



How Does Jesus Get You Going?

Psalms 34:8: (NASB) *O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!*

Guest: Todd Alexander



It is a truly amazing thing to look at the intricacy and detail with which we are created. God not only blessed us with reasoning minds, He gave us the ability to experience the world around us through our five senses. Each of these five senses is a full experience in itself and putting them together can be truly remarkable. What if these five physical senses were a template for pathways to spiritual learning and growth? What if we could better understand and apply the teachings of Jesus by realizing how to use spiritual sight, hearing, smell, touch and taste?

(Editor's note:
This audio transcript
has been modified
for ease of reading.)

Todd is a minister from Columbus, Ohio, who most recently was doing Gospel work in Brazil and China.

RICK: First of all, Todd, explain to me this premise of senses, and then we are going to go through the physical senses. But what's the premise?

TODD: The one scripture that stands out to me is:

Hebrews 5:14: (KJV) *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.*

The Apostle Paul is talking about maturity and goes on to say *even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.* He is speaking about spiritual senses. He says a mature faith is one that exercises its spiritual senses to parse the difference between good and evil. He is using the senses as a metaphor of something bigger.

RICK: Let's briefly describe the five physical senses. There are few human activities that can actively engage all five of the senses.

The Science of Senses

- (Master Chef) *When I was four I told my mother I wanted to be a chef. My grandmother was a chef and my father was a baker. I think it's just in my bloodstream. If you asked me what my tools are, I would have to say that it's my nose and my tongue. Not my knife.*
- (Narrator) *A master chef applies a carefully conceived chain of chemical reactions to raw ingredients. The objective? To stimulate our senses of taste and smell in ways most could never imagine.*
- (Master Chef) *My main goal is to really leave an impression with people. It's something visceral; something that transports you.*

RICK: So, Todd, he is talking about food.

TODD: And he is talking about stimulating their sense of smell.

RICK: The interesting thing is one of the parts about eating a great meal is the way it looks. If they serve that meal at your table and you hear that sizzling, it



stimulates the hearing. Then you have the smell. Then, of course, you've got the desire to eat it because this is looking good, and then you have taste.

TODD: In fact, we don't eat that food unless it looks good. We might hear the crackling of it, but it has to smell good because that's the last gateway before we make that decision of desire to grab it and put it in our mouth.

RICK: So, eating a great meal stimulates all five senses.

TODD: It is a full sensory experience. I think that is a great metaphor for spiritual food.

RICK: We will develop that further as we get into the program. We are going to be talking about the five senses and developing the spiritual senses so we can understand the teachings and guidance of Jesus in our everyday lives.

What is the first spiritual sense and why is it the most basic?

RICK: Let's go through the five physical senses in the order that we are going to touch on the spiritual senses. The physical sense of sight is first.

TODD: The physical sense of sight is the metaphor of our spiritual sense of perception.

Genesis 3:7: (NASB) *Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.*

Now, their physical eyes were open but participating in this sin together gave them the knowledge that they sinned. It was an immediate flood of perception that came into their mind.

RICK: Physical sight is one of the primary senses because most of us rely more on sight probably than on anything else, so it is a foundational sense. If you can't see things, you get a little worried about it. What am I going to do because I can't see clearly? The emotional and the spiritual sense follow that. What about physical hearing?

TODD: Hearing is one of the most important senses because if you cannot hear, you are taken out of the realm of human relationships. In fact, most people can more easily adjust to being blind than deaf. Being deaf can isolate you from the world of mankind and personal development.

RICK: That's the interesting thing about the story of Helen Keller. She was blind and could not hear, and it took an amazing amount of effort to help her engage in human relationships.





TODD: That's a great metaphor - the world of mankind is blind and deaf to God.

RICK: You're right! We are going to develop that as we go a little further. Let's continue going down the road of the physical senses. The other thing about hearing is that it happens all the time, whether you're awake or asleep, whether you think about it or not.

TODD: Even in the womb. The baby can actually understand its parents' voices, not the words, but that they love them and that there is safety.

RICK: So, hearing is such a basis for our lives. What does it mean spiritually? Stay tuned and we will get to that.

RICK: You have already alluded to the sense of smell. It is another one of those 24-hour, seven-day-a-week senses. Unless you have a bad cold, you are always smelling.



TODD: The neat thing about smell is that all of the senses go through the thalamus and through the neocortex in the human brain. The neocortex is what makes us human. It is called our "lying brain" because the neocortex processes the information we receive from our senses. But smell is different. Smell goes right to the limbic system. The limbic system controls our body language, which we cannot control. We cannot manufacture body language. And it also is where our "fight or flight or freeze" mentality comes from.

Smell has a direct link to our limbic system, and it bypasses the thalamus and the neocortex. So that's why when if we see something it looks right, if we hear something it looks right but it doesn't smell right, we don't do it because it doesn't smell right.

RICK: That's interesting. You can just see the lessons for spirituality just piling up here as we go through this basic introduction in this segment.

TOUCH



TODD: Touch is when we reach out and touch something. We reach out and we desire it. We grab hold of it. We "grab the bull by the horns." What does that mean? That's a metaphor we use. Metaphors are in the Scriptures but also embedded in our culture. Reaching out and touching or grabbing something means we are making a physical connection with it.

The interesting thing about touch is that sense activates all - it heightens all of our other senses and brings it into a beautiful harmony.



RICK: It sounds like the way you are describing the senses from a physical standpoint is like building a crescendo. You've got the foundation and then building layer upon layer.

TODD: We are *fearfully and wonderfully made*. God created us for His pleasure. He's enjoying us if we properly serve Him.

Revelation 4:11: (KJV) *Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.*

RICK: ...and the way to properly serve Him is to understand how to do that, and that is what this is about.

The last physical sense is taste.

TODD: Yes, taste points to the spiritual sense of experience or participation. When we say, "You know what? That just doesn't taste great," that means we had an experience and it doesn't work with our spiritual senses. Taste is the last gateway in our physical senses to participating in something, and it is the last gateway in our spiritual sense of experience with God.



RICK: Another interesting thing about taste is newborn babies have to taste everything.

TODD: Taste is where they get their nourishment.

RICK: We have the five basic senses we are building one on top of the other.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13: (NASB) *¹²For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*

RICK: If the body is such a powerful picture of our co-laboring as Christians, what might the five senses then represent?

TODD: The Apostle Paul used the metaphor of the spiritual body. Some of us have the gift of "smelling." Some have the gift of knowledge, the gift of understanding. And guess what? We need to tell other people about it. That's why Jesus sent Ananias to the Apostle Paul.

What is the first spiritual sense and why is it the most basic?

RICK: What is spiritual sight?

TODD: Spiritual understanding, spiritual perception.

