



Perspective Part 2

Paul's Perspective

▪ 2 Corinthians 4:8-18

⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Definition of Perspective

“The ability to perceive things in their actual interrelations or comparative importance”

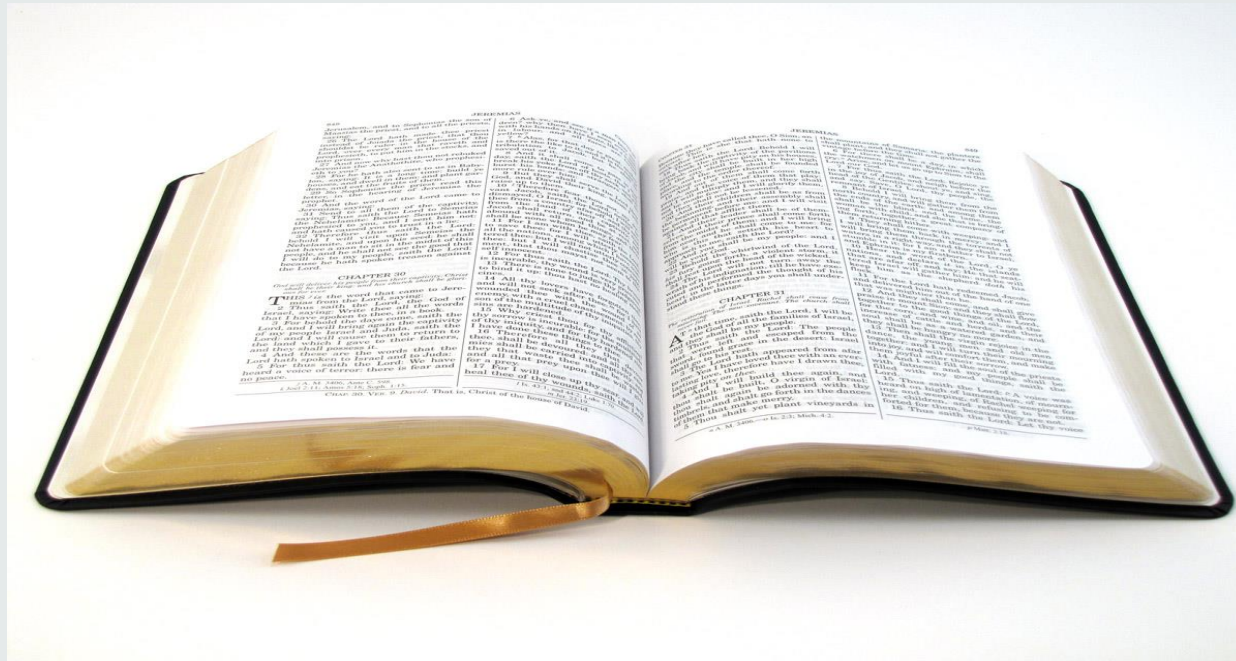
(The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language)

- An attitude, feeling or point of view about something
- Assists us in understanding what is most important
- Latin root meaning “look through” or “perceive”

Importance of Proper Perspective

- Teaching in the Bible helps us to make proper correlations so we can see things as they really are.
- It helps us to prioritize our life based on what is most important
- It helps us to stay on track during difficult times with a continued focus on eternal life

What Shapes our Perspective?



The Gospel

- **If we have the right attitude toward the Truth:**
 - It sharpens, shapes or overhauls our perspectives based on godly principles
 - It teaches us what is proper and righteous from God's viewpoint

What Shapes our Perspective?

▪ Proverbs 2:1-9

¹ My son, **if** you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you,

² So that you incline your ear to wisdom, *And* apply your heart to understanding;

³ Yes, if you cry out for discernment, *And* lift up your voice for understanding,

⁴ If you seek her as silver, And search for her as *for* hidden treasures;

⁵ **Then** you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God.

