



[Understanding the Christ](#)

Episode 17 - Seeing God: The Power of Spiritual Truth

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Vodcast Website: www.scottdtgrex.podbean.com

Podcast Revelation: www.scottstanleyx.podbean.com

Website: www.theLambsLove.org

Scott Stanley explains why understanding the spiritual similitudes in scripture is essential to truly seeing God, arguing that God is invisible to the literal eye and must be perceived through the mind.

He warns of an enduring apostasy and an approaching storm of opposition, urging listeners to embrace spiritual truth, study scripture deeply, and hold fast to the revealed understanding.

Modified Transcript:

Scriptures are transcribed directly with notations. Refer to KJV for verbatim wording.

Hi, I'm Scott Stanley. I am continuing in this video cast, a series on the importance of spiritual truth- understanding spiritual truth. By that, I mean the similitudes, the likenesses that God has given us in the scripture. Remember in Hosea 12:10, God spoke to us through the prophets using similitudes. I know most of my time in the universal church, no one ever took the time to read the prophets and understand the similitudes. What are the likenesses of it? I have learned to call that spiritual truth.

I know mind and spirit are synonymous through the Bible, so a spiritual truth is of the mind. These are truths that apply to your thinking. Remember in Luke 17, how *the kingdom of God is within you* (Luk 17:21). The kingdom of God is in your mind, therefore it has to be an understanding put there by words... the water of the word (Eph 5:26), if you have an understanding of God that has been taught to you. Remember 1 Corinthians 1:21, *in God's wisdom, he determined that man in his own wisdom will not understand God. And he determined that they should be saved by the foolishness of preaching.* Whoever is preaching to you is going to have to be using words that apply to the mind.

Now I know the Bible is full of literal stories, but I believe each one of those stories contains spiritual truth- a truth that applies to the way you think. Now, how important is it that we understand this? Again, *"the kingdom of God is within you"* (Luk 17:21). You have to learn by what someone is teaching you because it just isn't in man to understand these things. God has to put someone in your life to explain it. Why is this so?

Well, I want you to consider with me the fact that God the Father is referred to in the scripture as the invisible God (1Ti 1:17, Col 1:15). And as I go through this video, I'm going to be putting verses on the screen, just the placement where you can go read this yourself. God is known as the invisible God. Why? Because as I thought about it, I realized, God is the Creator, and God, I don't believe, is invisible to himself. But he's invisible to you and me, because this is his design. He has done this. Why?

Have you ever wondered why we don't have a picture or a drawing of Jesus? Why don't we have something that definitely says, "Well, that's what he looks like." Because if you had that, everybody would want to be like what they see in that picture. You would want to have his color eyes or his color hair or the style of clothing, you know, whatever it is, because that's what men do. Men always seem to dwell on the literal, the physical, what they can see. But what you can see is temporary. It's what you can't see that's eternal (2Co 4:18).

So why don't we have a picture of Jesus? Because we would worship that image. That's why God is invisible. He will be invisible until those who overcome get there and stand before him. I believe they will see his face (Rev 22:4). But right now, he's invisible. So the

only way that we're going to see God is spiritually. That is how important spiritual truth is.

Jesus made the statement, *"If you've seen me, you've seen the Father"* (Jhn 14:9). You know you don't take that literally. Well, how do I see the Father when I look at Jesus? Jesus said, *"The words I speak, the works I do. It's the Father"* (Jhn 12:44-50, Jhn 10:37). So when he was healing and raising the dead and teaching what he taught, showing the compassion and the love and the long-suffering that he did, he was manifesting the Father.

Matthew 11:27, *"No one knows the Son, but the Father, and he to whom so ever the Son will reveal him, and no one knows us but the Father."* He knows you inside and out. But no one else can. Why? Because they cannot see inside you, what's actually happening there... and we can't see ourselves. If you could see yourself and understand God, there would be no reason for the cross (Jer 31:37). If that were possible, there's no reason for you to live in iniquity and sin.

So, we need spiritual truth to help us see God. Again, without it, you'll never see God. And you know, that is the problem, I think, when we see Jesus making the statement, *"Depart from me, you workers of iniquity, I never knew you"* (Mat 7:21-23). Why? Because they never knew him. They never took the time to understand.