Genesis 3:7: (NASB) *Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.*

RICK: *The eyes of both of them were opened.*



TODD: Yes, and then it says, *and they knew they were both naked*. So, that is your first Scripture that connects sight with spiritual understanding of knowledge.

RICK: Eyes gave them knowledge. Eyes gave them that perception.

TODD: And more importantly, it is a metaphor that was used in the Scriptures. They always had their physical eyes opened, but this is a metaphor setting the understanding for the rest of the Bible that eyes point to the spiritual sense of knowledge.

RICK: That is a really important point. The Bible, if we pay attention, tells us how to interpret it.

TODD: It really does. And it says it in the common language we understand in our day.

RICK: How do the teachings of Jesus become electrified in our life through sight?

1 Corinthians 13:12: (NASB) *For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.*

RICK: It sounds like the Apostle Paul is saying, "I need glasses."

TODD: Yes, he does. He needs spiritual vision. That is exactly what he is saying. He is using the same metaphor. He says we see through this dark glass - like glass covered over with Vaseline. He is looking for God. He is striving for God, but it is a dim experience for us on earth. Even though we have the Holy Spirit, we are going towards God in knowledge and in understanding and discernment, but we still see through this glass darkly. And the Apostle Paul knew that very well. He thought he was full of knowledge when he was a "Pharisee of the Pharisees."

RICK: When you look at a Christian who really lived his Christianity and served and worked, you think of the Apostle Paul. But he is saying, "I can't see as clearly as I would like to at this point."

TODD: And he was teaching that to others. Out of his failure, he was teaching us something very powerful.

RICK: Spiritual sight does not come all at once to somebody.

TODD: No. Remember, Jesus said, *Blessed are your eyes for you see*. That is something we should really appreciate. We appreciate seeing the knowledge of God.





Romans 11:25: (KJV) *For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.*

RICK: Sight means spiritual perception and spiritual knowledge. This Romans Scripture talks about an inability to have spiritual perception and knowledge because of blindness.

TODD: And Saul of Tarsus was the personification of that. In fact, he said the Jewish people had a zeal for God, but it was not according to what?

RICK: Knowledge.

TODD: Amen, Brother! Exactly. Oh, it's powerful. They were blind - spiritually blind - because they didn't have knowledge. They could not perceive God. That is what Jesus was doing during his ministry. He was confronting the Pharisees for their "knowledge."

RICK: That brings up another important point. You had talked about desire being represented by touch, which is the fourth sense down the line. What you are saying, then, is you can have a desire, but if it is not according to "sight" first, that desire can be easily off track.

TODD: And we live in a world that is trying to get you off track!

RICK: Desire is not just how you feel.

TODD: It is NOT how you feel. If the first part of your faith is about feeling, then you need to go back and backfill with sight, with hearing and smell or discernment.

RICK: We just talked about blindness, the inability to see. Even if the world has desire, a lot of times it goes in the wrong direction because there is blindness.

Let's look at the other side of that:

Luke 10:23-24: (NASB) ²³*Turning to the disciples, he said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see, ²⁴for I say to you, that many prophets and kings wished to see the things which you see, and did not see them, and to hear the things which you hear, and did not hear them.*

RICK: In Scripture, it is hard to separate sight and hearing. They seem to come together a lot.

TODD: And mostly it is always sight before hearing. So, there is an inherent process to that. The thing we should understand as Christians is we should really participate in the first advent of Jesus by reading Scriptures and reading the experiences of the Apostles. Jesus said, *Blessed are your eyes for they see*, because he was ministering to them and they were listening and watching. They were witnessing the majesty of God personified in Jesus, and we should participate in that by doing our due diligence, reading the Scriptures and praying for understanding.



RICK: So in order to get somewhere, you have to know where you are going - you have to look for it. Spiritual sight is so important, and Jesus is saying here, *Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see*. So he is talking to his followers saying, "You see things differently. You see things more clearly. You have your reading glasses on, and you are getting input that goes right by others. You are blessed because of that."

TODD: Yes, and we look at nature. We look at the heavens. We look at the order in nature and at the beautiful creation. We see it is the hand of our wise, just, loving and powerful God. But these are the words the Apostles were hearing from Jesus. These were the experiences! They were watching him do the miracles and live by faith. That perception is what grounded their faith.

RICK: That is another thing that didn't even dawn on me. When Jesus performed miracles, that miracle transformed that one individual recipient, but everybody who saw the miracle was given that input.

TODD: Take the loaves and the fishes, a perfect example. And that was the case in John 6 when Jesus ended up saying, "If you want to follow me, you have to eat my flesh and drink my blood." That was so antithetical [directly opposed or contrasted; mutually incompatible] to anything they learned, most of the people just went away in disgust. It did not smell right to them. But the disciples hung out. They said, "Where else will we go, Jesus?"

RICK: It is hard to isolate one sense, and you see how they all work together.

2 Corinthians 4:4,18: (NASB) *in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ¹⁸while 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.*

RICK: In the Scriptures we've talked about, we saw the eyes of Adam and Eve opened. We have not been able to see really, really clearly in this age, even as Christians. We have Israel being blinded. We have the followers of Christ being able to see things. And now in this Scripture it is the world that is blinded.

TODD: In Romans, the Apostle Paul talked about how the beautiful creation is made manifest to everybody. But everybody does not go to the next step of understanding. So, that is the case here because they are blinded by the god of this world, Satan.

RICK: That's an important aspect. In Romans 1, the Apostle says, "Look, the world could see God if they would look for God because God is obviously in front of them in the magnificence of creation."

TODD: But they have been deceived just like Satan deceived Eve.

RICK: We have a real problem spiritually now, because the Scripture is telling us Israel, for a time, has been blinded and the world is blinded. It does not leave a whole lot left to have sight!



TODD: That's why Jesus said, *Watch and pray*. We should watch for knowledge and pray for understanding.

RICK: And, again, you are right. Sight always comes up first.

TODD: It does. It is the beginning of our faith.

RICK: We are on the radio. How do you get people to "see?"

TODD: Interestingly enough, our physical sight is only about 15 percent of what we perceive. The rest comes through our experience. I'm looking at you in the eye right now, and your whole body is speaking to me. Your soul is connecting with my soul, and we are having a discussion. Sight is one of those experiences that is part of the symphony of our life. It is just the beginning of our faith.

And the title of this session is: How does Jesus get you going? The answer is, he gets you going with knowledge because you need to open your eyes to God. Jesus said *watch and pray*. We watch for knowledge; we pray for understanding.

RICK: Knowledge is like "first gear," which is great to get started, but you've got to up-shift.

Acts 9:16-18: (NASB) ¹⁶for I will show him how much he must suffer for my name's sake. ¹⁷So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized;

RICK: It is startling when you put all of this in perspective and say sight is the foundational spiritual sense - here this experience with the Apostle Paul was all about his sight.