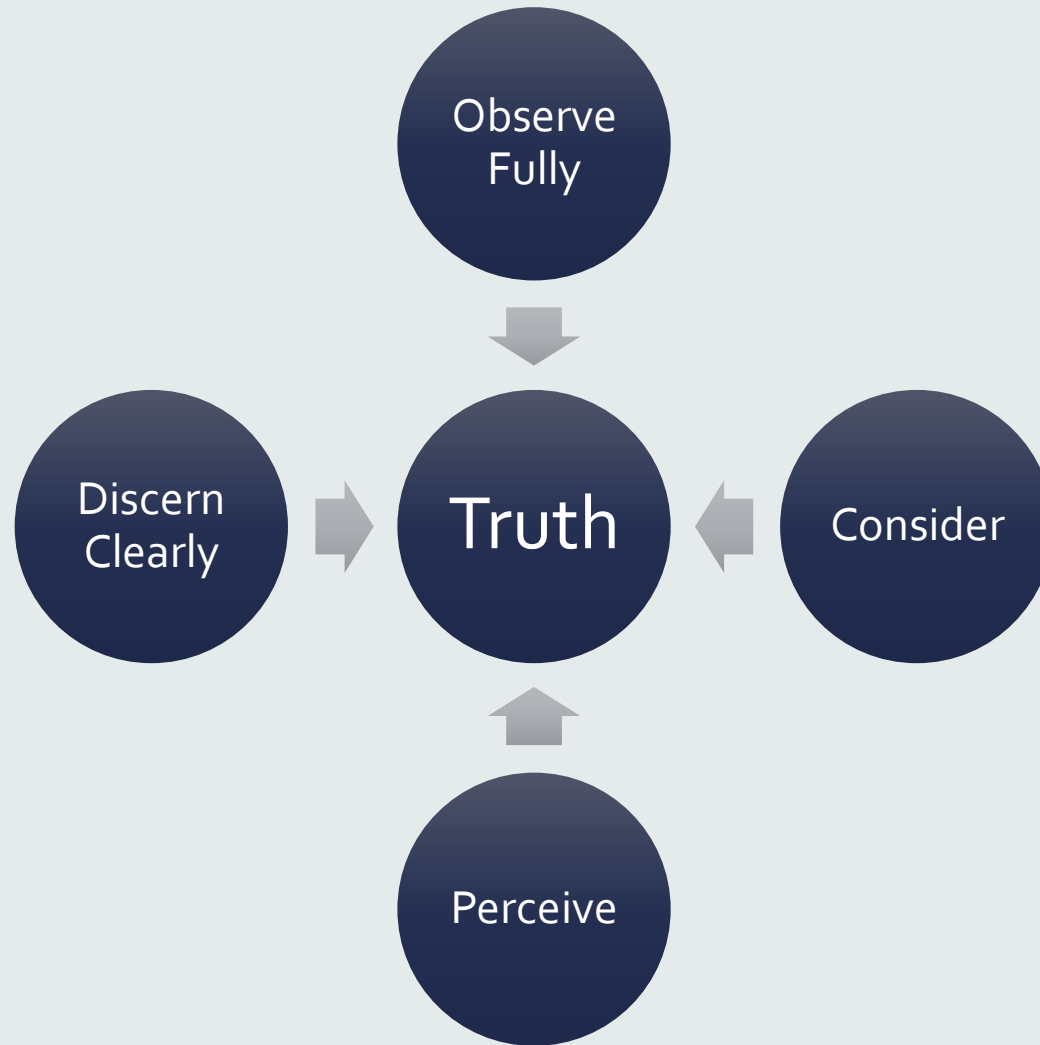
⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding;

⁷ He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; *He is* a shield to those who walk uprightly;

⁸ He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints.

