

## Developing Spiritual Sensitivity #2

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### INTRO.

#### Matthew 13:11-15 The Message

He replied, - - “You’ve been given insight into God’s kingdom. ... You know how it works. ... Not everybody has this gift, - this insight; - - it hasn’t been given to them. ... Whenever someone has a ready heart for this, ... the insights and understandings flow freely. ... But if there is no readiness, - any trace of receptivity soon disappears. ... That’s why I tell stories: to create readiness, - to nudge the people toward a welcome awakening. ... In their present state they can stare till doomsday and not see it, - listen till they’re blue in the face and not get it. ... I don’t want Isaiah’s forecast repeated all over again:

Your ears are open but you don’t hear a thing. ... Your eyes are awake but you don’t see a thing. ... The people are stupid! ... They stick their fingers in their ears so they won’t have to listen; ... They screw their eyes shut so they won’t have to look, ... so they won’t have to deal with me face-to-face and let me heal them.

#### Key Foundational Principles

#### Matthew 13:11 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

And He replied to them, ... **To you ... it has been given to know ... the secrets and mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, - - but to them it has not been given.**

#### **You are wired for “spiritual receptivity” by your Creator**

#### Genesis 1:26 The Voice

God: Now let Us conceive a new creation ... humanity ... made in Our image, ... fashioned according to Our likeness. ... And let Us grant them authority over all the earth - the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, the domesticated animals, and the small creeping creatures on the earth.

## **You have been given the ability “to know” by the Holy Spirit**

### **Daniel 4:9 The Voice**

“Beltshazzar, chief of the magicians, it is clear to me that the spirit of the holy gods is with you and no mystery is too difficult for you to figure out. ... Listen to my dream, - - then tell me what it means.

### **Daniel 4:18 New Century Version**

“That is what I, King Nebuchadnezzar, dreamed. ... Now Beltshazzar, tell me what the dream means. ... None of the wise men in my kingdom can explain it to me, - - but you can, ... because the spirit of the holy gods is in you.”

## **You have the capacity (if you develop it) to know and understand the secrets and mysteries of the Kingdom**

### **Proverbs 25:2 The Voice**

God’s glory is shown when He conceals things; ... a king’s glory is shown in his ability to explore the facts of the matter.

**“Whenever someone has a ready heart for this, ... the insights and understandings flow freely. ... But if there is no readiness, - any trace of receptivity soon disappears.”**

## **What is a “Ready Heart?”**

**Prepared or available for service, action, or progress.**

### **Romans 12:1 The Message**

So, here’s what I want you to do, - God helping you: - - Take your everyday, ordinary life - - your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life - - and place it before God as an offering.

**Mentally disposed; willing; inclined**

### **Colossians 3:1 Contemporary English Version**

You have been raised to life with Christ. ... **Now set your heart** - on what is in heaven, - where Christ rules at God's right side.

### **Colossians 3:2-3 The Voice**

**Stay focused** - - on what's above, - - not on earthly things, ... 3 because your old life is dead and gone. ... Your new life is now hidden, - enmeshed with the Anointed who is in God.

**Likely or about to do something.**

### **James 1:22 The Voice**

Put the word into action. ... If you think hearing is what matters most, - you are going to find you have been deceived.

**“That’s why I tell stories: to create readiness, - to nudge the people toward a welcome awakening. ... In their present state they can stare till doomsday and not see it, - listen till they’re blue in the face and not get it.”**

### **What is an “Awakening?”**

**Arousing - - Provoking - - Agitating**

### **Ecclesiastes 12:11 New Living Translation**

The words of the wise are like cattle prods - - painful but helpful. ... Their collected sayings are like a nail-studded stick with which a shepherd drives the sheep.

### **Close your Eyes - - Blind yourself to this Natural Realm**

### **2 Kings 6:11-18 New Living Translation**

The king of Aram became very upset over this. ... He called his officers together and demanded, - - “Which of you is the traitor? ... Who has been informing the king of Israel of my plans?” ... 12 “It’s not us, - my lord the king,” - one of the officers replied. ... “Elisha, the prophet in Israel, - tells the king of Israel - even the words you speak in the privacy of your bedroom!” ... 13 “Go and find out where he is,” the king commanded, “so I can send troops to

seize him.” ... And the report came back: - “Elisha is at Dothan.” ... 14 So one night the king of Aram sent a great army with many chariots and horses to surround the city.

15 When the servant of the man of God got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere. ... “Oh, sir, what will we do now?” - the young man cried to Elisha.

16 “Don’t be afraid!” Elisha told him. ... “For there are more on our side than on theirs!”

17 Then Elisha prayed, “O Lord, open his eyes and let him see!” The Lord opened the young man’s eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.

18 As the Aramean army advanced toward him, Elisha prayed, “O Lord, please make them blind.” So, the Lord struck them with blindness as Elisha had asked.