TODD: It was. And you know what? Perhaps Jesus blinded him to show that he really was not knowledgeable about the truth. That was a metaphor.

RICK: So he blinded him because he's saying, "Spiritually you cannot even see. We've got a major overhaul to do."

TODD: Right. And then Ananias is the one through whom Jesus healed Paul; so that's a proof that shows how important it is for us to preach the gospel, because through doing the work of Jesus Christ, we are able to "open the eyes of the blind."

RICK: The gospel, then, has the ability to take blindness away from people!

TODD: Paul said prophesy, which is expounding the truth, is one of the best gifts.

RICK: So, you have to show the gospel to others. And it's interesting because in this scripture with Saul of Tarsus and Ananias, Ananias is afraid. Jesus basically says, "Look, I'm going to show him how many things he must suffer for my sake. His eyes will be open, and he will have to go through experiences."



TODD: That was a pretext to his future sufferings. The experience was actually in the suffering Apostle Paul had.

RICK: Spiritual sight - spiritual perception - is the foundation stone for all our spiritual senses. We have to build the next step on that spiritual foundational sense, hearing. What does hearing mean?

HEARING



UNDERSTANDING

TODD: Hearing means understanding. Jesus pointed to that. We are going to read that Scripture in a minute. But first we see - we perceive - the truth, and then we have to work to understand it.

RICK: So you see it first, and then you understand it. You cannot really understand it without seeing. The interesting thing is spiritual eyes don't necessarily have to be physical. You can still spiritually see. If someone is physically blind, it does not mean they do not have spiritual sight. You can spiritually see and perceive, and now you have to spiritually see and understand.

TODD: The spiritual senses are the gateway to the way Jesus gets us going.

RICK: Let's be really practical. You're a Christian looking at your life and saying, "You know what? I'm just not doing what I should be."

TODD: "I don't feel right."

RICK: Right. That's a spiritual sense. So if you don't feel right, Todd, what you are suggesting is, do not work on the feeling. Go back to the basics: Knowledge.

TODD: Yes, because feeling comes after knowledge and understanding. It also comes after discernment. Then you get that desire. If your faith lacks desire, backfill it with the first three spiritual senses: sight, which is perception; hearing, which is understanding; and then smell, which is discernment. And then your desire will come through prayer.

RICK: So that's how to fix the problem of spiritual desire. That's incredible! Let's lay out some scriptures then for spiritual hearing.

Matthew 13:14-15: (NASB) ¹⁴*In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; You will keep on seeing, but will not perceive;* ¹⁵*For the heart of this people has become dull, With their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes, Otherwise they would see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and return, And I would heal them.*

RICK: Jesus is quoting a prophesy from Isaiah about talking, seeing and hearing.

TODD: It is interesting that this comes right after the Parable of the Sower. It was kind of a sidebar conversation. Jesus spoke the Parable of the Sower and then says, "Hey, I am speaking in parables because it is not for everybody to see. It is not for everybody to understand." But for us as Christians who have the Holy Spirit and who are developing in Christ, we get the whole truth in a beautiful story that resonates with our spiritual senses.



RICK: So, hearing has to come with seeing. Understanding has to come with knowledge and perception.

TODD: Right. This is one of the clearest links between hearing and understanding in the whole Bible.

RICK: And again, it is talking about eyes - seeing and knowing, and about ears - understanding. You do not have to figure out what the label is - Jesus is telling you what the label is.

TODD: Exactly.

RICK: This is really fascinating because it helps you understand how to get your spiritual life in order.

John 8:43: (NASB) *Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear my word.*

RICK: Does that mean they were physically not hearing him?

TODD: No. They could physically hear him, but they could not understand him. In fact, Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees here, and it is interesting that he says, "You don't understand my speech, because you can't hear my word." Well, because they didn't see God. They were physically out of tune with God so much, they did not even get by the first test of perceiving God.

RICK: So, they could not understand Jesus' words because the Pharisees weren't in tune with God. This is one of those great spiritual lessons - the Pharisees were spiritually tone deaf. They could not get the harmony of what the Scriptures told them about Jesus. Even though it was right in front of them, they could not see the prophecies being fulfilled and the fact Jesus came to them as their Messiah.

TODD: They did not make the link between Jesus and the fulfillment of the prophecies because they were not in tune with the suffering of Jesus, which was completely spread throughout the Old Testament in the prophecies of Isaiah.

RICK: They could physically see the scriptures. They could read them. They had an appreciation for them, but when it came to understanding, they were tone deaf. They could not put it together.

TODD: We need to learn from their failure. Everybody can read the Bible, but we have to pray for understanding. It is very hard to understand it.

RICK: Understanding is not discernment, right?

TODD: Right. Understanding is just being able to understand the order of the facts that you learned through sight. Discernment is something different.

RICK: So discernment builds upon understanding. It is a whole different dimension.



TODD: It does. Do you want me to give you a little example here? If I know there is something rotten in my refrigerator, let's say we have rotten chicken. But what's the first thing that hits us?

RICK: Smell.

TODD: Exactly. Our smell is how we discern that there is something spoiled in our refrigerator. We can look at it. We can try to hear it, but it is the smell that tells us that it is rotten.

RICK: And that smell will provoke you to action in a big, big way.

TODD: It will. We need to throw out that bad food, and that is exactly how we need to treat our spiritual food. If it doesn't smell right, throw it out.



Hebrews 5:11: (NASB) *Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.*

RICK: We believe the Apostle Paul wrote the book of Hebrews. He is saying, "You once had sharp ears, but now you've become dull of hearing." What is the Apostle Paul meaning here?

TODD: They could not understand the facts presented to them because they mixed it with their own humanistic psychology. They were too involved in their power struggle, the hierarchy of the power system within the Pharisical system, and they were depending upon mankind, Rome. They were not depending upon God. So over the years, their spiritual hearing became tone deaf, just like you said.

RICK: There is a warning - just because you get to a point of being able to spiritually see and then spiritually hear, in other words, spiritually perceive and have knowledge and understanding, it does not mean you are going to stay there. You can actually lose your spiritual hearing. That's what the Apostle Paul was saying.

TODD: You need to close the loop. That's why it is a beginning process. We need to close it with experience. But we can't get to experience without desire, and we cannot get the desire without discerning the truth. Remember we said understanding was the ordering of the facts? Discerning is understanding how those facts fit into the context of your life.

RICK: Discernment makes the understanding valuable.

TODD: The Apostle Paul knew through his failure how bad it was to not be in touch with God. He was in tune with God at this point. He was admonishing the Hebrews, his brothers, that they need to get their act together. Paul had been dull of hearing but learned how to grow out of it.

Hebrews 5:14: (KJV) *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.*



TODD: Strong meat is to them which are of a full age - is a statement of maturity - even by those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. That's the goal. That's our job.