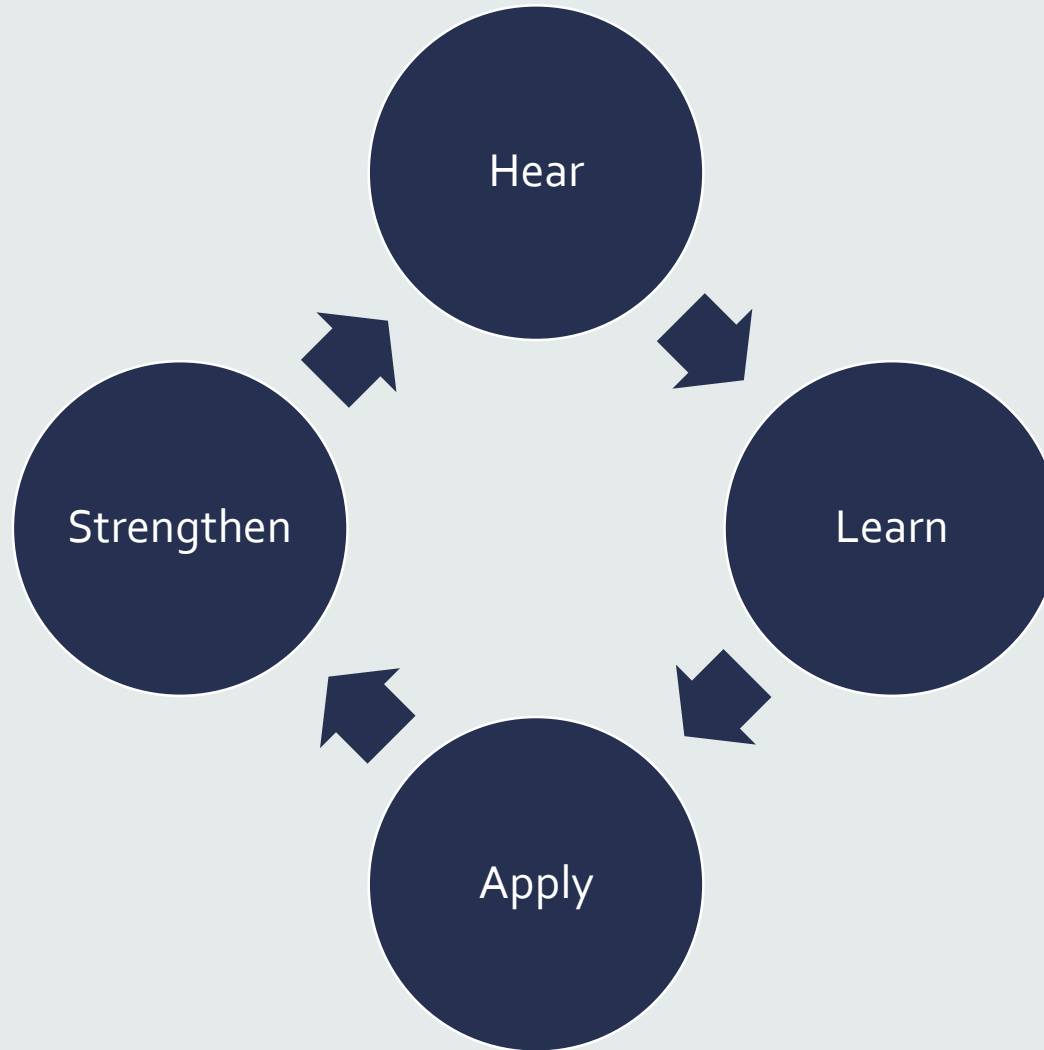
⁹ **Then** you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity *and* every good path.

Emphasis on Proper Understanding



**Teach me Your statutes. Make me understand the way of Your precepts;
So shall I meditate on Your wondrous works Psalm 119:26-27**

Building a Living Spiritual Foundation



I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word. Psalm 119:15-16

Building a Living Spiritual Foundation

Obedience

Persecution

Experience

Trial and Tribulations

Mistakes

The Truth

Commitment and Preparation

Critical to understand what is required to be a child of God

- We will not allow anything (father, mother, wife children, brothers, sisters, yes, and his own life) to come between us and the Lord

- **Matthew 10:35-37**

³⁵ For I have come to *'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law';*

³⁶ and *'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'*

³⁷ He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me.

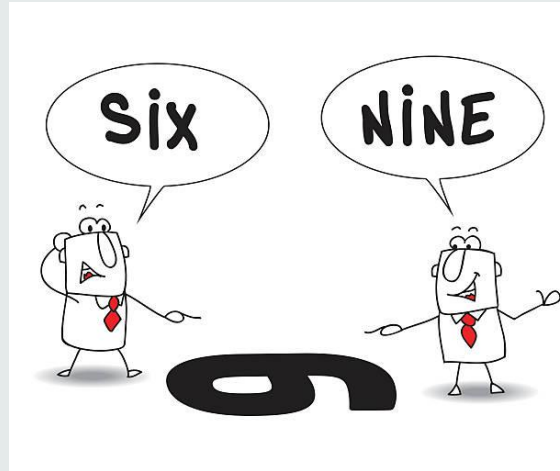
- **Luke 14:27**

²⁷ And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

- **Applications**

- Understand the level of commitment needed to be a disciple of Christ
- Do not allow anything (father, mother, wife children, brothers, sisters, yes, and his own life) to come between us and the Lord
- Count the cost and understand the Lord's expectations

Understanding the Perspective of Others



Idioms

- “Until you walk a mile in my shoes”
- “You don’t understand where I am coming from”

Empathy

“The action of understanding, being aware of, being sensitive to, and vicariously experiencing the feelings, thoughts, and experience of another”

(Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

Understanding the Perspective of Others

- We are to show compassion and tender mercy
 - **1 Peter 3:8-9**
 - ⁸ Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous;
 - ⁹ not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.
 - **Colossians 3:12**
 - ¹² Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;
- Applications:
 - Before judging someone, try to understand their experiences, challenges, thought processes, etc.
 - Seek to show empathy and compassion
 - Always believe the best unless proven otherwise.

