

EXPERIENCES IN THE SPIRIT WORLD SERIES

LEVELS OF SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES

Lets read from the book of II Cor. 12:1-4 *I must boast; there I nothing to be gained by it but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven - whether in the body or out or the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise - whether in the body or out of he body I do not know, God knows - and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.*

Paul is of course referring to himself because in verse 7 he wrote *unless I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of revelations.* So we know that he is speaking about himself in the third person and of the abundance of the revelations that has come into his life. And he made use of a phrase that says that he heard things that were inexpressible. The spirit world is a realm that doesn't operate on logic as is the case in our natural world. The spirit is a realm where our natural logic breaks down.

Lets give you an example, a brother was sharing with me about a vision he had and how he saw a tree growing. As the tree grew the branches of the tree spread across many borders. Then the tree produced fruit and the fruits drop down. Then the tree produces other trees and then spread their branches. How could we conceive a tree whose branches are greater than the roots? It is not something that is possible in the natural. But in the spirit world there is vision of such a tree.

Other cases like for example you see in the spirit world which is in the bible a spirit appear then he sort of go through a wall. Or they do something that our natural

mind says it cannot be. Or things like scrolls flying about in the sky. Other examples like in the book of Zech.5:5 *Then the angel who talked with me came forward and said to me, "Lift up your eyes, and see what this is that goes forth."* He looks and there is a basket flying about. Where can we get such a thing as a flying basket? Then in verse 9 he raised his eyes and looked and there were 2 women coming with the wind in their wings. And their wings were like the wings of a stork and not like an angel. And they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven. Now here is there such a thing. Up to Zechariah's time all the manifestation of winged creatures are men. I mean the angels appear like men. But here it says these 2 ladies flying about and their wings looking like storks. This is a spiritual realm where things are in symbols.

It is just like some you have dreams. And in your dreams you see very odd things. Like for example perhaps in your dream you were walking and you look down on your toes and instead of having 5 toes you have 7 toes. So how do you explain this kind of dreams? And how in your dream after you entered a place the whole thing melted and turned into something else. So we realized that it is not in the realm of logic at all. Not in the sense of our natural logic that governs this world. There is of course a high principle involved and God is still a God of order. But we cannot experience that spirit realm and try to understand it with our natural mind. There is a barrier that prevents our natural mind from understanding logically things that are in the spirit world. So you might as well give up and don't try. All you have to do is to ask God for understanding at each time. No matter how intelligent you can be there is a certain limit that you could try with a rational mind to understand the spirit world. But yet you reach a point where you think you understand every thing suddenly you see something else in the spirit that just boggles your whole theology.

Its in that realm where Paul refers to when he says I Cor. 2:14 *The unspiritual man does not receive the gifts of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, And he is not able to understand them because they re spiritually discerned.* You could replace the word *folly* with the word *illogical*. However that doesn't mean that we just open our heart and mind to every vision and dream. Satan can appear too as an angel of light. So we realize that there is still a check. The check is in the Word. Every vision must line up with the word. But we know that this bible was not written in a logical order. The baptism in the Spirit is still argued in charismatic circles as to whether tongues are the evidence of it or not. Both groups are trying to use scriptures. Why doesn't

Paul just say in the baptism in the Spirit these are the signs that follow? Why do we need preachers today to read the bible and tell you in logical point? Why don't the bible put it all in logical order - its impossible. Which is why when Jesus taught, Jesus doesn't necessary teach in point form logical order. When He teaches He used parables, stories and drama. Because there is no other way He could convey some of the truths. And within that drama we can find a few thousand of logical applications.

If a person is not strong in the written Word and they move into the spirit world a lot, they tend to be very irrational people. As you relate to them in natural life, you find that in natural life they are very naive to the extent of being innocent and foolish. But when it comes to the spirit realm they can be very sharp and discerning in the spirit world. But they fail in their primary affairs in the natural world. So there is a certain need of balance for us.

I met many Christians ordinary believers some of them faithful housewives, some of them just holding a regular job in the secular world and they are the most spiritual people I have ever met who spend a lot of time in prayer. Yet many others think they are queer, oddball and who doesn't think straight, but thinks in circles. I know if not for the Word of God I would be among these people. The experiences in the spirit realm boggle your mind, change some of your ways and your personality and the way you do things. Sometimes you could be so occupied and terrified by what you see in the spirit world that you look like a ghost. Or you walk about in your life like in a trance. And people wonder what's wrong with you.