Ephesians 4:29: (NASB) *Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.*

RICK: We have talked about spreading the gospel and spreading encouragement. What is this telling us in relation to hearing in the spiritual sense?

TODD: This is how we can be God's instrument to the hearing of others. It only happens to our mouth. Remember what the Apostle Paul said: A preacher is necessary to explain things. Apostle Paul is admonishing us that we should not have anything corrupt come out of our mouth. Why? Because people would rather *see* a testimony than *hear* a testimony. If we have corrupt communication coming out of our mouth, it is not going to minister grace to the hearers; it is going to minister an uncertain tone.

Once we see the truth and understand the truth, then we have to speak the truth with that understanding in mind so that we have a faith without hypocrisy. That is what the Apostle Paul was talking about here.

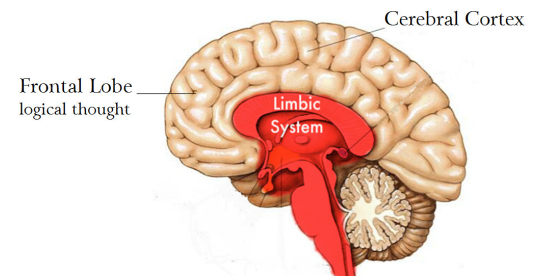
RICK: A faith that is without hypocrisy. That's an amazing thing. Sometimes we look at our Christian life and say, "I'm not satisfied with the way it's going." Todd, you are suggesting a very simple way to remedy the situation - go back to the beginning and build the "spiritual sense foundation," if you will. A lot of Christianity never gets beyond the sight, the hearing.

TODD: They want the experience before they go through the basics. We are talking about the way Jesus gets us going. He first gives us knowledge in our sight. He then gives us understanding, and then he takes us all the way through discernment of smell to touch, desire, and then to experience, taste. But he first starts with sight and hearing. That is why Jesus emphasized that we should *watch and pray, and blessed are your eyes for they see and your ears for they hear.*

Let's start talking about spiritual smell. When you think about spirituality, you don't normally think about smell.

TODD: It is the one sense that bypasses our neocortex and goes straight to our limbic brain system. It is a very powerful sense. It is one of the last defenses of our faith before we get to desire and participation. So it is a spiritual sense of being able to discern truth because we are going to get a lot of nefarious things coming our way. Eve failed the test because she believed the lie. She did not discern.

RICK: And that's what spiritual smell is. Discernment.





TODD: It is the last step before desire and experience.

Ephesians 5:2: (NASB) *and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.*

RICK: That phrase lights up my brain because as a fragrant aroma, there is a smell.

TODD: God does the smelling. Remember the sacrifices of the tabernacle? The sacrifice of the bullock? That sacrifice of the bullock provided a sweet smelling savor to God that represented the sacrifice of Jesus. That is what Apostle Paul was pulling from. He was going back using this same metaphor: God smelled the sacrifice of Jesus and discerned it to be sweet.

RICK: That is important because a lot of times, especially people on the outside looking into Christianity, they look at the sacrifice of Jesus...

TODD: Oh, it stinks, because it doesn't measure with what they know and they understand.

RICK: That makes so much sense. If they knew and understood that it was something much deeper, something much stronger, then they would get the discernment that there was a bigger meaning and it would have a wonderful smell because of what it accomplished.

TODD: If they were in tune with God. So, God's people need to be in tune with God in order have an authentic faith.

RICK: In that first scripture, then, it shows that God...

TODD: ...does the smelling. And this firmly links the concept that smelling is linked to the spiritual sense of discernment.

Philippians 4:18: (NASB) *But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.*

RICK: The Apostle Paul is saying that whatever it was he received was like a fragrant aroma.

TODD: Yes, he was talking about Epaphroditus and the good things he received from the Philippians through Epaphroditus. There were some other people he had a bad experience with, so he used this metaphor of a sweet smell because it was a sacrifice. Epaphroditus did something. He sacrificed his time, talent and energy to serve the Lord by serving the Apostle Paul, and this is a great example of how we should sacrifice to serve the Lord's brethren. And do you know what? Our sacrifices will be a sweet smell unto them.

RICK: When you sacrifice that, it actually costs you something. It may not look pretty, but the sweet aroma is the net effect of what may not look pretty because it is only spiritually discerned.

TODD: Exactly.



RICK: On a spiritual level, our sacrifices can be that discernment. You talked about the difference between understanding and discernment.

TODD: Understanding is being able to put the facts in order. Discernment is being able to understand how those facts relate to your life.

RICK: So, understanding is a basis for discernment.

TODD: It is a step that is necessary before discernment.

RICK: If you try to discern without the understanding, you are not going to put the right things in order.

TODD: You will make the *wrong* decisions.

2 Corinthians 2:14-17: (NASB) ¹⁴*But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. ¹⁵For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; ¹⁶to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things? ¹⁷For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.*

TODD: The world looks at Jesus' sacrifice, and they do not understand why Jesus had to die, so to them it looks like it stinks.

RICK: It looks like cruelty.

TODD: The Apostle Paul is showing us the contrast of how the sacrifice of Jesus appears to those who are spiritually minded versus those who are worldly minded. He is implying we have to be spiritually minded. Now he says how *our* sacrifice is perceived by the world of mankind. It stinks because we are consecrated, dedicated to the work of Jesus on earth which is a work of suffering. The Apostle Paul found that out, and he relished in that experience.

RICK: In many areas of Christianity, the concept of sacrifice is absolutely, positively minimized. They replace it by this concept of abundance.

TODD: Yes.

RICK: Based on what you are saying, that does not smell right.

TODD: It does not smell right because the abundance needs to be a spiritual strength, a spiritual connection. Abundance is never manifested in the Christian life in money, in material goods *where moth and rust doth corrupt*. I've known so many people that came into money easily and then went away from God. They depended upon the world. In fact, that was the problem with the church through the ages. The church through the ages depended upon the kings of the earth for their strength.

RICK: And look where it got them.

TODD: So, what we need to do is make sure that we concentrate on doing the will of God, and if that leads to a life of suffering, so be it. Jesus took the yoke. His yoke is easy and his burden is light, and we should follow it.



RICK: The idea of the gospel of prosperity and abundance is kind of alluded to in this 2 Corinthians verse where it says *we are not like many peddling the word of God* - seeing what you can do, what you can make on the deal. See, that smells rotten.

TODD: It does smell rotten, but it is only because you have your senses exercised to know the difference between good and evil. And that's what the Apostle Paul talked to us about in Hebrews 5:14.

RICK: So in order to have your spiritual discernment, your spiritual smell, on target, you have to have that spiritual sight, which is perception. You have to have spiritual hearing, which is understanding. You have to read the word. You've got to put the word in order, and *then* discernment can kick into place.