Listen, we're at the end of the world. God is pouring out truth like never before, and it's contradicting every church on the planet, because an apostasy began in the first generation, and it will go to the end of the world. We are seeing the apostasy. The world is in darkness. God is giving us light. So we need to act on that light. We need to have the courage to receive the truth and stand up for it. He says that we are to be redeemed from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people (Rev 5:9).

I've thought about that. I thought, you know, the nations are all over the world. It's like this is what the world thinks about God and Satan and heaven and hell and salvation. The world, the nations have their iniquity, and through the Bible, nations are a symbol of iniquity. But kindred, that's your family. Jesus said, *"You need to hate mother, father, sister, brother"* (Luk 14:26). He doesn't mean hate them personally. But you don't let them stand in the way of your service to God. I know that had I listened to my family, I would have walked away from the Bible. But I chose to follow the Lord.

Every tongue and people... the people represent the church that you go to. Those are your people. The only way to overcome those people is to overcome the tongue, the language. The language they use is literalism. You've got to enter into spiritual truth. How important is that? Because without spiritual truth, you'll never find redemption. Without spiritual truth, you will never see God. That is how important this is.

Turn with me again... We're going to read Luke 17, and I want to look again at this kingdom of God or the kingdom of heaven. Starting at verse 20,

Luk 17:20 When he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and he said, Well, the kingdom of God does not come with observation (outward observation).

What does that mean? It isn't literal. The kingdom of God does not come with outward observation. Look at your margin.

Luk 17:21 Neither shall they say, Low here! or low there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. (Therefore, it must be spiritual. Now just follow along as we read this.)

Luk 17:22 And he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when you shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and you'll not see it.

Now he's speaking future... this is future. We see this. This is a future thing... *"the day will come."* Verse 23,

Luk 17:23 And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: so, don't go after them; don't follow them.

Luk 17:24 For as the lightning, that lightens out of one part under heaven, shines unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day. (Again, it's future.)

Luk 17:25 But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation.

I have always taken that to be he's talking about the future, then suddenly he talks about two thousand years ago and his day. No, he's talking about your day, he's talking about the future. See, let me just lay this out. What picture do you get in your mind

when I say, "Well, that day there was lightning flashing, and that lightning would illuminate the earth. A lot of lightning is going on." What word do you come up with to describe that? That's a storm.

That is a storm. He is talking about the tribulation that's going to happen when his church gives the message of the gospel, and these people who have been in the apostasy will hear it for the first time, and they will be told about spiritual truth, and it is going to cause a storm. Let's look at this in Matthew 24, starting in verse 24.

Mat 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and they'll show great signs and wonders; insomuch that if it's possible, they'll deceive the very elect.

Mat 24:25 Behold, I'm telling you before it happens.

Mat 24:26 Wherefore, if they say unto you, Behold, look, he's in the desert; don't go there. Behold, he's in secret chambers; well, don't believe that.

Mat 24:27 For as the lightning comes out of the east, and shines to the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Again. There is a storm. There has to be a storm for the lightning to flash that way.

Mat 24:28 Wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

Mat 24:29 And immediately after the tribulation of those days...

What does he mean, "*Wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together*"? No one explained that to you? The eagles are the birds of prey. The carcass is a dead person, not physically, spiritually... and all of their arguments that they're using against you, all of their "spiritual truth," the birds they have, they feed on flesh. In other words, they're only thinking literally. They're consuming their own flesh instead of the understanding of the Spirit. And what's going to happen? You're going to have a major storm take place, and God's truth is going to flash with flashes of lightning on these people because they've rejected the truth.

So the ones who reject it, wherever you see the dead person, that's where the eagles are gathered together in their mind. When you see people feeding on their own flesh and understanding, that is a dead person. They are dead people simply waiting to be killed.

They will not survive what is coming on this earth. "*The kingdom of heaven is within you.*"
If I could look again at Luke 17, again verse 24,

Luk 17:24 As the great storm happens, as lightning that lightens out of one part under heaven and shines into the other part under heaven; so shall the Son of man be in his day.

Luk 17:25 But first he must suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation.

They will reject Christ. How do I know that? What do you mean by "reject Christ"? Remember when Saul, or the apostle Paul... he was Saul, and he was on the way to Damascus, he was persecuting God's people, and he meets Jesus. Saul said, "*Who are you?*" And what did Jesus say? "*I'm Jesus, whom you are persecuting*" (Act 9:5). When they persecute the people of God, they're persecuting the Son of God. It is the Son of God who has given us our message.