Tonight we are going to talk about degrees of depth in the spirit world. We talk about entering the spirit world. We talk about experiencing the spirit world. But what we want to speak about tonight is there are different degrees of experiencing the spirit world. You could be sitting there comfortable in your chair and just pray in tongues. And you would be experiencing the spirit world. There are different degrees that we experience the spirit world. Sometimes some people experience the spirit world with different kind of experiences. Sometimes these experiences raise doubts in the minds of many logical thinking, rational, intellectual Christians.

Someone may say that after he had this particular vision he slept for 4 days. Then the logical Christian would say, "It couldn't be from the Lord. If it is of God it should edify, comfort and exhort. If you met the Lord you should have been stronger." He himself has no experience of seeing a vision but he could judge someone who has. Or another Christian may see this thing in the spirit world and he is frightened. Then the next day he meets with his logical friend. He says, "It can't be from the Lord since a vision shouldn't terrify you and put fear in your life." True, but there are so many types of fear. What kind of fear we are talking about? Is it the awesome reverence fear of God? Is it the other kind of error that comes from the enemy? So it has to be qualified.

Or another person may share with a logical Christian about a great vision that troubled him. Then this logical Christian says, "Couldn't be. Any vision must not give you any trouble. A vision that is of God will always give you love, peace, joy longsuffering etc. " But they he himself has never receive any vision. If such persons ever have one they may not only be terrified but they may leave the room with a new hairstyle.

Let me just point to some scriptures. The spirit world is such that if you enter into it, you could straight away know whether it is of God or not of God. Why must Joshua come to the angel and said, Sir, are you for us or against us. If it is so obvious why must he ask that fellow?

Josh. 5:13-15 When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man stood before him with his drawn sword in his hand; and Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" And he said, "No, but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." And as Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and worshipped him, and said to him, "What does my Lord bid his servant?" And the commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Put off your shoes from your feet; for the place where you stand is holy." Joshua did so.

When Joshua was in Jericho he saw this man standing. I guess he must have 6 feet tall or 7 feet tall. He comes to this person and said, "Are you for us or against us?" If

this vision comes from God you would know. You don't have to ask that fellow. But Joshua didn't know whether if it is of God or not. And the angel answered, "I am the commander of the Lord's army." That's when Joshua realized it was of God.

The spirit world is not a world that reveals itself to you automatically. There has to be some sort of effort that comes on our part and there are different degrees. I have sought with my heart to understand why is it that when some people experience the spirit world they get physically exhausted which is quite possible. I have experienced that too. That after some visions and revelations and after that all you felt is that you just want to have a good rest. It just exhausts and drains all your energy and strength away. Some of you may not have seen visions and revelations but perhaps you pray long hours. Then after the prayer it really was hard work you left that prayer closet exhausted. Its just like you have worked at the quarry cutting stones. And you came out exhausted and you eat a big fat meal. But yet at other times when you pray you left feeling of God like. So you are wondering why are your experiences so varied. Why sometimes this way. Why sometimes that way.

Tonight we want to explain that to you. It applies to the prayer realm. It applies to visions, revelations, sometimes you could even have a dream and you woke up from that from that dream refreshed. You feel peace flowing like a river, love bubbling like a fountain. But at other times you have a dream and you wake up and you feel like not going anywhere. Why is there such a degree of impact? And why is there such a diverse experience in the spirit world? The degree and the depth of your encounter of the spirit world determines the side effect or no side effect on your physical body, or your mind, or your spirit.

It depends sometimes upon the type of revelation that you received. It sometimes also depends upon the encounter that you have. For example when you see an angel and the angel just disappear. That is experiencing the spirit realm. But that is experiencing the spirit realm in the lowest kind. I am not talking about the 3 types of vision. We are talking about degrees and not types. We are not talking about varieties of experiences. But we are talking about depth. Perhaps you see the angel and then the angel gives you something to take. And you take something from the angel you eat it or you hold it. That moves you into a deeper realm of experience.

You have sort of taken something from the spirit world. Not just seeing the spirit world. Or perhaps you could move into a deeper realm where you see that same angel and this time you were compelled to walk to the angel. Then the angel grabbed you by the shoulders and lifted you up into the spirit world. And you are not sure whether in spirit or in body you were lifted up. That definitely is a different encounter. See we are not just talking about experiences in the spirit world. We are talking about degrees, depths of experience. Whether you saw an angel, you took something from the angel or the angel carried you. Then the angel still can be silent. Or perhaps the angel carried you and conversed with you. Then in that vision you are feeling weak and the angel puts his hand on you and blesses you with supernatural strength.