Understanding the Effect of Emotions

- God's reasoning and warning to Cain

- **Genesis 4:6-7**

⁶ So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, **sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.**"

- **James 1:13-16**

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

¹⁴ **But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.**

¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

¹⁶ **Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.**

- **Psalm 4:4**

⁴ Be angry, and do not sin. **Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still.**

- **Ephesians 4:26-27**

²⁶ *"Be angry, and do not sin":* **do not let the sun go down on your wrath,** ²⁷ **nor give place to the devil**

Understanding the Effect of Emotions

- Revenge

- **Proverbs 24:29**

²⁹ Do not say, "I will do to him just as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work."

- **1 Thessalonians 5:15**

¹⁵ See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

- **Romans 12:19**

¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*" says the Lord..

Understanding the Effect of Emotions

- Purpose of worship is to praise God, remember the Lord's death, etc. Charismatic worship is not taught, therefore it is not acceptable
 - **1 Samuel 15:22**
 - ²² So Samuel said: "Has the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *And* to heed than the fat of rams.
 - **Psalm 69:30-31**
 - ³⁰ I will praise the name of God with a song, And will magnify Him with thanksgiving.
 - ³¹ *This* also shall please the LORD better than an ox *or* bull, Which has horns and hooves.
- We should be edified by worship, but make sure God is the focus
 - **Hebrews 13:15**
 - ¹⁵ let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name.
 - **Psalm 50:23**
 - ²³ Whoever offers praise glorifies Me...

Understanding the Effect of Emotions

- Applications:

- It is vital to understand how emotions can affect and warp our perspective
- We must be careful and not act rashly. Take the time to let the emotions pass and then think rationally
- We must worship with the intent to praise God and not allow our emotions to lead us to worship in an unauthorized way

Seeking Opportunities to do Good Works

- God expects his servants to work
 - **James 2:14**
¹⁴ What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?

- Titus was told four times to emphasize doing good works
 - **Titus 2:14**
¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, **zealous for good works**.
 - **Titus 3:1**
¹ **Remind them** to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, **to be ready for every good work**
 - **Titus 3:8**
⁸ This is a faithful saying, and these things **I want you to affirm constantly**, that those who have believed in God should **be careful to maintain good works**. These things are good and profitable to men.
 - **Titus 3:14**
¹⁴ And **let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs**, that they may not be unfruitful.

Participating in the Work of the Church

- It takes a joint effort on everyone's part
 - **1 Corinthians 12:12**
¹² For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ.
 - **Ephesians 4:15-16**
¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ--
¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.
- Questions we should ask
 - What are the needs in my local church?
 - Where is there a need I can fill?
 - What can I do to contribute to the body?
- There is something we can all do

Learning from Paul's Perspective

- **Philippians 3:7-8**

⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

- **Philippians 4:11-13**

¹¹ Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

¹² I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

¹³ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. God will never leave us or forsake us

Keeping the “Big Picture” in Perspective

▪ Hebrews 13:5-6

⁵ *Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**”*

⁶ So we may boldly say: *“**The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?**”*

▪ Ephesians 5:15-16

¹⁵ See then that you **walk circumspectly**, not as fools but as wise,

¹⁶ **redeeming the time**, because the days are evil.

▪ Philippians 3:12-15

¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I **press on**, that I may **lay hold of** that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and **reaching forward to those things which are ahead**,

¹⁴ I **press toward the goal** for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ Therefore let us, **as many as are mature, have this mind**; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

Keeping the “Big Picture” in Perspective

- **Hebrews 12:1-2**

¹ Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight**, and the **sin which so easily ensnares us**, and let us **run with endurance the race that is set before us**,
² **looking unto Jesus**, the author and finisher of *our* faith...

- **Matthew 16:26-27**

²⁶ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

²⁷ For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

What Must I Do to be Saved?

(According to many Religions)

Say the Sinners Prayer: “Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. In Your Name”
(Billy Graham)

Repent: After asking for forgiveness “Then turn from your sins—that’s called repentance”

Salvation

Baptism

“Baptism is a conclusive act of obedience and witness to the world that we are Christ’s”
(Billy Graham)

What Must I Do to be Saved?

