

Making an Invisible God
Visible

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

“No man hath seen God at any time...”
(John 1:18a)

“Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory”
(1 Peter 1:8).

“For [Moses] endured, as seeing him who is invisible” (Hebrews 11:27b).

To the natural mind, these verses may seem contradictory. How can we see a God who is invisible or love such a One with so much intensity—especially if *no one* has ever seen Him? The cry of many in the world is, “How can I believe in a God I cannot see?” In one way, their cry is a valid one. In a world where the things we *can* see offer no lasting happiness or hope, we need evidence of the true and living God. People want a God they can see and touch.

For thirty-three years, Jesus Christ walked on this earth as a man—the “God Man.” People

saw Him, heard Him speak, and touched Him. After His death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus ascended to heaven in His glorified state and was seated at the right hand of the Father. But upon His leaving, He left us a hope. He sent His Holy Spirit to form the Church, an extension of His Body on the earth today.

This booklet reveals how important it is for every believer to live “as seeing Him who is invisible.” We have been called to manifest the Body of Christ corporately, though we are gifted individually, with every joint supplying the whole.

Chapter One

TWO INVISIBLE GOVERNMENTS

Ezekiel 1:16 and 10:10 describe an extraordinary vision of “a wheel in the middle of a wheel.” This is a picture of the government of God controlling the government of the Church. Have you ever looked at the mechanics of a clock or a watch? Inside are many interlocking wheels—small and large. The movement of the smaller wheels control the movement of the larger wheels. The government of God inside the Church works much the same way as the wheels inside a clock. We might say that the small wheel, often hidden from view, is the *primary cause* for all the other moving parts.

God is the primary cause of the universe, the wheel within a wheel. Everything comes forth from Him and returns to Him. Yet, He is invisible. This world cannot see Him, though He is the cause or originator of everything visible in creation. As Romans 1:20 says, “The invisible

things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

When Jesus Christ came into the world as the God-Man, He was the visible manifestation of the Father (see John 1:18; 14:7-9). The Father was the wheel within the wheel of Jesus Christ's humanity. Jesus confessed in John 5:19, "The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do." Again in verse 30: "I can of mine own self do nothing." The Son's thoughts, decisions, words, and actions were all governed by the Father in Him. "The Father that dwelleth in me, *he* doeth the works" (John 14:10*b*). In this way, Jesus was the exact representation or mirror of the essence and nature of the Father.

The invisible government of God controls the visible government of the Church to make an invisible God visible to the world. Throughout the Bible, we see evidence that when the government of God moved, people moved. When the wheel stopped, they stopped. Everything is controlled by the government of God; it controls the government inside the souls of men, which forms the government of the Church. It should be the reigning government of every

marriage, family, business, and relationship. This amazing wheel within a wheel pictures the presence and power of the invisible Almighty God moving His visible kingdom on earth from within.

Opposition to God's Government

The earth, however, is also the temporary seat of the government of evil (the *kosmos*). By it, Satan motivates the forces of evil to come against the government of God. These forces do everything to throw God's government out of its right position.

For example, in Acts 8:9-11, an evil man named Simon "*bewitched* the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one ...And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had *bewitched* them with sorceries." In both cases, the Greek word for "bewitched" is the Greek verb *existemi*, which means "to put out of its place; to confuse." In other words, Satan's purpose is to bewitch people and bring us outside of our place in order to control us, or to displace godly mental processes by pleasing the senses.*

The Bible says in Acts 13:8 that Elymas the sorcerer "withstood" Barnabas and Saul as they

preached the Word of God. That means he *opposed* them—psychologically, verbally, and even physically. Also, 2 Timothy 4:15 speaks of how Alexander the coppersmith “greatly withstood” the apostle Paul’s words. But the manifestation of the invisible God—the “wheel” within the believer in the government of the Church—will always overcome opposition from Satan’s kingdom.

Consider the provision we have. Jesus Christ is the Creator of the universe and the Redeemer of every Christian. He sacrificed His life on the Cross in the unlimited atonement, dying for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2, 2 Corinthians 5: 19). When a man accepts the Son’s sacrifice, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside and “seals” or confirms his salvation unto the day of redemption. This God is living in us, yet, He is invisible. Everything He is, everything He was, and everything He always will be cannot be seen by the natural eye.