Now we see here the 5 different levels that Jacob experienced with angels.

The first experience that Jacob has is in the book of Genesis 28. Just to show the degree or the depths of experience in the spirit world.

Gen. 28:10-12 Jacob left Beersheba, and went toward Haran. And he came to a certain place, and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

He saw that famous story called Jacob's ladder. He didn't fully know what it means. But God manifested in the first person and say I am the God of Abraham etc. and told him about the covenant. And when Jacob woke up he called that place Bethel and made a vow to God. That was his first encounter in the spirit world. All he did was made a covenant with God.

About 20 years later he had another encounter with God. He actually had 2 encounters but one followed the other: one at the end of 14 years working for Laban and the other at the end of the 20 years.

In Gen. 31:11-12 *Then the angel of God said to me in the dream. Jacob, and I said "Here I am" and he said, "Lift up your eyes and see, all the goats that leap upon the flock are striped, spotted and mottled; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you."*

Why do we put it as 2 incidences? In chapter 30 verse 40 to 41 after he has worked for 14 years he had a revelation to put the striped things or branches before the sheep. And we infer that an angel must have taught him. And that may be the same angel that now speaks to him at the end of 20 years.

Now it was time for him to leave Laban. And that was why this vision occurred that we classify as one section in itself. The angel appearing in a dream in chapter 31 and saying you must now leave this place. Now his encounter with the angel is a different type of manifestation and a different depth. The angel now speaks to him and gives him physical instructions. How he must now leave that place.

And as he continued with his walk with God in Gen. 32:1 *Jacob went on his way and the angels of God met him.* Not much was recorded as to what took place in that encounter. But this is his third recorded encounter with the angels. Now as he was walking he met these group of angels. You could see that he is having a different spiritual experience. But soon after he met the angels something was stirring in his life. It seems that now he wants a closer encounter with God. And that closer encounter is initiated by him not just by the angels. Didn't the bible say draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you. It didn't say God draw nigh to you and then you will draw nigh to God. There is a part that has to be initiated from our side.

This is why we are teaching the Word in this matter. It is possible to be trained in the spirit world when you are having a spiritual dream from the Lord. You can have a control in the depth of your spirit in whatever type of spiritual encounter. Some people not having this knowledge, when they start moving into the spirit world fear grips them and they cease the whole vision. How many people have experienced that? I heard many who have shared with me how when they were

praying sometimes they feel that they are caught up and they are just about to move into the realm. But half way through they got fearful. The moment they got fearful they would drop down, not physically but spiritually. They felt themselves getting back into the natural. Does it mean that even when we are experiencing the spirit world we have a degree of controlling its depth, yes we have. How much we enter into the spirit world is still in the jurisdiction of our free will and our openness to the encounter that we have. If we open ourselves more there seems to be a greater depth of experience. If we withhold we experience the same thing but at a lower level of depth.

So after Jacob had these 3 recorded encounters with the angels, he must have become quite familiar with angels. One night as he was walking about or praying he saw this angel.. When he saw this angel he grabbed this angel. When Jesus appear in the resurrection to those ladies they were about to hug him. Jesus said don't touch me yet. See Jesus has not yet ascended. And Jesus had an unofficial ascension and an official ascension. The unofficial one was when he was just resurrected and he was to present possibly the conclusion of His entire life and ministry. Then he appeared again in Acts 1 and he officially ascended in a cloud. Before his unofficial or private ascension before He went up, nothing was allowed to touch Him. After He has finished that, He says, "Touch me." So we realize that in the spirit world there are degrees of encounter.

Here in chapter 32 when Jacob saw this angel in verse 24 it says that night he wrestled with the angel. Why did he wrestle? He wanted a deeper encounter. It says in verse 26 when the angel said, "Let me go." He said, "I will not let you go until you bless me." You know why he held on to that angel? He says I want a blessing. Now the angel could have finished him off with just his little finger and Jacob would have died. But the angel was not permitted to use his supernatural power at that time. You could see he was so powerful because all he did was just touch Jacob's leg and that fellow became lame. This is definitely a very deep encounter. The angel blessed him. I wonder how many people experience the spirit world and before they left they said, "Bless me."

