless of what we see, hear, feel, smell, or taste.

#### B. Abraham

1. God said Eliezer would not be your heir, but one from your own seed

2. Then God told you Ishmael would not be your heir, but one from Sarai

3. It has been 24 years since you received the promise of an heir, then you are told

when Ishmael is 13 that he will not be the heir, but Sarai who is 89 will have your

son, and he will be the heir

4. Now God has changed your name from Abram, Exalted Father, to Abraham, Father of many nations

5. Furthermore, Sarai name is changed to Sarah, mother of nations

6. Abraham chose to believe God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness, so

at the age of 100 and Sarah at 90, Isaac is born against all human reality, because

God's reality is what is really real

#### C. Joseph

1. You have had a dream where your brothers bowed before you, but here you are in

a cistern waiting to die

2. You had another dream where your whole family, including your mother and father bowed before you, but here you are sold as a slave to the Ishmaelites, who

are leading you to Egypt

3. You are now a slave in Potiphar's house, and your dreams seem so far away

4. Through no fault of your own, you are now in prison, and it has been so many years since you dreamed your dreams

5. Joseph came from ancestors who were dreamers

a. His great grandfather, Abraham walked 25 years before he saw his dream come to pass

b. His grandfather, Isaac lived in obedience to a dream he had from God, so he refused to go to Egypt during a time of drought, and God blessed him

c. His father had a dream at Bethel, then many years later, he had a wrestling experience at Peniel, then he returned to Bethel to pay his vows, and he was a blessed man as years after he dreamed, he saw his dream come to pass

d. Joseph was misused by his brothers, lied on by his master's wife, then forgotten by the butler, yet God never forgot Joseph, and when the time was right, God fulfilled what he purposed raising Joseph from the dungeon to the second in authority throughout the whole land of Egypt, where his family eventually bowed before him

1<sup>st</sup>. Ten of his brothers

2<sup>nd</sup>. Eleven of his brothers

3<sup>rd</sup>. His whole family

D. Children of Israel camped at the Red Sea

E. Elisha's servant

F. Jehoshaphat

G. Mary, Mother of Jesus

**Note:** Let me ask you. Whose reality will you believe?

i. Will you believe what God says about you, or what others say about you?

ii. Will you believe that God has determined blessing upon your life?

iii. Will you believe that God is touching your child, or grandchild?

Conclusion

1. Whose reality will you believe?

2. We choose what we will believe, and to believe God's Word, we must abide in Him and

His Word must abide in us

3. Are you ready to believe?

4. Thoughts that God gave me on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 as I prayed

a. You and I can do all things through Christ who strengthens us

b. It is God who orders our steps, so He leads and directs our lives, therefore

i. Do not be afraid, but trust in God, for He will not drop you nor neglect you

ii. Remember that it is not in our ability, but in God's power and ability for He has all power in both the spiritual world and natural world, so do not fear

iii. Present yourself where you are and let God enable you to be what God has

determined for you, whether it be a minister, a minister's wife, a teacher, a wife,

a

husband, a parent, a builder, a salesman, a common laborer.

iv. Understand, God will lead us in His time to the places He wants us to be.

5. Believe God's reality, regardless of what you see, or how you feel, or of what others may

tell you.