

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Teaching Ministry

10.6.2024

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Below please find my sharable thoughts, so please allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word to share.

Spiritual Senses, The Sense of Touch

## Genesis 2: 16 – 17, 3: 1 – 3

Do we often time have the feeling of wanting to belong to something, or to be embraced by someone? Do we feel that we allow ourselves to be changed by our experiences? The most powerful experiences that we encounter in our life are those that are unexplained, unrehearsed, and unannounced. Now, whether these experiences are empowering, peaceful, or filled with joy, or whether they are painful, fearful, or in despair, because of our need to belong, we allow ourselves to be embraced by these experiences. Now, when as believers, we let go of our worldly identity, and we begin to allow ourselves to become embraced by the love of God, it is then that our heart rejoices, and both our physical body, and our spirit delights in the touch of God in our lives. It is through our personal relationship with Christ that we are able to touch the divine wisdom of God, therefore, when we put on the mind of Christ it is then that we begin to see the world through a transformed heart. Our sense of touch is always active, it is always at work, and it is helping us to understand, and experience the creation of God. So, is the sense of touch illustrated by physical contact alone, certainly not, for touch is a sensitive, compassionate response which can be inspired by physical touch, or is often time inspired by the presence of the Holy Spirit. To the sinner this spiritual sense of touch comes by way of conviction, and to the believer it comes by the presence of the indwelling Holt Spirit through prayer, confirmed through the word of God.

**Genesis 2: 16 – 17,....**the lord God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat....but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it, for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die....

**Genesis 3: 1 – 3,....**now the serpent....said unto the woman, yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? The woman said....we may eat of the fruit of the trees....but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, ye shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest ye die....

Now, as we look at these two passages of scripture, there is one distinct difference that stands out between the two, and that is the characteristic of the sense of touch. Now, some say that Eve added this to her statement to Satan to make Gods command seem more dramatic and demanding, while others say that it was a part of Gods command all along, for how could you eat of something, without first touching it. Whatever the case may be, when it comes to the statement: neither shall ye touch it, it is more important to understand this through a spiritual sense of touch, which in this case, was a spiritual struggle between a willingness, either to be obedient to Gods command or to allow disobedience to prevail. Well, disobedience prevailed, and sin entered into the world, which was due to an inward struggle that caused mankind to question the truth of Gods word. Now, Eve fell prey to deception, and therefore transgressed into sin, whereas Adam willingly sinned into transgression, but this did not change the motive, or the reason for which they sinned, which was due to their disobedience to Gods word, and it was the convicting touch of the Holy Spirit which God used to allow them to recognize their disobedience to him.

Let's first take a look at: deception into transgression.

**Hebrews 3: 13,....**exhort one another daily, while it is called today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin....

The word of God warns the believer concerning the destructive nature of sin. If we choose to allow it to do so, sin has the ability to lead believers astray, for it is alluring, and deceitful, and will lead the believer into a spiritual self-satisfaction where we will no longer allow the spiritual touch of the Holy Spirit to lead, guide, and direct our lives. The deceitfulness of sin has the potential to lead the believer away from God, therefore, by failing to heed to the encouragement of the Holy Spirit we may become vulnerable to the deceitfulness of sin, and we begin to harden our hearts toward the truth of God's word.

Now let's look at: willfully sinning unto transgression.

**Jame 4: 17,....**therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin....

This is referred to as a sin of omission, which means that we are not doing that which God has commanded or instructed us to do through his word, therefore, we are disobedient to the word of God. This means that, it is not only what we do in obedience to God that matters unto him, but it also means that it matters unto God what we fail to do in disobedience unto him. God blesses mankind when we are obedient, and he holds accountable those who are disobedient.

**1 John 1: 1 – 3,....**that which was from the beginning....the word of life....for the life was manifested....and shew unto you eternal life, which was manifested unto us....declare we unto you....and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ....

As believers, we experience the spiritual characteristic of touch when we handle the word of life. This we do as we listen through Gods word of truth and grace, and by our obedience we proclaim Christ as the only begotten Son of God, who endured the cross, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Hebrews 12: 2,....**looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God....

Christ is not just the one who gives unto us life, he is life, and for the believer, he is to be our whole life, and in return he grants unto us eternal life. This eternal life, which comes through faith, is a trust that is sufficient to produce obedience in our life in Christ, despite the fear which comes through our doubt, which is a result of the worldly hardships in our life. Therefore, by touching God, through his word of life, we can set aside sinful selfishness, and now we can pursue the pathway that God has placed in front of us. Our willingness to endure comes from our understanding of knowing that we are always secure in knowing that we are never out of reach of Gods touch, for he dwells within us, through his spirit.

**Hebrews 10: 19,....**having therefore, brethren, the boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way....let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith....

Since time as we know it, man has tried to touch the grace of God by his own self-righteous abilities. We are instructed that by faith we can enter boldly into the holiest of God, touching the new and living way which comes through Christ Jesus. We are also warned that touching things that are unclean will subject us unto the consequences of the condemnation and wrath of God. So, how active is our spiritual sense of touch? As believers, do we use our God given abilities to touch the divine wisdom of God so that we might lay hold of that which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of us.

**Philippians 3: 12 – 14**,....not as though I had already attained....if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus....I count not myself to have apprehended , but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus....

Our goal, as believers, is to be prepared, and to help prepare others for whenever and however we meet with Christ, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, having a firm grip on the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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