Its just like if you encountered a Moses-generation man of God who was about to

go home. You could just say, "Your ministry has been wonderful; we just want to say thank you. God bless you" and you walk off. Or you just could say, "Could you please bless me before you go off." It was a same encounter with a man of God but there are different degrees to that encounter. A lot of people have met men or women of God who were about to go home to the Lord and just said, "Thank you. God bless you." But there are others who came and said, "Before you go can you bless me?" But there are others still like Elisha who knew Elijah is going to go, all the other sons of prophets said, "Elijah is going to go home." But Elisha was different; he said, "I didn't want to let him go until he bless me." Elijah told him, "Stay here." Elisha said, "No." For the first time his servant was not obedient. They crossed over 4 places and each time Elijah said, "Stay here." "Don't want." "Stay here." "Don't want." In the end Elijah asked, "What do you want?" Elisha replied, "I want a double dose of your blessing."

Now that is on the human level, the natural level with physical vessels. In the spirit world there are also degrees of encounter. I mean when it is time for Kenneth Hagin to go home, of the thousands of people who work close to him not everybody will be able to draw his anointing. Not everybody has the same encounter with him. Not everybody wants the same blessings. But of the thousands of students who heard him speak perhaps only a few will dare to venture further and draw a deeper anointing through his ministry.

So it is the same in the spirit world. It is whether when we are having that encounter of spiritual experience, are we willing to open ourselves and go deeper like Jacob?

The fifth level does not mention the angels and the blessing is not through Jacob's life. It says there in Genesis 35:5 *And as they journeyed, a terror from God fell upon the cities that were round about them, so that they did not pursue the sons of Jacob.* There was a certain presence that was with them. It was the angelic presence because they had the blessings of the angel. The terror of God was all over the place. That's just to show us how the degree of an angelic encounter was in this man's life. We can show the same with any other man of God in the bible.

We now go over to the book of Daniel and show the different side effects caused by different degrees of encounter. Daniel starts recording his visions in the second half of his book. Dan. 7:15 *As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious and the visions of my head alarmed me.* Now Daniel had a sort of dream and a vision by the night in chapter 7 verse 1 and 2. After he had the dream or vision of the night. And while he was inside that dream he was conscious and he was troubled by it. It says in verse 15 he was even grieved and the word *grief* is the word *khera* and is used only once in the Hebrew. Its not the ordinary word for sorrow. Its like something not complete unless you do something else. The spirit world is very strange, very illogical.

When Hagin was talking about a vision that he had of Jesus and he was ministering. Then something made him look to the right. When he looked there was Jesus. Or sometimes it is one of these other people. They said while they were praying something made them look up when they looked they saw something. What is that something? The spirit world is very strange; there is something on your inside like what I call an intuition. You know you are supposed to do something. Just like Moses when he saw that burning bush. Something in him says I want to see that. His mind may interpret it as curiosity but his spirit felt like compelled. Something draws him to that burning bush. And when he came near God manifested.

So we realize here that the word *khera* is special. It's a sort of a grief like something is incomplete. When people feel sorrow it is because something has been cut in their life. Perhaps it is their character that has been cut. Perhaps it is their plans that have been cut. Or perhaps their relationship has been cut. Something has been cut, and they feel incomplete unless God completes the picture. That's why if you experience a genuine sorrow commit it to God because Jesus bore your sorrow. He makes you complete.

But here is a special *khera*, which is not talking about natural sorrow. But something in the spirit world where you know and you experience it that unless you do something it is not complete. The dream and the vision has actually been completed. Its just like you are having a dream and somebody wake you up half

way. Or perhaps right at the end of a parable in a dream, the interpretation was about to come for that same dream and then suddenly somebody woke you up - it is just frustrating. Or perhaps you are in deep prayer. When I am in deep prayer I just refuse to answer any call because I may be just getting something halfway. Which is why we all need to respect another person praying in the spirit world. Don't go around and disturb people who are praying. That guy may be having a vision and interrupting them will cause them grief.

Sometimes when the dream is incomplete by the mercy of God you go back to sleep part 2 continues. But sometimes part 2 never comes. And you just feel that incompleteness. But Daniel felt it and that something drew him to come to this angel he saw in the vision and said, "Could you explain it to me?" And only through that explanation was that grief removed. But the other thing that happened was the word *troubled*. Now that word *troubled* is from the Hebrew *behow*. *Behow* is translated 2 times as *terror*. So it's a sense of being terrified. But its not the normal word for terror. The normal word conveys a negative kind of terror. Here is a kind of being terrified because of the greatness or monstrosity of that vision.