That is why He said in Psalm 46:10, “Be still, and know that I am God.” We could paraphrase that verse, “Be very still and know that I inhabit your humanity, and I indwell your soul.” Then, “Be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath” (James 1:19).

**For more about these processes, read Imaginations of the Heart, Dealing Precisely with Demons, and Exposing Satan's Armies, a series by Pastor Stevens, Grace Publications, 1998.*

Chapter Two

HOW DOES GOD BECOME VISIBLE?

The question is, how does an invisible God become visible? He has thousands of Christians in a world where many people say that God does not exist and where carnal Christians behave as though God is not relevant in their lives. The Bible says that the “natural man”—whether an unsaved soul or a carnal believer—cannot receive the things of God. Therefore, God must find a way to become visible. *How does He do it?*

“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and *maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us* in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish” (2 Corinthians 2:14-15). God’s plan is to manifest His presence through believers. The fragrance of His resurrection love and grace is manifested in *every* place we go. He is mani-

fested through our stillness and quietness, through our hearing the Word, and through the meditation of our hearts in a pure response of faith. We let an invisible God move through that which is visible to the world: His Church.

The Lord Jesus Christ, who was God in the flesh (John 1:14), said to Philip, "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9). In John 10:30 Jesus said to His disciples, "I and my Father are one." He was saying, "I came from the Father—We are One. I have made the Father visible in My humanity, but you have not known it."

In His perfect humanity, Jesus Christ chose to submit to the Father in every thought, every word, and every deed, making God the Father visible to the world. And yet, Jesus' disciples who walked with Him on earth for three years did not know it. Though they believed in His hypostatic union, they did not recognize that *this was God in action in human form!*

Often, we become so occupied with our problems and with the details of life that we do not take time to commune in proper fellowship with the God who lives inside us. God inhabits our humanity through the Holy Spirit, "borrow-

ing,” as it were, our soul and our body—our eyes, our ears, our mouth, our hands, and our feet—so that He can become visible.

Satan’s Counterattack

Satan hates any manifestation of God in the midst of his world system, so he devised a plan to counteract God’s process of manifestation. The devil desires to displace God’s presence in our lives by “bewitching” us. As a result, we manifest the powers of darkness instead of making God visible in temptations and in the details of life.

Even in the trials sent from God that were ultimately meant to bless us, Satan bewitches by attacking our senses with impulses sent through the central nervous system, thus displacing the purity of the filling of the Spirit. For example, to manifest division Satan wants to cause separation in marriages. By getting one party to instigate and the other to react, the battle of an incompatible relationship continues. *The devil uses division to manifest his own feelings toward God.* Sadly, many couples let him get away with it.

Throughout the world, thousands of people make their lust visible through immoral relationships. Demonic activities become the visible

manifestation of their inward need through *pharmakia* (literally “witchcraft,” in Galatians 5:20, which is often demonstrated by drug abuse).

Acts 19:9 says that some who heard Paul preach “were *hardened*, and believed not, but *spake evil*.” The Greek word for “hardened” is *skleruno*, implying that the heart becomes so hardened, a person is blinded and cannot see the invisible God through men who reveal Him. The Greek word for “spake evil” is *kakologeo*, from *kakos*, Satan’s government of intrinsic evil, and *logos*, referring to something spoken. Satan is looking for people to speak for his government.

Acts 19:13-16 gives the account of the seven sons of Sceva, who tried to cast out an evil spirit. The evil spirit spoke and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but *who are ye?*” The invisible God was not made visible in the sons of Sceva, and “the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and *overcame* them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded” (Acts 19:15-16).

The word “overcame” is *katakurieuo* meaning “to control, subjugate, exercise dominion over.” When Christ is not manifested in our humanity and we operate in natural strength, we will be

overcome and wounded by God's enemies. Suggestive language and lustful thoughts may control our conversation. Eventually, the believer will give in to his weakness as Satan bewitches and displaces the spirit of purity and the manifestation of God.

Proverbs 2:14 describes those who "rejoice to do evil, and delight in the [*perverseness*] of the wicked." Satan uses people—even carnal believers—to attack, accuse, and bring others down so that there will be no understanding of God made visible in the Church.

