

Seeing the Spiritual in the Natural

It is easy to think of God as distant, somewhere far off in the spiritual realm, disconnected from the ordinary details of daily life. But Scripture paints a very different picture. God is present in the natural world, in the people around us, and in every moment of our lives. Learning to recognize that changes everything about how we live.

What Does It Mean to See God in the Natural World?

Romans 1:20 makes a bold claim: "For since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse."

God's invisible qualities are not hidden. They are on display in everything He created. The natural world is not separate from the spiritual. It is a direct expression of it. When you look at a sunset and feel something stir inside you, that is not just an emotional reaction to pretty colors. That is God revealing His character, His beauty, and His glory through what He made.

Removing God from the natural world does not make you more spiritual. It actually cuts you off from one of the primary ways He speaks and moves.

What Does the Bible Say About How We Treat Other People?

In Matthew 25, Jesus describes the final judgment and draws a striking connection between how we treat people and how we treat Him directly. He says:

"For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me." - Matthew 25:35-36

When the righteous ask when they ever did these things for Him, He answers: "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." - Matthew 25:40

This is not a metaphor to be explained away. Jesus is identifying Himself with people, including the broken, the forgotten, and the difficult. Every person around you is someone God is sustaining, someone He died for, and someone He cares about deeply.

Can You Love God and Hate People at the Same Time?

First John answers this directly. If you say you love God but hate your brother, you are not telling the truth. The reasoning is simple: it would be harder to love someone you cannot see than someone standing right in front of you. If you cannot love the person you can see, your claim to love an invisible God does not hold up.

Bitterness and unforgiveness toward people is, in a very real sense, bitterness toward God. Jesus said if you do not forgive others, you will not be forgiven. That is not a small thing. Carrying unforgiveness into eternity is carrying sin into eternity.

Even toward those who have done terrible things, God extends mercy. Jesus, while being crucified by people who lied about Him and mocked Him, said: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." - Luke 23:34

If He could extend that kind of grace, there is no one in our lives we have the right to despise.

What Is the Antichrist Spirit and Why Does It Matter Today?

First John 4:2-3 gives a clear definition: "By this you know the Spirit of God: every Spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every Spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the Spirit of Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world."

Second John 1:7 adds another layer: "For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an Antichrist."

The word "coming" in that verse is present tense in the original Greek. It is not only referring to the historical incarnation of Christ. It is also pointing to His continued presence and activity in the natural world today. The Antichrist Spirit does not just deny that Jesus came in the flesh two thousand years ago. It denies that He continues to come, to move, and to manifest in the natural right now.

This Spirit shows up in religious settings more than people realize. It looks like a faith that keeps God safely distant, one that says healing, deliverance, and real manifestations of God's power are not for today, or that God does not care about your physical circumstances, your finances, or your body.

What Does It Really Mean to Walk in the Spirit?

Many Christians have a distorted idea of what it means to walk in the Spirit. They imagine it means being detached from the natural, floating above the ordinary details of life in some kind of purely spiritual state.

But walking in the Spirit is actually the opposite. It means being fully present in the natural world while recognizing the spiritual reality working in and through it. It means looking at the person next to you and seeing an eternal being, not just a face. It means looking at creation and seeing God's attributes on display. It means recognizing when God is moving through a conversation, a moment of need, or an act of kindness.

The person sitting across from you is not just a body in a chair. They are a Spirit, an eternal being, someone God is actively at work in. Seeing people that way changes how you treat them.

Does God Care About Your Physical Life, Not Just Your Eternal Soul?

A common religious idea is that God is only concerned with spiritual matters and that everything physical is secondary or irrelevant. But this is not what Scripture teaches.

God cares about where you are physically. He cares about your health, your provision, and your material circumstances. He cares about how you treat your body and how you treat the bodies of others. When you feed someone who is hungry, He takes it personally. When you visit someone who is sick, He takes it personally.

Second Timothy 3:5 warns those who have a form of godliness but deny its power. A faith that never expects God to actually do anything in the natural is a faith that has been hollowed out. God wants to move. He wants to heal. He wants to provide. But He often does it through people who are willing to show up, reach out, and act.

How Does God Move Through Us?