Look at verse 3 *four great monsters*; I replace the word *beasts* with *monsters*. Wouldn't you be terrified in the spiritual way? I mean you saw these 4 great fellows. Then you saw this great big lion. Then another creature comes like a big bear in front of you. I wonder half way some of you may say, "*Satan get thee behind me.*" The awesome monstrosity in that vision was terrifying to Daniel. Definitely the logical mind ran out of the door.

Lets have some other kind of examples in Gen. 15:12 *As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram, and lo, a dread and great darkness fell upon him.* Look at that there was an experience of horror. Now where is Mr. Logical? Mr. Logical says that when you experience a vision you will experience love like an ocean, joy like a fountain, peace like a river. Where did they all go? They are only talking about one type of experience. There are many depths. There is a certain level that you move into where the vision doesn't identify just like Joshua seeing the angel. I am sure in the natural you would say who is this guy? Not all vision is clear-cut. We have to go deeper into it. But there is an inner witness that tells you it's of God. But yet the vision can be so powerful that is not your spirit that fear but your natural man that

experience that awesomeness and you feel your logical mind running out the door. And you are wondering how to explain this fact here.

In chapter 7: 15 Daniel says the vision of his head troubled him. In other words mentally Daniel was still troubled. Now after the end of the whole vision in chapter 7:28 *Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed; but I keep the matter in my mind.* The word *countenance* was talking about his facial expression. Daniel's countenance was changed and he was only at the first level. Of course we want all of you to leave the overnight prayer with a smile on your face, love in your heart and you are going out with a *Praise the Lord* and you are ready for work today under normal circumstances. That's the problem we only want normal circumstances. There is realm there that you may receive something so great that reached beyond just the daily activity of God in your life. Sometimes you don't experience this depth because you have a preset mind. Mr. Logical rules and reigns. Every vision of God must leave me with a smile on my face. Some visions leave you with an open mouth.

Sometimes you get interrupted in a vision and you get a half vision. It would be just like seeing a nice Christian movie and when it reached just about the climax the electric power went off. Most of us adults are not so affected but little children are. I could imagine my little children watching some of these gospel view shows and when it come to the exciting part the power went off. Some Sunday School teachers use. The story of the Gospel Kid. Tells the children the story how they go to a dangerous situation. And as they enter a place with all the snakes around him, there was this 5 feet long cobra which raises its head right in front of him. Then the movie ending says, "To be continued in the next story." Then for the whole week the children would be thinking what will happen to the Gospel Kid.

If it is an important vision, an awesome vision that gets cut off halfway, it may leave us with a different type of countenance. For Daniel because his logical mind could not understand it his countenance was altered. It so troubled him yet we all know that the vision was of God. I want to break the limit that you set in your mind tonight. We all think that we have understood God - you don't know God yet. He is loving no doubt but when you meet Him there is an aspect of God that

really puts that grip in your heart at times. You don't know God yet; it is awesome. That's the realm we are talking about. The spirit world is not a realm you could put in a box and say I now understand everything. It will always bring you new things until you only walk with God from glory to glory.

Well Daniel was progressing now into a deeper level. Dan. 8:2-3 *And I saw in the vision; and when I saw, I was in Susa the capital which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in the vision, and I was at the river Ulai. I raised my eye saw and behold, a ram standing on the bank of the river. It had two horns and both horns were high, but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last.*

This time Daniel was in his own working place. When he saw all these visions he managed to converse with the people in the vision and in verse 15 *When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it; and behold; there stood before me one having the appearance of a man.*

This time it says that Daniel logical mind wants to seek the meaning. He was given some meaning in verse 27. He had a different experience from his first vision. His first vision left him with a different face and a troubled mind. His second vision left him fainted and was sick for days. When the doctor checked on Daniel and asked him what's wrong, he replies, "I just saw a vision." If Mr. Logical were there Mr. Logical would say, "Cannot be. How can? Visions can't make people sick." So don't be surprise when some people just the touch the power of God, not even seen a vision and they fall sick. Then we judge this kind of thing with our logical without realizing the spirit world is so powerful that even all its side effects have not been classified.

