

SET FREE!

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There is a movie that came out in 1999 called "The Sixth Sense."

In it we see a young boy who carries on conversations with people who are dead. These are people who have died some violent death, and are on a mission to right the wrong done to them before they can go off to their final rest, what ever that may be.

This film is Biblically or theologically wrong of course. To begin with when you die, your spirit leaves your body. It does not, however, remain on the earth to do things. It either goes to be with the Lord, as Paul said, "*to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord*", or it goes to hell and waits for the Great White Throne Judgment.

People talk about the ghost of Uncle Bob coming back to haunt his house. That is not so. There may be demons carrying on in that house - and they will try to deceive some gullible people into thinking that they are Uncle Bob's ghost, but they are just "deceiving spirits." Demons are liars just like their father the devil.

Uncle Bob is gone - he's not coming back to seek revenge or to right wrongs or to earn his way to heaven or anything else that Hollywood

movies would like to show him doing.

The thing I did like about the movie was the title, "The Sixth Sense" and the fact that this young boy could function in that realm so easily - it seemed very natural for him to talk to these spirit beings.



"I see dead people"

As believers we have a sixth sense that has to do with the spirit realm and we can operate in and with that realm.

We are not dealing with the spirits of dead people, but we are dealing with demons, angels and the spirit and person of God.

Jesus was a great model of this kind of living. Being so aware of His Father and the realm of the spirit and yet at the same time being very connected to this earthly realm.

His life put an end to that saying that "some folks are just so heavenly minded they are no earthly good." Show me one person in that condition. If they are no earthly good then they have not touched spiritual reality.

No one was more aware of spiritual things than Jesus and no one was more earthly good.

**When you come alive
"in the spirit" your life
takes on new value.**

To the spiritually mature, spiritual things are natural and natural things are spiritual. Spiritual things will fill every moment of their day with richness and joy.

We have segregated the natural away from the spiritual in a way that has left people with great misconceptions of what this walk in the spirit really is.

Those who have developed spiritually are those who have integrated spiritual things into every area of their earthly walk. That's what we call, living daily in the realm of the spirit.

Galatians 5:25 *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

**Living and walking
"in the spirit" is living in
that sixth sense realm.**

There are many things that try to distract us from living in that realm.

Let me show you an example of this.

My wife likes to wear perfumes and cologne. She has had various favourites over the years. When we were younger she used to wear lemon scented colognes. Her cologne was lemon, her soaps were lemon. It was nice and fresh smelling and when ever I smelled lemon it made me think of her.

Then came other fragrances, some of them made me sneeze, some made me choke and others were just great.

Now how do I know she is wearing a cologne or perfume? My eyes can't see it, so they say - "No perfume here." My ears can't hear it - my fingers can't feel it and my taste buds can't taste it.

Four out of five of my natural senses say that there is no perfume. But my nose says there is. Now my eyes, ears, fingers and taste buds all work fine, but they say that there is no evidence of cologne or perfume. They are not defective they just aren't designed to smell things.

Our physical senses may deny that there is anything going on in the spirit realm, but that doesn't mean it isn't. Just because my eyes don't see the wind that doesn't mean it isn't there.

We have these five physical senses to contact the environment around us. They give information to our body so that it can guide itself around and so that we can enjoy things.

If I had to give up one of these senses I would find it very hard to do.

To not be able to see, would drastically affect my life. I couldn't read the way I do or drive or see the beauties of nature or the smile on the faces of the people I know and love.

If I couldn't hear I'd really miss that. I enjoy music. I listen to all kinds of it. I like classical, country, blue grass, southern gospel, and even jazz. I'd miss that if I couldn't hear.

Most of all I think, if I lost my hearing, I'd miss the sound of my wife's voice. I've been listening to her since we met in 1965 and I never tire of hearing her. I also enjoy the voices of my children and grandchildren. Their voices are a kind of music to me!

If I couldn't smell - one thing I'd miss is that wonderful smell of coffee when I first pour it.



I'd miss that sweet smell of a new born baby. Or that warm scent that is on my sweaters when my wife has borrowed them. When she does I can smell her all day - and I like it.

To not be able to taste - coffee and a donut would be like bland porridge.

No sense of touch could make a kiss very dull.

So in the realm of the natural our eyes are used for vision, our ears in the hearing senses, our nose for smelling, our nerve endings for touching and our taste buds for tasting.

We also have sensory devices with which to live in the spirit realm, in that sixth sense.

Faith is our sensory devise for the sixth sense realm of the spirit.

We walk by faith in that realm. We live by faith. We please the Father with faith. We receive everything from the heavenly realms, the spirit realms - using our faith.

We enjoy the set free life of grace by using our faith.

Ephesians 2:8 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

We are saved by the grace of God, but we enjoy it using our faith. The word "saved" used here in its context isn't necessarily talking about the new birth of our spirit. Saved means preserved, kept, set apart. We are saved people, by grace and through our faith. Living the life of a saved person is living it by faith.

The things that we hope for, we receive using our faith.

Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

We hope for something, and that is the blueprint of the thing we desire. Faith is that substance that the spiritual realm manufactures that item out of and it then becomes a physical item.

Everything that comes to us comes to us from the spirit realm first.

Ephesians 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

To operate in the spirit realm we need to use our faith. We cannot function in the realm of the spirit without faith any more than we can see without eyes or hear without ears.

Question:

Can we operate with the same efficiency in that realm of the spirit - in that sixth sense realm - as we do in the physical sense realm?

The answer is yes!

