

# PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

*For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)*

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## The Real Thing

### Introduction

How do we know what is real and what is not real? We tend to answer that with “if I can see it and touch it then it is real.” But are there things that are real that we can't see and touch? Of course there are.

For by him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, things visible and things invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things have been created through him, and for him. (Colossians 1:16 WEB)

This verse clearly states that there are some things that the Lord created that are invisible. That means that we can't see them or touch them yet they are real. Could this be one of the reasons that we are to “walk by faith and not by sight”?

Jesus said repeatedly, “he who has eyes to see...”. This certainly means something besides natural eyes that see the natural world in which we live. He was talking about spiritual eyes that see spiritual truth; eyes that see into the invisible realm. Just as natural eyes require light to see, spiritual eyes require spiritual light to see spiritual things. Just as the sun is the source of natural light for our natural eyes, the Son is the source of spiritual light for our spiritual eyes.

Again, therefore, Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12 WEB)

There are two great areas of God's work that are invisible to us but at the same time have a major impact on our daily walk. These two areas are the Kingdom of God and the Body of Christ. They are both real but can't be seen by natural eyes. They can only be seen by the revelation of the Holy Spirit through eyes of faith.

### Kingdom of God

Jesus said His Kingdom is not of this world [*John 18:36*]. He also said that one had to be born again in order to see His Kingdom [*John 3:3*] and had to be born of the water and the Spirit in order to enter His Kingdom [*John 3:5*]. When the Disciples asked Jesus why he spoke in parables, He told them that the mysteries of the Kingdom was hidden from the crowd. Only his disciples were to know those mysteries [*Matthew 13:11*].

We can understand from this that not only are some things invisible but, also, some things are intentionally hidden by the Lord. Gives new meaning to “walking by faith” doesn't it?

The Kingdom of God is invisible now in this age but will be physically visible during the Millennial Reign of the Lord. However, invisible doesn't mean that it is not real right now. It is real and we can both see it and enter into it if we meet the criteria that Jesus established to do so [*Matthew 7:21*].

## **The Body of Christ**

The area that I want to focus on in this Teaching Letter is the Church, the Body of Christ. We forget that the real Church is invisible for it extends throughout space and time and is made up of believers from previous generations and even future generations. There is coming an appointed time when all things will come to be completed in time and the Body and Bride of Christ will be revealed in all of Her glory, spotless and without blemish.

However, because we can see the building on the corner which we call “church” we think that it is a visible entity of brick and mortar. In actuality it is an invisible Body composed of many members. The Scriptures don't refer to the Church as being like a body but, instead, say it is the Body. That is what is real. We can only see the real Church “by faith and not by sight”.

This means that when we come together as the Body, we must see the Body, the real Body and not just a gathering of people.

from whom all the body, being fitted and knit together through that which every joint supplies, according to the working in measure of each individual part, makes the body increase to the building up of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:16 WEB)

When the Body gathers we each are the individual parts and our connections to each other are the supply joints. There is an expected working of each individual part; there is an expected supply to the Body. This results in an expected increase which causes the Body to build up itself in love. Many times this is accomplished in the invisible realm; however, just as we know the movement of the wind because of the leaves on the trees, we can know what is being done in the invisible realm by the Spirit through the physical results of our interactions with each other in the gathering.

When we come together each one of us is expected to have something to supply to the Body which is to build it up. Not something that we have thought up or planned or structured but something that has come from the Holy Spirit.

What is it then, brothers? When you come together, each one of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has another language, has an interpretation. Let all things be done to build each other up. (1 Corinthians 14:26 WEB)

The Lord is the head of His Body. The head decides who has what, when it is needed, how it is done. The Head directs His Body through the Holy Spirit.

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the profit of all. (1 Corinthians 12:7 WEB)

But the one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing to each one separately as he desires. (1 Corinthians 12:11 WEB)

The manifestations of the Spirit are the visible results of His invisible working. It is the Body being the Body. It is what is real.

The gathering of the Body is not a casual thing. The Lord expects something of us when the Holy Spirit gathers us together. He expects the building up of His Body in love. If you are coming to the gathering just because there is going to be a meal, or because you want to see your friends, or because it is just something to do, or because you like the music, then you don't see the real Body. You only see the visible substitute of religious activity.

Please, see the real thing. See the invisible Body through the eyes of the Spirit. See it by faith and act accordingly.

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