



# PARTNER

## NEWSLETTER



WRITTEN WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR YOU, <First Name>

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By John E. Thomas

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MARCH  
2018

### Bringing Clarity to Spiritual Vision

Have you ever put on colored glasses and looked at a landscape? The tinted lenses change the hue, color saturation and overall appearance of whatever you are looking at.

Colored glasses exist in the spiritual realm as well. The “glasses” we wear can cause things of the spirit to appear different than they really are.

Just as colored glasses come in different colors and tones, the things that affect our spiritual vision can be more or less pronounced. These “glasses” are actually belief systems, thought processes or the emotional shackles of past experiences. In the charismatic church, we commonly call them strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

Talking about strongholds can be a bit “sticky” sometimes. The concept frequently carries a sense of shame or condemnation, which causes many of us to assume we don’t have strongholds. “Oh, those people are really deceived, and I know I’m not that bad.” But strongholds are common, and like glasses they come in different colors and tones. Some minor, some major.

Every person has to deal with strongholds. They can even affect people groups like families, churches and nations. The only way to be completely free of strongholds is to believe eternal truth—and only eternal truth—as it is in God’s heart and mind. If we are followers of Jesus, we are on the way, but none of us have arrived yet. There will always be more truth than we currently know, and it is very likely we think certain things that are not accurate.

As disciples of Jesus, we renew our minds. We diligently try to perceive and remove any thought processes that do not fully align with truth—truth as a Person, not merely a concept (see John 14:6). As we do this, our ability to perceive the spiritual realm increases. Things are less colored by our emotional state, personal desires and preconceived ideas. We hear better and we see with better clarity.

### The Fatherhood of God

In this letter, I want to talk about one particular area that affects most people’s ability to hear and see spiritually: their relationship with their father. The relationship and interactions you had (or didn’t have) with your father can affect the way you perceive God and hear from Him.

The earthly father’s role is to reveal what it is like to be loved by Father God. Can you think of anyone alive who is a perfect example of God? Because of sin, only Jesus hits that mark. Some of us had good fathers, some bad fathers; others had fathers who were absent. But no matter how good or bad our fathers were, they could not perfectly reflect the Father’s love. Admitting this does not dishonor them; a person could grow up with the best father in the world and still be missing part of the picture of Father God. We live in a nation of fatherless homes, and even the homes that have a man in them don’t always have a father in them.

There are abusive fathers, demanding fathers, distant fathers, dishonest fathers and smothering fathers. Some sinned against their children by what they did and others by what they did not do. Think about your life growing up, especially from the ages of 8-12. How would you describe your father? Your relationship with him? His relationship with your mother? Your answers affect your picture of Father God.

## BRINGING CLARITY TO SPIRITUAL VISION / Continued

I don't bring this up to remind you of pain or loss but to give you hope for healing. No matter how we were raised, there is no wound Jesus cannot heal. He has come in the anointing of God's Spirit to bind up the broken hearted and set the prisoners free. What we need now is to be healed.

### Steps to Healing a Father Wound

1. *Be honest with what happened.* If your father never held you, admit you need loving physical touch to feel connected with other people's affection. If his touch violated appropriate boundaries, admit what happened without making excuses for his choices. This is called confession. We confess not only the sins we committed but the sins others committed against us.

2. *Repent for responding in an imperfect way.* When we are hurting, it is very easy to make judgments, refuse to forgive or even lie to protect the person who hurt us. We can also make inner vows, which are ungodly conclusions we decide are true about us, someone else or the world around us. But through confession and repentance forgiveness is released (1 John 1:9).

3. *Forgive your father.* This can be hard, especially when the pain goes deep or the person hasn't changed. But forgiveness is not just about the other person; it is about us. Someone once said, "Holding on to unforgiveness is like drinking poison hoping someone else gets sick." We need to forgive so we aren't sick anymore.

*As the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.*  
— Colossians 3:13

4. *Ask God to reveal the lies.* Ask Him to show you every lie you believe about Him because of your relationship and experience with your earthly father. As He shows you these things, repent for believing them, ask God to forgive you and move on to the last step.

5. *Ask God to break down and demolish every stronghold within you and replace those lies with His truth.* You could word it this way: "Father, what truth do You want to speak to me to replace this lie?" Don't try to figure it out in your own strength. What your mind comes up with does not have the power of life. Only the words of Jesus are life (John 6:68). Take time with God and let Him speak to you, remembering there is no need to hurry.

As you walk through these steps, you start to pull off those colored glasses. You will find yourself hearing God better, seeing into the spiritual realm with greater clarity and living in a fuller sense of God's pleasure in you. That is my prayer for each of you—that nothing would hinder your knowledge and experience of God's love for you!