TODD: And that smell goes straight to the limbic system. Your physical sense goes straight to your limbic system, which controls your body language which controls your flight or fight. You have an immediate smell or immediate discernment of the truth. That is why the sense of smell is the one sense that has the most memory connected to it. You can walk into a room, let's say it's at a restaurant, and you smell those biscuits baking, and it takes you back 50 years to your mother's kitchen.

RICK: You are right. It is a powerful experience where you smell something and immediately you're back someplace else in your mind. So discernment is critical to the Christian.

Isaiah 3:24: (NASB) *Now it will come about that instead of sweet perfume there will be putrefaction; Instead of a belt, a rope; Instead of well-set hair, a plucked-out scalp; Instead of fine clothes, a donning of sackcloth; And branding instead of beauty.*

RICK: Todd, what is that about? That doesn't smell good at all. That smells rotten.

TODD: There are Scriptures that say the eyes of the Lord perceive the evil and the good. This is one of those. He perceives the evil, and because of this and His rebellious people, it stinks in His nose. He is smelling within the congregation. He is smelling in our life. He is discerning the thoughts and intent of our heart.

That is why the Apostle Paul says the truth is like a two-edged sword. If God smells something rotten in our life, He is going to give us the opportunity to be cut by that two-edged sword to cut asunder soul and spirit.

RICK: But the cutting is for the purpose...

TODD: ...of getting out sin.

RICK: ...of cutting out that which stinks. To me this sounds like a very pivotal sense, because it is built on the foundation of sight and hearing and can get you to the next layer of experience.



TODD: If something does not smell right with our faith, what our parents are teaching us, what another preacher is telling us, if it doesn't smell right, we need to go back, backfill and prove it with our knowledge and understanding.

RICK: You keep saying "go back and backfill it with knowledge and understanding."

TODD: It is like a roadmap. If we feel like we have gone off the road or somebody else has gone off the road, then we should go back and start with knowledge and understanding rather than try to fix it with desire or experience.

RICK: You can't fix your spiritual life by just trying to have more desire, by trying to experience Jesus, unless you've gone through the basics first.

TODD: And the Apostle Peter understood that. Peter, during Jesus' first advent, had an emotional relationship with Jesus. Then Jesus backfilled it with all the truth. Later in Peter's life, he said, *We have a more sure word of prophecy*. So what was he doing with it? He was linking the prophecies of Jesus with the experience he had, and he was unifying his head and his heart. That's what we need to do. We can't have desire in our heart without knowledge in our head.

RICK: Spiritual discernment, the spiritual sense of smell, is critically important for Christianity. Studying our spiritual senses has been enlightening, because it really helps put things in order and makes things easily understandable and sensible when we have problems in our Christian life.

TODD: It is a metaphor of our five senses, which really is how Jesus taught us. He taught us parables that bring back familiar stories that we would understand so we can understand the deeper truth. I think that is what he is doing with our physical senses. Our physical senses are a gateway to our spiritual senses. He helps us understand our faith and it helps us to troubleshoot our faith by understanding this process of how Jesus gets us going.

The first three senses were all about input - to touch is all about taking action - what does it mean spiritually?

TOUCH



DISCERNMENT

RICK: We are on to the fourth sense - touch. The physical sense of touch is a very, very powerful sense.

TODD: Yes, and I can sit here and talk to you and listen to you, but when I grab your forearm, you and I have a special connection. Right? That's the way we have a connection with Jesus. We first see him. Then we listen to him. Then we smell or we discern the truth, but then we reach out indicating our desire.

When we reach out and grab something in the refrigerator, it indicates our desire for that apple. If we reach out and grab our car keys, it shows we desire to drive our car. Our touch is the key indicator of what we want.



RICK: Desire really kind of fits in with emotion in a lot of ways. If we don't feel like our Christianity is the way it ought to be, there is an indication. Oftentimes we have that feeling and we try to fix it with trying to dig up more feeling.

TODD: Or we try to go further and try an experience.

RICK: You're not going to get there.

TODD: You're not. You have to go back to the basics.

RICK: Let's establish spiritual touch as desire from Scripture.

Acts 17:27: (NASB) *that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;*

RICK: Spiritual touch here is described as reaching for God.

TODD: This is the Mars Hill experience where the Apostle Paul is talking to the Greeks. He was saying, "Hey, God's not really far from you, but you've got to reach out and desire God. You've got to really desire. You've really got to want to do something."

That is why when our kids are trying to decide what they want to do in life we say, "What do you really desire more than anything else?" That's kind of an indicator. Then they go back and backfill it with advanced education and knowledge to get discernment.

RICK: The Apostle Paul on Mars Hill was talking to those who did not believe in the one true God. That is why he said they were blindly groping for God. They had not found Him because they had not backfilled yet.

TODD: How does Jesus get you going? Sometimes that entry point could be desire, but before you go further with desire, you need to go back and backfill it with information.

RICK: Would you say that oftentimes the entry point is desire?

TODD: Sometimes, especially when children grow up in a home that is not right, they want something that they see their friends have. That might be the entry point where Jesus reaches us. We might be growing up in a stale church environment where the teachings are not right and we lack our desire. Well, guess what? One of those fixes is to go back to the basics and learn about knowledge. Get the knowledge of God, make sure you understand it, make sure you parse it right with discernment, and then your desire will pretty much happen automatically if the Lord blesses it.

RICK: So, desire is sharpened and clarified by going back to the basics.

2 Corinthians 6:17-18: (NASB) *¹⁷Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate, says the Lord. And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you. ¹⁸And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me," says the Lord Almighty.*



RICK: Paul is writing to the Corinthians, who had all kinds of issues. In 1 Corinthians, Paul was almost yelling at them. By 2 Corinthians, they had come a long way, but they were not yet finished. He is saying to them something important. He's quoting Old Testament Scriptures, but he's saying do not touch what is unclean.

TODD: Touch is the spiritual sense of desire. Jesus told us the same thing, but the Apostle Paul here is saying, do not even touch it because when we touch something, it gives us a special connection with it. Experiencing sin happens after touching it with our minds. If we are on the pathway to sin, we can stop that sin at the point of touch, the spiritual sense of desire. If we come out from among them, touch not the unclean thing - that is what the Apostle Paul is saying. Get out from that cesspool of people that you are dealing with, and make sure you do not even desire what they're doing.

RICK: See, that actually sets up the barrier to sin at an earlier place than most people would think. People say, "don't touch," but it means I can think about it. I can want it, I just can't touch it. You are saying it is bigger than that.

TODD: Adam would never have eaten that apple if he did not touch it. The experience of sin happens after the desire of it.

JONATHAN: Eve was not supposed to eat of the apple, she even added "and not even touch it" when she was talking to the serpent.

Genesis 3:3: (NASB) *but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.*

RICK: That's Eve repeating back the command. When God originally gave the command, He never said not to touch it. She added that part.