Deception and conspiracies are so widespread today because of the perverseness (*dias-trophe* in the Septuagint) of people who rejoice in sowing discord. They rejoice in hurting Christians, thus preventing God from becoming visible. They keep attacking Spirit-filled believers; however, they are so deceived they don't even realize what they are doing. Eventually, no one can see God through these believers. Their enemies have given them a "global image," a label placed upon Christians everywhere through an evaluation offered by the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2). Though the image may be justified at times by sight, it is not accurate according to the Finished Work.

Chapter Three

GOD BORROWS OUR HUMANITY

As the corporate Body of Jesus Christ on the earth, we are down here to make every one of God's attributes visible. That is what choices are all about. That's what the habitation of God in our humanity is all about. A Christian who manifests the love of God is not quick to jump to conclusions. He does not react or speak quickly without thinking, and he does not falsely judge or accuse. When confronted, he never thinks evil about another person, though he is quick to discern the reality of Satan's government.

Inside every Christian is an invisible God waiting to be revealed. Jesus, our supreme example, seized every opportunity in His humanity to make the Father visible. When He said in Luke 23:34, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do," the love of the Father was made visible through the verbal expression of His prayer, as He put God's thoughts into

words. When He wept over Jerusalem in Luke 19:41, the Father's love became visible through the tears that flowed from Jesus' eyes.

Nicodemus, the self-righteous Pharisee, came secretly one night to speak with Jesus (John 3). He became broken and was born again because Jesus made the grace of God visible to this religious seeker.

When Jesus came in the heat of the day to the woman at the well, He knew that despite her immoral condition, she was seeking after God in her heart (John 4). As He ministered, the Father's specific compassion, love, and grace toward her became visible. *God became visible through the humanity of Jesus.*

Humanity Committed to God's Purpose

I thank God for the many Christians who daily commit their humanity to Christ's divinity, using rebound when they fail. They redeem the time by winning souls and allowing Christ to build His Church through their diverse gifts and portions. But more than that, as they redeem the time in whatever they do, they are making an invisible God visible.

There is no greater fellowship than to spend time with someone who makes the invisible

God visible. Is it any wonder that 1 John 4:17*b* says, “As he is [in heaven], so are we in this [present evil] world.” Think of it! Before we have been made perfect in our experience, while we still have an old sin nature, *we are as He is—now!*

“Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our [mortal flesh]” (2 Corinthians 4:10). As the Cross breaks us, the resurrection life of Jesus Christ is manifested through the human soul and body—through our eyes, our tongue, our hands, and our feet.

Romans 12:1 instructs us to present our bodies as living sacrifices unto God so our minds can be continually renewed through doctrine. Line upon line, precept upon precept, the doctrine we have received becomes a living epistle in our hearts. Now others can “touch” God because He has borrowed our humanity and uses us as instruments of righteousness to manifest His nature.

When it comes to marriage, two are better than one as long as the marriage is God’s will. God’s purpose in every marriage is for both the husband and wife to make God visible to each other. As they go to bed at night and get up in the morning, walking and talking and going for-

ward together in God's plan, they are to manifest the true God to one another. Then others begin to see an invisible God become visible through their lives. When they have children, this beautiful process is extended.

The Greek word *phaneroo*, translated "appear, declare, manifest, or show," means that God becomes so visible that people can see Him in believers' eyes and hear His wisdom from their lips (see 2 Corinthians 4:11). When the eternal nature of the Godhead and the characteristics of the Resurrection begin to speak through people, God's divine characteristics are clearly "visible," manifested in the temperament and disposition communicated by individuals.

On the other hand, some have used the grace of God as a license to sin so that the fallen man becomes visible. When we do that, we magnify our rights and reveal Adam to others, while still bearing the name of Jesus Christ as "Christians."

Fellowship in the Light

The Word of God says in John 17:6 that Jesus manifested His name to His disciples: that is, His lovingkindness, His mercy, His compassion, and His forgiveness. He made these characteris-

tics known to the disciples; so much so, they could *feel* it. Many years later, the apostle John would write of his experience walking with Jesus on the earth: “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life” (1 John 1:1).

John was saying, “We touched Him, we felt His presence. He was here. He was the Christ, and we tell you now so that you may have fellowship with us, so that you may have the joy we have, and that your joy might be full; for He is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all” (see 1 John 1:3-5).