Earlier I said that Jesus operated in it all the time. By operating in it he could affect the natural realm by using the powers of the sixth sense realm, the spirit realm.

One example of this was in Mark 8 when He fed the 4,000 with seven loaves of bread. The power of **compassion** (the power of God's love) flowed into the spirit realm and brought this about.

Mark 8:2 *I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat:*

That power of faith and compassion went into the sixth sense realm and produced the bread needed to feed the 4,000. We know several other situations where Jesus called on the spirit realm to produce in the physical realm.

Let's take this into another area where we can operate in the spirit realm.

In the area of prayer: according to Ephesians 6:18, we are to pray always "*in the spirit*". Prayer is a sixth sense activity. It requires faith to operate in it as well. To sit down and talk to an unseen God, who is in the physical sense, light years away - takes faith.

The great thing about this is that God has given us all the faith we need. All that we need to do is use it.

Here are some other areas in which prayer operates in the spirit realm. I'm going to take you to a couple of passages, that as we look into them, you may say to yourself - "wow, I never really noticed that before."

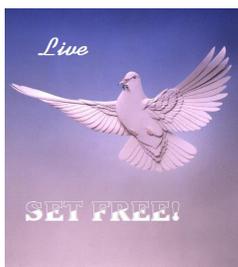
In the context of this passage, Paul is talking about a matter concerning a man that needed to be dealt with in the church, but right in the middle of his instructions he throws in this.

Cor. 5:3-4 (Amp) *"As for my attitude, though I am absent [from you] in body, I am **present in spirit**, and I have already decided and passed judgment, as if actually present, 4 In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, on the man who has committed such a deed. **When you and my own spirit are met together with the power of our Lord Jesus.**"*

"I am present in spirit ... as if I am actually present". He doesn't just mean in the spirit, or attitude of what is going on. He says it again, "*when you and my own spirit are met together.*"

Now before I comment further, let's read another one.

Colossians 2:5 *For though I be absent in the flesh, yet **am I with you in the spirit**, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.*



"I am with you in the spirit"



Paul was in the jail in Rome when he wrote these letters. His spirit was in his body, it never left it or he would die. He didn't have an out of body experience. But his spirit was there with them.

How can that be?

Right now your lungs are full of air. That same air is all over this globe. The air you are breathing is the same air that someone in Australia is breathing. The air is connected.

In the same way, your spirit is connected with the Spirit of God that is in the Father in heaven, in the Son who is seated next to him, in me, in the person next to you and in a believer in South Africa. He, the Spirit of God, is omnipresent.

We can be serving with our body in this physical realm, and we can be serving in the spiritual realm with our spirit.

Paul talks about that in:

Romans 1:9 *For God is my witness, whom I serve with **my spirit** in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;*

"I serve with my spirit"

How was he serving? He was doing it by praying for others.

Let's go back to what Paul said in that letter to the Colossians.

Colossians 2:5 *For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.*

In the physical realm: When your toe hurts, your hand tries to comfort it.



When your mouth tastes something good and warm, you respond with comfort throughout your body. When you see something you like - the feet will start to head towards it.

In the same way that our physical body interconnects, we who are a part of the Body of Christ interconnect. We are one body. We are in joint fellowship with other believers, *in the spirit.*

Ephesians 2:19 *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;*

In the spiritual realm: You can live in your body here on earth and be connected to the throne of heaven at the same time. That's walking in two realms, the physical and the spiritual.

That's operating in the sixth sense.

As you become aware of all of this and start to think in these terms and then act on this - you will be living in two realms. We have that freedom to be in our earth suit body

and with our omnipresent spirit at the same time. We are not bound to function in only five senses; we are set free to live in that sixth sense, the realm of the spirit.

Summary.

1. Uncle Bob's ghost can't come back to haunt you. Those are just deceiving demons making all that racket. As believers we can cast them out.

2. We have five physical senses. Each one has a job to do. Just because your eyes can't hear that doesn't mean there is no sound occurring.

Just because your five physical senses don't sense something in the spirit that doesn't mean it's not happening either.

3. The sensory device we use to be aware of the spirit realm is our faith.

Like we use our nose to smell with, we use our faith to navigate and operate that sixth sense.

We need to exercise our faith by using it in the sixth sense realm.

4. We need to become aware that we are operating in two realms, the physical and the spiritual. To the spiritually mature, spiritual things are natural and natural things are spiritual.

Let's enjoy that freedom to be sensitive to that sixth sense and develop it.

After all, why stop at five senses when you are set free to enjoy a sixth?

Hearing God

In his book, *Without Feathers*, Woody Allen offers an essay which spoofs the biblical story of Abraham and Isaac. As Allen tells the story, Abraham is reporting to Sarah and Isaac about how God has instructed him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. While this description contains elements of humour, it isn't so far removed from the way some Christians think that God must speak to them.

"And Abraham awoke in the middle of the night and said to his only son, Isaac, "I have had a dream where the voice of the Lord sayeth that I must sacrifice my only son, so put your pants on." And Isaac trembled and said, "So what did you say? I mean when He brought this whole thing up?"

"What am I going to say?" Abraham said. "I'm standing there at two a.m. in my underwear with the Creator of the Universe. Should I argue?"

"Well, did he say why he wants me sacrificed?" Isaac asked his father. But Abraham said, "The faithful do not question. Now let's go because I have a heavy day tomorrow." And Sarah . . . said, "How doth thou know it was the Lord?" . . . And Abraham answered, "Because I know it was the Lord. It was a deep, resonant voice, well modulated, and nobody in the desert can get a rumble in it like that."

Thanks to Steve McVey for this story.