TODD: We do not know how many times God spoke to Adam. It could be showing that at least she got the message. It could have been Adam that spoke to her, but she said God said it. So, she is giving more information, and that is the big concept. I think that is the way sin is in our life. We should not even touch it. We should not come in contact with it. We should not desire it. Touch is a metaphor of our spiritual sense of desire.

RICK: How do you build that spiritual sense of desire?

1 Timothy 6:12, 19: (NASB) ¹²*Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.* ¹⁹*storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.*

RICK: So *taking hold* is obviously touching.

TODD: The neat thing about our faith is that desire is a natural byproduct of a strong foundation of perceiving the knowledge, understanding the knowledge, discerning the knowledge, because of our humanity, because of the way we are. It is just like you said at the beginning of this program - we eat food with our eyes, ears, smell, and then if it is beautifully presented, we cannot help but desire it and gobble it up. Desire is like falling off a log. Sometimes it happens automatically.



RICK: Falling off a log?

TODD: I am using a metaphor. Desire sometimes happens automatically, the Apostle Paul is saying. Lay hold on eternal life. He is saying, reach out and grab it. Lay hold on eternal life. Fight the good fight of faith.

RICK: Let's contrast that with the experience of the Apostle Peter and Simon, the one who wanted to buy the Holy Spirit. He had a desire.

TODD: That's a great example.

RICK: So, what went wrong with him? He had a desire to be like Peter.

TODD: He did not lay the foundation. It is the same thing that Ananias and Saphira did. They had the desire to be part of this group and to be seen as part of this group, but they came in with a deception. They sold their property and kept back some of the goods just like Simon.

He did not do the basics. He did not do the blocking and the tackling. He did not understand. He did not perceive, and he did not discern properly.

RICK: So, desire in and of itself for something that is good is not necessarily a good thing without the basics.

TODD: It can be easily misplaced.

RICK: Folks, if in your own Christian experience your desire is fizzling out and you are just not sure what or why or how, and you are questioning everything, the problem is not with your desire. The problem is with the basics. Like you put it, the blocking and tackling, the perceiving (sight), the understanding (hearing), and then the discerning (smell). Once you get to the discerning, once it smells right - you know, again going back to food - it smells good, you just want to eat it. Todd, you keep saying most likely your issues are because you don't have a strong foundation.

TODD: I think if we are spiritually sick, the Apostle Paul said he castigated people for being *babes in Christ*; they could not have the meat (deeper truths) because they did not finish the milk (basic truths).

RICK: So it's okay to start out as a baby in Christ, but it is not okay to end up that way.

Revelation 3:20: (NIV) *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.*

TODD: This is the seventh stage of the church (our present day), the very familiar Scripture where Jesus says, *Behold I stand at the door and knock.*

It is interesting to see the process of faith here. First, he stands at the door and knocks. *If any man hear my voice* - that's hearing - *and open the door* - we have to touch that doorknob and open the door ourselves; remember that picture - it doesn't have a knob on the outside. *I will come to him and sup with him*, he is enjoying the fruit of our spirit we develop in supping with us, *and they with me* - he is going to deliver that meat in due season.



So, this one Scripture takes us through that five-step process of how Jesus gets us going. We see him in nature. We hear him knocking on the door. We open that door with our own touch, and then we desire him. He serves us food and enjoys the fruit of our spirit.

RICK: You open the door. That shows this is what I want.

TODD: It beautifully changes our life. It appeals to our whole senses. As we properly exercise our spiritual senses, then we can properly discern good and evil, but not before.

RICK: Todd, these things occurred to you through your life experience, but they were already there.

TODD: They were already there. They are just there for us to unpack. Just like Jesus spoke in parables, the Christian church has been able to unpack those parables through the whole Gospel Age.

RICK: Once it is unpacked, then it becomes information that can be processed and then be profitable. See, that is the key. The whole thing here is, how is this profitable in my everyday experience?

TODD: And it follows Jesus' pattern, the way he operated with Peter. Remember when Peter left the ministry, what did Jesus do? He went to Peter where he was. This is exactly how Jesus engages us. How does Jesus get us going? First he appeals to our spiritual senses of sight (perception), hearing (understanding), and so forth.

RICK: We have talked about four of these spiritual senses - one more to go. This is the most basic, most informative way to help your spiritual life.

As we have gone through this program, we have built the superstructure of five spiritual senses, and it is a very obvious superstructure. We are just "unpacking" what is in the Bible.

**Only the sense of taste is left -
does taste reflect the highest spiritual experience?**



The fifth spiritual sense is taste.

TODD: Taste points to the spiritual sense of experience.

Hebrews 2:9: (NASB) *But we do see him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*

RICK: When you put these spiritual senses in order, suddenly when you see a Scripture that uses one of the physical senses, it's like, oh, wait! I have to really pay attention to this. This is talking about Jesus tasting death.



TODD: That was the final experience of Jesus' sacrificial ministry. He was sacrificing for the three and a half years, but the taste or experience of death - and this Scripture clearly makes that metaphor link - was the final act of his sacrificial ministry. He tasted death for every man. He experienced death for every man.

RICK: So, in order for Jesus' ransom price to be complete, all five of his spiritual senses had to be fully exercised in what his mission was.

TODD: Yes. And he invited us to participate in that. It is interesting he gave the memorial emblems of the bread and the cup...when? At the very end of his ministry. This is so powerful, because at the beginning of his ministry, Jesus said, unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you have nothing to do with me. That is what he gave the Apostles the opportunity to do in that Upper Room. For that last experience, to tie their ministries into Jesus, he gave them something, not only washing their feet with touch, but he gave them the memorial emblems of the bread and the cup because they had closed the loop on their experience that they first heard about during the miracle of the loaves and the fishes.

RICK: So, that had to be at the end of the ministry. That was his last real experience with his disciples.

TODD: Communion.

RICK: Right. It was that "common union" because they were going to be bound together in his death.

TODD: And he was giving them that closed loop experience that would be paid off by the Holy Spirit 50 days later that would flood their memory. Remember, he said the Comforter will come and cause you to remember all these things. That is a powerful concept.

So the question is: How does Jesus get you going? Well, he does it through your physical senses as a gateway to your spiritual senses, but there is a certain process. Our experience can only be had appropriately and authentically if it is first built up with a superstructure of our faith.

RICK: Now, here's one of the great problems in Christianity. You have the experience of maybe going to a church meeting someplace, and you "experience" Jesus.

TODD: You can be euphoric.

RICK: Right. That is a good way to put it. You have that euphoric experience, and you walk away from that saying, "Okay, now I'm a Christian."

TODD: The forgiveness of sin *is* a euphoric experience. *The truth shall set you free*. But that is not the end of your faith.