In Acts 4, the early church was under pressure and they prayed boldly: "Lord, grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." - Acts 4:29-30

They prayed for God to stretch out His hand. And then they went and stretched out their hands. That is the pattern. A move of you is a move of Him. When you open your mouth in His name, He opens His mouth. When you reach out to someone in need, He is reaching out through you.

Jesus said in Luke 13:35: "You shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

You will not see Him move until you learn to recognize and receive those He sends. That includes the people He places in your life to help you, and the people He sends you to help.

Why Criticism and Judgment Cut You Off from God's Flow

One of the most practical warnings in this message is about a critical, judgmental Spirit. It is easy, especially in a culture saturated with criticism and outrage, to absorb that attitude without realizing it.

But Proverbs is clear: he who despises his neighbor sins. The Bible calls us to honor all people. Not because everyone deserves it by their behavior, but because every person is a creation of God, someone He has redeemed and laid down His life for.

When you criticize and condemn the people God has placed in your life, you are not just being unkind. You are pushing back against what God is doing. You are rejecting Him in the people He sends. And that has real consequences.

The solution is not complicated. Judge yourself before you judge others. Recognize the attitude for what it is. And choose to be kind, because kindness is not weakness. It is alignment with the heart of God.

Life Application

This week, practice seeing God in the natural. Before you dismiss a moment, a person, or a circumstance as ordinary or unspiritual, pause and ask whether God might be present in it, speaking through it, or moving in it.

Specifically, identify one person in your life you have been critical of, distant from, or dismissive toward. Choose one concrete act of kindness toward that person this week, whether it is a kind word, a practical gesture, or simply choosing not to speak negatively about them.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Am I keeping God at a safe distance by spiritualizing everything and expecting nothing from Him in my daily, natural life?
- Is there someone I am holding bitterness or unforgiveness toward, and do I understand that this affects my relationship with God Himself?
- When I look at the people around me, do I see eternal beings that God loves and is at work in, or do I see inconveniences and problems?
- Am I willing to be the hands and voice of God this week, understanding that when I move in His name, He moves through me?

God is not watching from a distance. He is here, in the creation, in the people around you, and in you. The question is whether you are willing to recognize Him and respond.

Quotes

1. What you do to others, Jesus takes personally.
2. You cannot truly love God while hating your brother.
3. Don't get so spiritual that you miss God in the natural.
4. Creation is constantly revealing the invisible God.
5. Walking in the Spirit means recognizing God in everyday life.
6. The spirit of antichrist rejects Jesus Christ coming in the flesh.

7. If you cannot honor the one He sends, you are not honoring the One who sent him.
8. When you come in the name of the Lord, your obedience becomes an expression of Him.
9. You will miss Jesus if you cannot recognize Him in those He sends.
10. When you stop walking in love, you step outside God's best for your life.
11. You don't make yourself righteous; He makes you right.
12. God takes how you treat people personally.
13. Honor everyone, because despising your neighbor is sin.
14. The natural and the spiritual are more connected than we realize.
15. The natural came from God, so never assume God is absent from it.
16. When you recognize God all around you, you walk more carefully.
17. It's not how you start that matters most; it's how you finish.
18. Learn to recognize the presence and power of God all around you.
19. Every breath is evidence that no one exists independently of God.
20. Stand still long enough to recognize the wonderful works of God.

Verses

1. Matthew 25:35-40
2. 1 John 4:20
3. Romans 1:20
4. 1 John 4:1-3
5. 2 John 1:7
6. Luke 13:34-35
7. 2 Timothy 2:12
8. Acts 4:29-30

Summary

God is not distant. He is present in the natural world, in the people around us, and in every moment of daily life. Romans 1:20 makes clear that His invisible attributes are on display in everything He created, and Matthew 25 reveals that how we treat people is how we treat Him directly. A faith that keeps God safely removed from the physical and the ordinary has been hollowed out. Walking in the Spirit means being fully present in the natural world while recognizing the spiritual reality working through it. Bitterness and unforgiveness toward people is, in a very real sense, bitterness toward God Himself. The invitation is simple: recognize His presence, receive those He sends, and be willing to move in His name so that He can move through you.