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## 5 MINUTE LESSONS ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

# The Tangible Presence of the Lord

Yesterday my wife and I had our weekly Bible study with our good friends, the Weavers. On our way from lunch I said to them, “When I give out my homemade angels, I have been praying that when people receive these free gifts of love and kindness, that God’s Spirit would manifest to them in some form that would affect their senses.”

In the Old Testament, King Saul was chasing David all over the country to destroy his life. He knew that David would succeed him as king and he did all that was in his power to destroy David before that could happen. In one of his pursuits he and his men came into a city where God’s prophets were located. When Saul heard God’s prophets prophesying, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Saul and he also prophesied alongside the prophets. People began to say, “Is Saul also among the prophets?” He also is prophesying with the prophets of the Lord (1 Samuel 19:18-24). After this event, the Spirit of the Lord left Saul, he again got up and made plans to follow after David and destroy his life (1 Samuel 20:1-3).

I told my friends, the Weavers, that when I give out my homemade angels, I have been praying that the Spirit of the Lord would come upon people in such a way that it would affect their senses. In other words, that the tangible presence of God would be revealed to them in some way. In the New Testament, when the Spirit of God came upon an individual, there were several manifestations that affected these people’s senses. By senses I mean, “a faculty by which the body perceives an external stimulus; one of the faculties of sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch” (New Oxford American Dictionary).

In other words, what I’ve been asking the Lord is when I give these angels to people that in some form their senses will be affected and they will know that the presence of God has been upon them or among them. Even if they are not followers of Jesus this external experience would affect them in such a way that they would have the thought, “When that man gave me an angel, I was greatly touched and I know God is there as a means for me to call upon Him.”

I was just telling the Weavers this yesterday, and today I experienced such a manifestation of God’s Spirit upon an individual that I gave an angel to. This is twice that this has happened in a few months, but I believe I’m going to see this more and more in the future as I continue to show love and kindness to a lost and unsaved world.

In the New Testament for example, several things happened when the Spirit of the Lord came upon people which affected their senses and emotions. In Acts chapter 1, the

Spirit of the Lord brought unity to the believers (Acts 2:1). In Acts 2:4, people were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke with other languages as the Spirit gave them utterance. In verse 11, they spoke in tongues, the wonderful works of God (Acts 2:11 NLT). In verse 13, many said these people were full of new wine, a manifestation that affected their emotions (Acts 2:13). Peter said in verse 15, that they were not drunken as some supposed, but what was prophesied by the prophet Joel had come to pass, that God would pour out His Spirit on all flesh (Acts 2:15-17). When people were filled with the Holy Spirit, there was joy and boldness. Acts 1:8 says you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. Acts 4:31 says they were filled with the Spirit and spoke the word with boldness. That was another manifestation that affected their emotions. They spoke the word boldly. Another manifestation of the Spirit that affected their emotions was that the Spirit of God cut people to the heart and brought conviction (Acts 2:37). Another manifestation of the Spirit is joy (Acts 13:52, Galatians 5:22). Another manifestation of God's Spirit that affected people's emotions was that they prophesied. In other words, they spoke words from God as the Spirit gave them utterance. Also, the Spirit of God caused others to testify of Jesus and He would be exalted (John 15:26).

So to make a long story short, yesterday I said to our friends, the Weavers, "I'm praying that the Spirit of God would come upon people as I give them angels." This manifestation that affects their emotions and brings them joy in many ways, will be a reminder to them whether they are believers or unbelievers, that God is present and can be called upon at any time as Acts 2:21 states, "that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." God wants people to know that He is open and willing to reveal Himself to whosoever will call upon His name (Acts 2:21, Romans 10:13).

Today at a Marshalls department store, I walked up to a woman and said to her, "Where did you get that Texas accent?" She said, "I don't have a Texas accent. I'm from the United Kingdom." Later I found out that she had been living in the United States for the last couple of years in the state of Texas. I offered her one of my homemade angels. I told her, "This will represent God to you so that you may go to Him." And she said, "No, it will represent Jesus!" She held out her hand. I grasped it. And then the Spirit of the Lord came upon her. She couldn't help but cry. She said, "This hasn't happened to me before." She kept crying and I just kept holding her hand. Then I thought to myself, "God you do the work as I just stand and watch." She will draw from this manifestation of the Spirit for the rest of her days. That's what I pray happens to people. God's presence shows up. They can accept Him and walk with Him or turn away as Saul did with his pursuit of David, but let it be known, that God's presence and person is there for whoever will repent and come to Him. Will you come to Him today (Hebrews 2:3-4)?

As an afterthought, a few days ago I had this experience. I was walking through a Walmart parking lot towards the store, when a woman was coming my way. We exchanged a small conversation when I offered her an angel. She said, "This is a sign to me, to turn my attention back to the Lord." She connected this angel with her need for God. John 20:30-31 states,

*“<sup>30</sup>And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:*

*<sup>31</sup>But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”*  
(John 20:30-31)

## Questions

**1** Read Romans 1:19-20 (NLT).

*“<sup>19</sup>They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them.  
<sup>20</sup>For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.” - Romans 1:19-20 (NLT)*

God knows that human beings are earthly, physical creatures who experience reality through their bodies and their five senses, and not just through their “spirits.” God stoops down to our level because He knows that we need to relate to Him through what is physical, visible, and tangible. He graciously uses the things we can see, feel, hear, and touch to reveal His presence and love.

True or False

**2** Read John 20:30-31.

*“<sup>30</sup>And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:  
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- John 20:30-31

“Signs” are for what purpose?

**3** God doesn't *always* want to use signs, yet doesn't *always* rule them out.

True or False

**4** Read John 14:6.

*“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” - John 14:6*

How does God reveal Himself to people?

### **We want to hear from you!**

We would love to hear your feedback on these lessons and how you use them in your own study or in discipling others. If you have any thoughts, stories, testimonies, comments, or questions we would love to hear them!

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## Answer Key

**1** Read Romans 1:19-20 (NLT).

God knows that human beings are earthly, physical creatures who experience reality through their bodies and their five senses, and not just through their “spirits.” God stoops down to our level because He knows that we need to relate to Him through what is physical, visible, and tangible. He graciously uses the things we can see, feel, hear, and touch to reveal His presence and love.

**True**

**2** Read John 20:30-31.

“Signs” are for what purpose?

**To help people believe.**

**3** God doesn't *always* want to use signs, yet doesn't *always* rule them out.

**True**

***“A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.” (Matthew 16:4)***

***“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;” (Mark 16:17)***

**4** Read John 14:6.

How does God reveal Himself to people?

**Through Jesus Christ.**