Remember in Revelation 13, this beast that's going to happen comes up out of the sea. The sea is the way the world thinks; therefore, the beast is an understanding, and it will blaspheme God. It will blaspheme God's tabernacle, which is the Holy Spirit. But last of all, it will *blaspheme those who dwell in the heavens* (Rev 13:6) ... Those who dwell in the heavens. Jesus said that about himself, "*No man has ascended up to heaven but he that came down from heaven, the Son of man, who is in heaven*" (Jhn 3:13). This is what we are headed for, and to have the courage to realize we need to see spiritually...

You know, the truth of the matter is, if you have an apostasy happen in the first century and the last generation church comes out of it and gives a message, what does God expect is going to happen? These people, for 2,000 years, have been believing the wrong thing, and what they believe is so etched into their thinking: "God is mad. God needs... without Jesus' death, he can't forgive you." That's paganism. They don't understand God; they don't see God. They've invented a Trinity God to try to explain the Bible because they don't ask God. They ask each other, "What does it mean"?

What do you expect? When you look at Jesus, here he is in his day, and you see the hell that was breaking loose against him. And then he talks about the coming, his second coming. There's going to be a big storm. A big storm will happen, and the people you see resisting this truth are dead people. They just don't know it. They think they know

God- they think they're alive. Remember what he told Sardis? "*You have a name that you're living, but you're dead*" (Rev 3:1). I'm just saying, what does God expect? What kind of person is it going to take to come out of 2,000 years of apostasy?

This is why the book of Revelation is written about these people. Revelation is about the people who come out of the apostasy and give the message at the end of the world, and will be persecuted heavily. When they persecute God's people, they're persecuting Him. We need to understand this. Why is God invisible? Why did He do this? He wants you to learn a spiritual truth. The whole world is literal. It's more than just simply the Trinity. Everyone is following a God that, in their mind, they need to appease. They've got to appease him. There's no such thing as him just simply forgiving you. They've missed the point. "*God is love. Love does not make a record of sin*" (1Jn 4:8; 1Co 13:5).

Question: Then why did Jesus die? "*Without blood, there's no forgiveness,*" is what they say. That verse doesn't even say that. It says, "*there's no remission*" (Heb 9:22). Again, "*remission*" means "*a stopping.*" We needed the death of Christ so that we could put away iniquity, and when you do, you stop sinning. The sacrifice is from God to us to save us from our sin. That is what he is doing.

What kind of person will it take to stand up in the apostasy and say, "You know, I see something just isn't right. There's got to be more to the truth than what I'm getting in this universal church." And then you better have an open heart, a willingness to learn, and a willingness to hang on to what he's going to give you, because *the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and it's the violent who take it by force* (Mat 11:12). You will have to become violent to hang on to it because they will rip it from you.

There is a great storm that is brewing. As this message goes forward, to survive the storm, you need to get in the boat, in Noah's ark. You get in the boat. You're safe from the floods of iniquity that are coming at us. You know, we have each other. How long will that last? I don't know. But we have each other. It's laid on my heart to give messages that will move people to their Bibles, to get on your knees and search God with an open heart.

God is not like what we've been told all of our lives. You have the first-generation church when the apostasy began. You have the last generation church coming out of the

apostasy. Everything in between... 2,000 years, the man of sin has disrupted the children of God. I don't know who is to be saved through that at the end of this thing. Those who are dead in Christ will be raised. God knows them that are his. It's not up to me to look back and figure out who knew it and who didn't. I just know I'm at the end now.

God has told us what's going to happen, and I would advise you to do everything to learn the truth. Overcome every nation, kindred, language, and people. When you overcome that language, when you go from literal to spiritual, you'll overcome the people in your church. This is what he's talking about: When Christ can open, no one can close it, and he'll close it, and no one can open it for you (Rev 3:7-8). Once you see the spiritual meaning, nobody can take that from you. You'll just have to give it up yourself because of peer pressure or whatever it is.

So, it's my prayer that we find a depth of meaning and hang on to that and possess it with all of our hearts and never let it go. In so doing, you'll glorify God through Jesus Christ.