RICK: That is an introduction. It is not a complete experience. That euphoria will absolutely wear off unless you go back and you build the structure of perceiving, understanding, discerning and desiring to fulfill it. Euphoria wears off anyway because euphoria is not something meant to be there forever.



TODD: Euphoria wears off because we are in the world. We are not supposed to be *of* it, but it's certainly hard to be *in* the world but not *of* it if you don't study the word of God.

RICK: That's the key. To have true Christian experience, you have to start at the beginning and go through that cycle. It sounds like you have to go through it over and over again in your life.

TODD: You do. The beginning of that cycle is so clearly stated by the Apostle Peter:

1 Peter 2:2,3: *As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word (that is the beginning of your faith) that ye may grow thereby, if so be that ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*

How does Jesus get us going? Well, sometimes he gives us a little taste, an appetizer, but we have to go back.

RICK: So, that appetizer is for the purpose of going back.

RICK: Otherwise, it was just a nice little appetizer and it goes away and you forget about it.

TODD: That is what Jesus did with miracles. He let the people taste the salvation of the kingdom of God, but they needed to go back and backfill it, because if they ate that loaf and ate that fish and they did not follow Jesus, they were not backfilling their faith with the truth.

RICK: Let's go to our theme Scripture.

Psalms 34:8: (NASB) *O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!*

RICK: That is a powerful message: *Taste and see that the Lord is good.*

TODD: Let's consider David's life. God loved David because he had a perfect heart before God. But David was a person who strayed from doing God's will, and he was a person that came back into God's fold. That coming back into God's fold, that experiencing the love and the guidance of God in his life was the taste that was just beautiful.

And he says, *Oh, taste that the Lord is good.* Then he gives us advice out of his failure: *Blessed is the man who trustest in Him*, because there was a time in David's life that he did not trust in God. So, this is part of our troubleshooting. If we recognize that we are not trusting fully on God, not depending upon Him for everything that we have, if we are depending on the world for our strength and vitality, that is a sure sign we need to taste that the Lord is good and trust in God.

RICK: With David's experience when he went off track, he was not going back through those spiritual senses, because he would never have had the experience with Bathsheba. Seeing was what got him in trouble. But if he was seeing the *right* things, he would have been able to resist the physical things that he saw.

TODD: *If the eye offend thee, pluck it out.*



RICK: That's not literal, is it?

TODD: No. But that is why we are talking about the spiritual senses. If you are looking at something that does not smell right, then cut it off right there.

RICK: In order to have the true experience of your Christianity, it is not just a "how you feel" thing. It is about who you are. Who you are is determined by what you do and how you do it, as determined through the five senses.

TODD: The Apostle Paul had a crash course on the five senses on the way to Damascus. Sometimes we are given that crash course too, but it is better if we rise up to the challenges that the Lord gives us and come to God and come to Jesus authentically from the beginning to the end.

RICK: If we are getting off track, we have two options: a crash course back to the basics, back to perceiving and understanding and the desire to get the experience or we are going to crash.

TODD: One of the key indicators is what Jesus said to the Apostle Paul. He said it was hard *to kick against the pricks*. What he was saying was, "It is hard for you to go against your conscience, Paul, isn't it?" So conscience goes against discernment. There was something wrong that started in Saul of Tarsus' life. It could have started in that synagogue where Stephen got stoned, but he didn't pay attention to his sense of smell. Jesus had to confront him on the road to Damascus. Jesus said, "It's hard for you to go against your conscience."

RICK: When you go back to that discernment in terms of experience, the Bible (See [Romans 2:15](#) and [1 Timothy 4:2](#)) talks about the conscience seared with a hot iron. Their consciences were deadened. We can get stuck in that. The way to get out of that is to put all five of these experiences together.

What have we learned? Why is it important that we know it, and how can understanding these five spiritual senses change our Christian life?

TODD: It is important to understand the anatomy of how Jesus gets us going, that there is actually a process involved. It helps us troubleshoot - if we see we are lacking in one area, we should go back to the basics.

The process goes like this: First, Jesus shows us the truth. We see God's beautiful handiwork in nature. Then we hear the truth through our spiritual sense of understanding by reading the word of God. God speaks to us through His Bible. Then we determine that it is the truth by measuring it against our sense of smell. We look at the word of God as being a just and loving plan, and it measures with a wise, just, loving and powerful God.

RICK: That sense of smell is such a pivot point. If we have the first two, then that sense of smell can really forcefully drive us forward to the next two.

TODD: Which is desire. The next step is desire. And when we discern something to be true, we lean back in our chair and say, "God and Jesus are coming into my life! I get the forgiveness of my sins, I can wash my sin away in this metaphor of baptism," and then we experience it through the adoption through the Holy Spirit after we give our life as a living sacrifice. This is just



like the Apostle Paul stated in Romans 12:1 to be transformed by the renewing of your minds.

What we have learned today is there is an engagement of our faith by Jesus. There is a process. Why is it important that we know it? Well, it is important because we need to make sure we do not try to short-circuit the process and have the experience or the desire before we have the basics. The Apostle Paul warned us about not being newborn babes in the milk of the word.

How can we change our Christian life? Mentoring. Mentoring a young person. When we raise our children, let's not give them the experience before we teach them the truth of that experience. Let's not allow their desire to be captivated and hijacked by Satan, the Prince and Power of the Air. Let's make sure that our children's desire and even our spiritual children's desire is properly based on knowledge, understanding, and discernment and let's pray for them that they might receive that.

RICK: So what you're saying, Todd, really, is there is a war that goes on in this spiritual realm at this point. The war is for our attention and our focus, and even with our children, because Satan understands the five spiritual senses. He will short-circuit, like you said, and give us the overload experiences and the overload desires, so we do not bother to go back to the basics of what is really important.

TODD: All that is in the world is the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life.

RICK: And out of those three things comes all sin.

TODD: Amen.

RICK: So, that is the battle. Folks, it's important to put these things in order to realize that our perception, our understanding, our discernment and desire and experience are all together related so that our Christian life can be one of - not euphoria - but one of sacrificial walking in the footsteps of Jesus because that is what Jesus himself did.