Take off those limits in the spirit realm. Don't approach the spirit realm with your rulebook. The spirit world is not in your control. You are only one of the creatures there. It is just like you as one person trying to control the whole world. You could influence human beings to a certain extend but you cannot influence all. There is a certain limit of influence since each one has a free will. The spirit world is like that. You experience different side effect depending on your depths. So don't be afraid

when your physical body starts giving way. Don't be afraid if your mind gives way.

Within one vision there were 5 depths. Daniel is now growing deeper and deeper into the spirit world. Which is why you could walk so much in the spirit world. And I can understand how Enoch walked with God and was not; he just disappeared. You could walk in the spirit world to a great degree. Sundar Singh walked with God so much and he use to go to this jungle to pray. And he had such a closeness with God that as he was praying this biographer watched from afar and didn't want to disturb him. And he saw this big tiger that coming towards Sundar Singh. Sundar Singh was just meditating. When the tiger came near he just stretched out his hand and patted him. This fellow was horrified and said, "What kind of man is this? Tarzan?" I like to open your mind to break all those limits.

And there are still certain limits that I know its there but we have to walk closer with God. Like when we go out walking or praying sometimes mosquitoes would come around and I said, "Lord I am sure that when You were on this earth mosquitoes won't disturb You." I don't think when Jesus was praying all these mosquitoes would start biting Him and He had to slap His face or hands all the time. I can't see Jesus Christ of Nazareth doing that. I believe there is realm you could move in until all of the earthly things and physical things harmonize with you. You are at one with the Creator of the universe and all creation bows to the Creator within you. There is a level you could walk until every step of your life is a supernatural coincidence with human beings.

When we talk about the realm of freedom from sickness and disease and divine help, some Christian would ask, "Then how would you die?" They don't realize that you could die or go home without sickness. They have to think of them dying of some sickness or some cancer or something. No, all you have to do is let your spirit leave your body. There is a realm John G. Lake talks about that where even the germs obey and the wrong germs die. There is a powerful realm where all of nature harmonizes in the spirit world.

Here is Daniel in one vision he had 5 different encounters. His first encounter as he

was praying he saw this angel. Now for the first time he had a clearer picture of the angel. Do you know sometimes you could see Jesus but not clearly? Sometimes you could see Jesus and certain parts of Jesus. I heard of someone who shared a vision of how he saw Jesus. He said I just saw Jesus legs. There are different degrees and so here finally he saw this angel and he described it in Dan. 10:6. For the first time he saw the details, his body was like barrel, his face was like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like bronze in color and the sound of his voice like the voice of a multitude. For the first time he had this clearer encounter. Its just like sometimes you see people from a distance. Then one day you come close and shake hands with them. You say I didn't know that this guy had this birthmark on the left hand. So here Daniel sees the glory of the angel. Then in verse 7 *There were people with me but they didn't see but a great terror fell on them.* Look at the side effect. This is a very deep vision. Not only he but the others around him now got affected. Although they didn't see but they felt a terror come upon their life. And these other people didn't know what to do. For them they were only having the first encounter. And all of them fled to hide themselves.

Is it possible when there is a real vision people hide himself or herself? Yes. Even in the book of Revelation when the Lord Himself comes people are crying for the mountains and the hills to cover them because they are in darkness and in sin.

Then verse 8-10 *So I was left alone and I saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me; my radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength. Then I heard the sound of his words; I fell on my face in a deep sleep with my face to the ground.* Did you see the word great there its deeper than the normal vision. It is still an open vision. We are not talking about the type of vision. In all the visions that Daniel had it was either a close or open vision. The type of vision was similar throughout chapter 7, 8, 10. but the depth was different. That is what we are talking about tonight. Verse 8 he experience the same thing he experienced before, no strength remain in me, my vigor was turned to filthy like everything inside him turned to water. When he heard the sound of his words he fell under the power.

There are some people who try to use all these scriptures and say if people fall under the power they must go forward and not backward. They don't know scientific laws. The center of gravity will pull you in the direction whichever is the

easiest angle and takes the least energy. Which explain why when some people are ministered they fall backwards. It has nothing to do with the spiritual principle. It has to do with the law of science. Like a person cutting a tree down and by the inclination of the tree they know which direction the tree will fall. So don't make a great spiritual truth out of something that is actually nothing. So you cannot judge the spirituality of the experience or the genuineness of the experience by which direction a person fall. You can't say, "Forward is of God, and backwards is of the devil."

This is Daniel's first encounter and it affected his physical body. Then in verse 10 *And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.* When the hand touched him Daniel trembled like an electric current going through him. And the angel spoke to him.

