

The Spiritual Realm

Lesson 1: The Reality of the Spiritual Realm

Biblical Definition

The non-physical reality that exists beyond the material universe. It includes the presence of God, angels, demons, and the souls of humankind. This realm cannot be fully observed or measured by human senses and scientific instruments, though it impacts the physical realm and is portrayed in Scripture as just as real and vital as the world we perceive.

Philosophical Definition

The spiritual realm is a non-material dimension of reality. A higher plane where consciousness, essence, or spirit exists independently of matter.

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 *So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*

John 11:25-27 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.[d] Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."*

Acts 7:55 *But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.*

- Stephen before he is murdered by stoning - looks into heaven and sees God's glory and Christ.

The Bible's Warning Against the Dark-side of Spiritual Realm

Deuteronomy 18:9-14 *"When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations. 10 There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer 11 or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, 12 for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord. And because of these abominations the Lord your God is driving them out before you. 13 You shall be blameless before the Lord your God, 14 for these nations, which you are about to dispossess, listen to fortune-tellers and to diviners. But as for you, the Lord your God has not allowed you to do this.*

Witchcraft – invoking spiritual power to influence people or events.

Soothsaying / divination – trying to know the future without God.

Omens – reading signs or symbols for divine meaning.

Sorcery – using objects or incantations to channel power.

The dark spiritual realm opens us up to Satanic and demonic attack

Denying the Spiritual Realm: Can't be Christian and deny the spiritual realm.

1 Corinthians 15:17 *If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.*

Science and the Denial of the Spiritual: This worldview, known as reductionism, insists that everything including human consciousness, can be explained through physical processes alone.

The Bible's Foundation Assumes the Spiritual Realm

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

1. God Created Time: (*Chronos*)

Titus 1:2 *In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began.*

2 Timothy 1:9b *“...which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began”*

2. God Created Space and Matter: God exists outside of these physical limitations of space and time.

3. God Created the Spiritual Realm: God created the spiritual realm where angels dwell.

Colossians 1:16 *For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities.*

Nehemiah 9:6 *You are the LORD, You alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host... and the host of heaven worships You.*

Evidence of the Spiritual Realm in Scripture

Angels and Abraham: Genesis 18–19 records angels visiting Abraham and Lot.

Moses and the Miraculous: Moses’ life overflowed with supernatural events.

Jesus Christ: The incarnation is the supreme example of heaven entering earth.

John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*

Paul and Spiritual Warfare: Paul taught believers to recognize the unseen battle.

Ephesians 6:12 *We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness.*

Humanity as Spiritual Beings: Humans are both physical and spiritual beings.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 *Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.*

James 2:26 *For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.*

2 Corinthians 5:6–8 *So we are always of good courage... We would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*

The Bible’s consistent testimony

From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture testifies of angels, demons, heaven, and the Spirit of God Himself. John declares:

John 4:24a *God is spirit...*

John 1:18a *No one has ever seen God...*

The Word of God is saturated with the reality of the spiritual realm—it doesn’t *prove* it; it *presumes* it.

2 Corinthians 4:18 *as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient (temporary), but the things that are unseen are eternal.*

1. Live with an eternal perspective

2. Reject every form of dark spiritual practice

3. Recognize the ongoing spiritual battle

4. Strengthen your relationship with the living God