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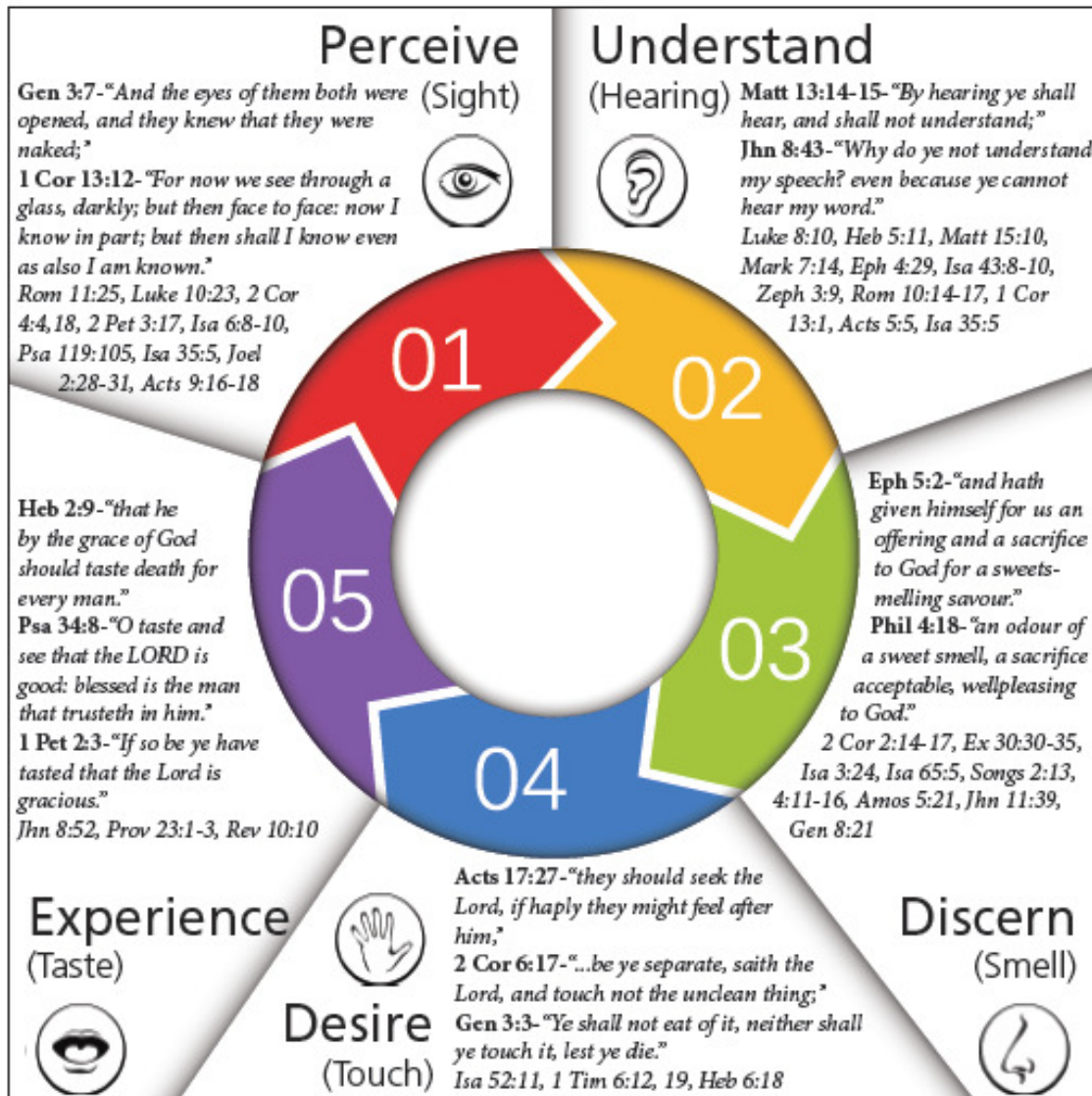




How Does Jesus Get You Going?

The five step process of our faith

1. We see the truth with our spiritual sense of perception.
2. We hear the truth with our spiritual sense of understanding.
3. We smell the truth with our spiritual sense of discernment.
4. We grasp Jesus with our spiritual sense of desire.
5. We taste Jesus by experiencing His power in our life.



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Additional Scriptures regarding our spiritual senses:

Hebrews 11:1: (NASB) *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

Mark 8:22-25: (NASB) ²²*And they came to Bethsaida. And they brought a blind man to Jesus and implored Him to touch him. ²³Taking the blind man by the hand, he brought him out of the village; and after spitting on his eyes and laying his hands on him, he asked him, Do you see anything? ²⁴And he looked up and said, I see men, for I see them like trees, walking around. ²⁵Then again he laid his hands on his eyes; and he looked intently and was restored, and began to see everything clearly.*

Ephesians 4:18: (NASB) *being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;*

Isaiah 42:19-20: (NASB) ¹⁹*Who is blind but My servant, or so deaf as My messenger whom I send? Who is so blind as he that is at peace with Me, or so blind as the servant of the LORD? ²⁰You have seen many things, but you do not observe them; Your ears are open, but none hears.*

The following Scriptures speak about how Jesus is the light of this world and if we walk in the Gospel, we are walking in the day and not the darkness:

John 8:12: (NASB) *Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, I am the Light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.*

This is an example of how Jesus spoke a truth and then performed a miracle that demonstrated its practical application. This concept is memorialized in the hymn "The Light of the World is Jesus."

Also see John 9:1-41, John 11:9 and Joel 2:28-31. Consider how sight will play the major beginning part in the world's perception of events at the very beginning of the Time of Trouble...which will be the beginning of their faith during the Millennial Age.

Deuteronomy 29:4: (NASB) *Yet to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to know, nor eyes to see, nor ears to hear.*

Proverbs 4:20-22: (NASB) ²⁰*My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. ²¹Do not let them depart from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart. ²²For they are life to those who find them and health to all their body.*

Proverbs 18:21: (NASB) *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

Isaiah 6:8-10: (NASB) ⁸*Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us? Then I said, Here am I. Send me! ⁹ He said, Go, and tell this people: Keep on listening, but do not perceive; Keep on looking, but do not understand. ¹⁰Render the hearts of this people insensitive, their ears dull, and their eyes dim, otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and return and be healed.*

Isaiah 11:2-3: (NASB) ²*The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, and He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear;*





Acts 28:24-31: (NASB) *24Some were being persuaded by the things spoken, but others would not believe. 25And when they did not agree with one another, they began leaving after Paul had spoken one parting word, The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers, 26saying, Go to this people and say, You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; And you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; 27For the heart of this people has become dull, And with their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes; Otherwise they might see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and return, And I would heal them. 28Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will also listen. 29When he had spoken these words, the Jews departed, having a great dispute among themselves. 30And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him, 31preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.*

Psalms 45:8: (NASB) *All Your garments are fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia; Out of ivory palaces stringed instruments have made You glad.*

SMELL



Song of Solomon 1:12: (NASB) *While the king was at his table, my perfume gave forth its fragrance.*

1 Corinthians 12:17: (NASB) *If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?*

DISCERNMENT

TOUCH



DISCERNMENT

Genesis 27:27: (NASB) *So he came close and kissed him; and when he smelled the smell of his garments, he blessed him and said, See, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field which the LORD has blessed;*

2 Corinthians 7:1: (NASB) *Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

Colossians 2:20-22: (NASB) *20If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, 21Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch! 22(which all refer to things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?*