Then look at his third experience, first he fainted, second he trembled, third in verse 15 *When he had spoken to me according to these words. I turned my face toward the ground and was dumb.* Do you notice that some of the people experienced this like Zechariah in Luke 1 and Paul in Acts 9 instead of his tongue his eyes were affected. It is not natural blindness. It's the spiritual realm is so great that the physical body is almost transformed. The spiritual realm is a powerful realm. It's a realm of thunder and lightning. It's a realm of high energy.

In verse 16 this time there was a hand that touched him on the lips. Do you know he received something new that day? Do you notice that in Isaiah 6 it says woe to me for a man of unclean lips and I live among people of unclean lips. A coal of fire came and touched his lips. That day there was a special anointing on his lips. Something changed about his physical lips. Do you know why Elisha's bones still contain the power of the anointing? Because that was where the anointing resided in his life. It was within his very bones. Which explain why when he has to channel the anointing he has to put his whole body on the child who was dead. For Moses it was the rod.

So his lips were touched and he was able to open his mouth again. But in verse 17

he says *I still don't have enough strength nor is there breath in me*. He was so deep in the experience that he could hardly breathe. Very few people have been up to that level. Now you know why Enoch was taken. When he reached that realm his whole physical body transformed. He found he was no more breathing in the natural. He was breathing in the spiritual. And that was when the third encounter took place.

Then in verse 18 *the one having the likeness of man touched me and strengthened me*. How many times have he been touched now? 3 times and each time it was different. The first touch made him tremble. The second touch opened his mouth. The third touch gave him strength. Not all spiritual encounters are the same.

I want to impress upon your spirit tonight to realize that there are different depths of experiences. Don't use your logical mind and say a touch is a touch. They are not in the spirit world. One spade is not the same as the other spade in the spirit world. The spiritual world is not like this logical world that we live in. There are different touches in the spirit world.

But the third touch which is the fourth encounter was different. When the third touch came the strength came into him. Then verse 19 which is the fifth encounter. The angel blessed him. The angel personally pronounced a blessing, which of course we know, was pronounced by God. Verse 19. O man greatly beloved fear not; peace be to you, be strong. And Daniel became superman. Verse 18 when he touched him the strength came. Verse 19 when he spoke a greater strength came. How many times has he been strengthened in this one vision, many times. But verse 19 was powerful. He said *let my Lord speak you have now strengthened me*. He is now ready to receive all the revelations that God wants to give him.

So we are talking about the depths of experience in the spirit world. And each time you receive an encounter it drains you at that level. Don't stop there every time if you are drained if you ask God to strengthen you for the next step He can strengthen you. We all have different strength physically and different strength spiritually. And our physical body is capable of different strength dependent on the level of your spiritual strength. We all have different endurance capacity in the

spirit world. This explains why we all have different capacity to pray in long hours. But when you reached the limit of your endurance, or you have a spiritual encounter that exhausted all your endurance so far, get new strength from Him for the next one to prepare you for the level or revelation encounter that He wants you to have. Like Daniel asked to be strengthened and he was strengthened. Before he never asked to be strengthened. He didn't learn that secret until chapter 10.

It is just like when you exercise. Weightlifters don't just lift up. It is not just the weight that you carry. It's the amount of time that also determines it. They don't just carry until they feel tired. They carry until they feel a slight ache on their muscles. It is one of the principles. They carry let's say 10 kilos. When tired they go to 9. Tired they go to 8. They want to exhaust every fiber of their muscles. When they do that and its totally exhausted and they exercise their capacity to expand and grow. When you reach the limit of your natural strength through exercise or physical activity, your body began to put it back the strength. It doesn't just put just put back the strength. It puts back more. Which is why if you exercise regularly over the months and the years, you put on muscles. You put on strength physically. When you run 5 kilometers everyday for 1 year, you find that 5 km is nothing. You can now run 7 km. Your heart adapts to the work and increases the capacity.

In the same manner unless you reached your limits of your spiritual endurance, you will not reach the next point. Sometimes your physical body limits your spiritual limit. Which is why when Jesus told His disciples to pray they could not. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. But they were not willing to allow their spirit to push their physical body to the limit of spiritual activity. So they never experience greater things. There is a great depth if you will push it. Which is why many people have pushed themselves to that area. And every time they come to an end, they get new strength, new spiritual muscles to go higher until the day they walk with God with absolutely one spirit, soul and body with the God of the universe.