### As Always, Thank You

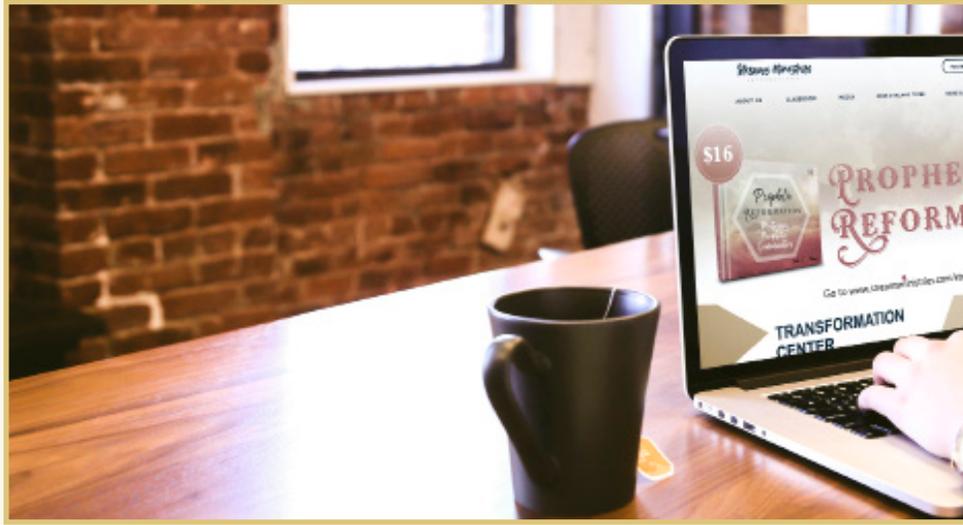
Thank you for being part of our tribe! We are thankful for every person God has brought to join us, and we want to be a blessing to you. We keep looking and praying for new, creative ways we can do this. On a regular basis, we pray for God to meet with you; fill you with His presence; and release His peace over your relationships, health, finances and business. We ask Him to give you greater favor, more revelation and fresh creativity. And more than anything else, we want you to experientially know His love for you.

### IN HIS LOVE,

**JOHN E. THOMAS**  
PRESIDENT

*If you want to go deeper in this subject, my teaching called "Father God Is Love" would be beneficial. We've received more testimonies of breakthrough and healing from this teaching than anything else I have done. It includes a ministry session and a time of soaking featuring a song done by Jonathan David Helser as Graham Cooke speaks God's love over the listeners. The teaching is available in our online store.*

# NEW WEBSITE!

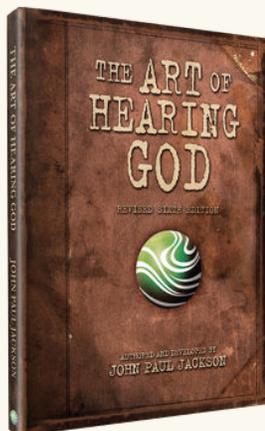


Our current website has been a source of frustration for many of you. We are sorry for any difficulties you've had signing into your account, setting up recurring donations or purchasing something from our store. After listening to your feedback, we have completely redone our website from the ground up.

The design is different, as well as the backend, and the new site will be going live in April. Here is a snapshot of the new design.

In addition to the new site, we have made some other changes as well, including added benefits as a partner with Streams. You are part of our Streams tribe!

# TRANSLATION UPDATE



We are developing the new app that will offer our translated materials in closed countries. Also, for the first time *The Art of Hearing God* will be taught in an Asian country in their native language this year. We can't make the details public as it is a closed country, but we wanted you to know. Your prayers and giving are bearing fruit for our brothers and sisters in the persecuted Church. Thank you!

**PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD BY TELLING FRIENDS + FAMILY AND SHARING ABOUT IT ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**





Sin defiles the land and defiled land allows demonic activity. God gave man authority over the land and with authority comes responsibility. Did you know it is possible to heal land? Would you like to be equipped to shift the spiritual atmosphere in your

town or region? What is the process of healing nations, cleansing "haunted houses" and removing spiritual forces from property? Join us as we explore what the Bible says about memory in land, cleansing land and healing defiled places. You will come away from this

online seminar with a fresh perspective on your authority to steward the earth as Psalm 115:16 says: "The heavens are the Lord's heavens, but the earth He has given to the children of man."

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This seminar will be part of our new website when it is released in April!

Go to [www.streamsministries.com](http://www.streamsministries.com)  
or email at [partners@streamsministries.com](mailto:partners@streamsministries.com)

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## COURSES

### **The Art of Hearing God**

- April 5 - 7, 2018 | Fort Pierce, FL | Taught by Lisa Winter
- April 19 - 21, 2018 | Dayton, OH | Taught by Lisa Winter
- April 26-28, 2018 | Fourways, South Africa | Taught by Yael Berry
- June 7 - 9, 2018 | Wichita, KS | Taught by Lisa Winter

### **Understanding Dreams & Visions**

- May 3 - 5, 2018 | Coeur d'Alene, ID | Taught by Rob Mazza
- June 7-9, 2018 | Fourways, South Africa | Taught by Yael Berry
- Aug 8-11, 2018 | Limburg, Germany | Taught by Rick Hays, Charity Bowman-Webb & Team

### **Advanced Workshop in Dreams & Visions**

- April 5-7, 2018 | Fourways, South Africa | Taught by Yael Berry