That is what fellowship in the light is all about (1 John 1:7), fellowship in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:9). It is simply making God visible. Jesus is no longer on the earth in His flesh, but He is on the earth through our humanity, through our physical bodies, and through His Church, the Body of Christ. My prayer is, “*God help us not to grieve or quench Your Spirit, but to rest in Your love through mercy and faith (Zephaniah 3:17). We just want to make You visible wherever we go.*”

Chapter Four

THE FRUIT OF MANIFESTATION

When there was strife between Abram's herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen over lack of space for both herds to dwell, Abram allowed Lot to choose first and took what was left (see Genesis 13:5-12). What was Abram doing? He was making God visible to his nephew Lot.

Second Chronicles 34:27 says that King Josiah was tenderhearted. This young man, who became king at the age of eight, went to work when he was seventeen to clean up Israel. He was called "the tenderhearted" by the Holy Spirit because he made the tender heart of God visible as he cleaned out the idols and reestablished the spirituality of the kingdom of Israel.

Ironically, during the time of Jesus' earthly ministry prior to Acts 2 when Pentecost took place, the disciples did not have a living faith. *Though they walked with the visible God, they didn't make God visible in their own lives.* But finally, on

the day of Pentecost, with all the boldness, character, and courage of conviction and the conversion they had received by taking up their cross in the power of the Resurrection, they began to make God visible.

“Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus...” (2 Corinthians 4:10a). Many times, God would have us wait before He answers our prayer, because in waiting we make His patience visible. Romans 5:3 says that tribulation works patience. When that patience becomes visible, God is glorified, and He is able to accomplish fantastic works in us.

God wants us to make visible the nine-fold fruit of His Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and temperance. Let people hear it, touch it, and sense it in our lives. In the trials and details of our lives, let people see our faith. That is only possible when we become living, visible epistles of the Word of God.

Manifesting Christ through Reconciliation

Paul said, “We [beseech] you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God. For [the Father] hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of

God in him" (2 Corinthians 5:20-21). Christ is not here visibly. So, as ambassadors for Christ, we are here *in His stead*.

There is a great difference between those who have experienced reconciliation and those who have not. Those who have been reconciled through faith and quietness to God, reconciled to the Cross, reconciled to grace, and reconciled in their marriages are making an invisible God visible.

When a man agrees with Jesus Christ and begins to walk with Him through the filling of the Spirit, then he is no longer self-conscious. According to 1 Corinthians 2:15-16, this type of person can judge all things, yet is judged of no man. Why? He is filled with the Holy Spirit, and there is no room for the self-life to enter in. There is no darkness in him because he has the light of the mind of Christ.

Manifest Truth to Destroy Satan's Works

Eli the priest was very obese; he was too busy eating to be a good father. Because God's glory was not manifested in his home, Eli's sons went astray. God called them "sons of Belial; they knew not the Lord" (see 1 Samuel 2:12-17); and 1 Samuel 3:13 says that Eli did not restrain

Hophni and Phinehas when they “made themselves vile.” Satan hardened their hearts and they began speaking for his government of evil (*kakologeo*) while they remained in the midst of the congregation. The sons were killed when the Ark of God was taken by the Philistines; and when Eli heard the news, he fell backward from the stool he was sitting on, broke his neck, and died (1 Samuel 4:18).

According to 2 Corinthians 4:2, “we have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the Word of God deceitfully; but by *manifestation* of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.” The infection of evil in Eli’s home was revealed by the light of the truth and removed.

Without exception, when the invisible God becomes visible, His presence destroys the works of the invisible government of Satan. This nullifies the work of the devil, the work of demons, and the unseen powers in the cosmic world in which we live.

For this reason, we must pray for one another and walk softly. We must allow the invisible God to interpret the Word to our hearts through the power and filling of the Holy Spirit.

Then, we can begin to manifest God's vision and reveal His Person as we yield our members to be instruments of righteousness unto God.

CONCLUSION

What a thrill it is to say to God, “My mind and my soul are Yours. My body is Yours. Take my hands and my feet so You can become visible through my humanity.” Remember, God makes “manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place” (2 Corinthians 2:14). There is no limit to what He can do through yielded vessels. God wants to become visible in every place and in every situation.

“Is any thing too hard for the LORD?” (Genesis 18:14). Absolutely not! So let’s go forward empowered by the Word of God and the filling of the Spirit so the world can see Him “who is invisible” through our humanity.