

# Limited Perspective

May 11, 2008

## INVISIBLE QUALITIES

In the previous message, we compared God to light.

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light ... -  
*1 John 1:5 NIV*

What are the chances that light - this natural phenomenon used to depict God - just "happens" to share His most unique, perplexing, and seemingly contradictory characteristics?! Light is both energy *and* matter; Christ was both God and man! White light is composed of *three* individual, primary colors.

I have to jump in here, and share something really cool:



What substance most commonly reveals the invisible properties (full-spectrum) of light? Water; rain and mist create rainbows by refracting and revealing the hidden colors of light. And who reveals the invisible qualities of God to believers? His Holy Spirit; and what does scripture use to depict His Holy Spirit?! Water!

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water. -  
*John 4:10 NIV*

And when His Spirit lives in us, *we* reflect, refract, and reveal His beautiful character qualities: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

"Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit ... - *John 7:38-39 NIV*

Q: Now, what are the odds that the one natural phenomenon that mimics God is used to depict *Him*; and the one substance that reveals its invisible qualities is used to depict *His Spirit*?!



So, we talked about "wave-particle duality", and the "trinity" of pure, white light's three-in-one color system. And, we looked at "time dilation"; and how at the speed of light time becomes a multi-dimensional eternal present, wherein God can give every created being His full and undivided attention.

But, today I want to focus on the *presence* of God: *where* He lives and just how far away it is from where you and I live. God's nearness to us, and His awareness of everything about us, is woven throughout the scripture.

The Lord is near to all who call on him ... - *Psalm 145:18 NIV*

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted ... - *Psalm 34:18 NIV*

Surely the Lord is in this place ... - *Genesis 28:16 NIV*

You are the God who sees me ... - *Genesis 16:13 NIV*

Problem is I can't see *Him!* I can't *touch* Him! For someone so near and so interested, He sure is invisible and intangible! I left off the second half of Genesis 28:16:

Surely the Lord is in this place, **and I was not aware of it.** - *Genesis 28:16, NIV*

The Bible affirms the frustration of His intangibility every bit as much as it does His close proximity:

When he passes me, I cannot see him; when he goes by, I cannot perceive him. -  
*Job 9:11 NIV*

The Almighty is beyond our reach ... - *Job 37:23 NIV*

Truly you are a God who hides himself ... - *Isaiah 45:15 NIV*

God is "hidden" from us, in the sense that we can't make contact with Him through our five senses. How do we resolve a God who is both near and yet beyond reach? The classic solution is to think of God as inhabiting a dimension separate from our own, but connected *spiritually*. I agree with this.

God's manner of existence demands at *least* one more dimension than our 3D universe has, in order for Him to exist outside of it, independent from it, and (of course), to have created it. The bigger problem is: how do we wrap our minds around this?! Where exactly is this "fourth" dimension of spiritual-space?!

Well ... let's go look for it.

Using "Euclidean Space" as a mathematical basis, finding an extra dimension is as simple as adding a right (90°) angle.



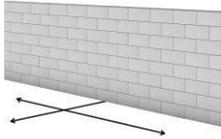
A. If you lived in a one-dimensional world, you'd be trapped on a line. You can't even turn around to see who's behind you; you can't conceive of *around*.



If a block was on your line, you'd be stuck.



But someone with two-dimensional power could turn 90° and simply bypass the block. The line-people couldn't comprehend how they did it.



B. If you lived in a two-dimensional world, you'd be trapped on a flat surface (plane). You know right and left, but there's no such thing as up and down.



If a wall ran across your plane, you'd be stuck.

But someone with three-dimensional power could turn 90° and easily bypass it. The flat-landers would be shocked; they'd assume you passed *through* the wall.

C. If you lived in a three-dimensional world (which we do), you'd be trapped within height, width, and length. If you were in a room with locked doors, you'd be stuck.

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" - *John 20:19 NIV*

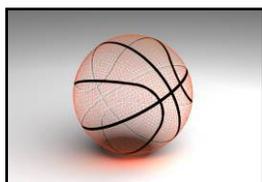
They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. - *Luke 24:37 NIV*

How did Jesus walk through that wall? With four dimensional powers (according to Euclidean space), He simply turned 90 degrees and bypassed it!

Which disciple got to experience a fourth dimension?

... [Peter] walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" - *Matthew 14:29b-31 NIV*

Even while experiencing it, Peter couldn't comprehend it!



It may be a straightforward mathematical equation, but we can only visualize in the dimension we're limited to. For instance, we know (mathematically), that in four dimensions of space, you can turn a basketball inside out ... without ever breaking its surface. Go ahead and try to picture that.



We can't visualize a "spiritual dimension" outside of our own, but we can create a two-dimensional Flatland in order to better understand our extra-dimensional Father. These are the Flatlanders ... Maud and Ned. They know width and length, but they have no depth perception.



So, when they look at themselves they only see a flat profile. They can only see a portion of how they've been created. They don't know about their intricate outlines. They can't point to where their "inside" (soul) is located. We (as creator) know them better than they know themselves.

Whether they believe it or not, their existence depends *entirely* upon us. We hold the power cord that keeps Flatland glowing. They could reason and determine we exist if they realized: There is no capacity within flatland to have created it. Therefore a power source must exist *outside* of Flatland.

I would draw near to all who called on me. I could put my nose right up to their heart, but because they can't comprehend our "spiritual", third dimension, I would be near yet beyond reach.



I'm the god who sees them ... problem is, they can't see me! So, I'd make plans to visit them and introduce myself. I would aim a camera at myself and feed the image into Flatland. Well, I had to look the part! But remember, to them I would look like a flat line.

I would explain to them that even though they are with me, they only perceive a small aspect of who and what I really am. I'm just ... an image. An image of the creator ... the father. He lives *outside* of Flatland. He is watching us right now ... and he is me ... and I am him.

And I know that's really hard to understand, but even though I am in their two-dimensional realm, I'm simultaneously in my own three-dimensional, spiritual realm controlling everything.

And when it was time to leave Flatland, I would explain that I'm not really going away. In fact, part of the reason I came was to let you know how close I've *always* been.

And as long as you are in Flatland, though I will be invisible and untouchable, I will be nearer than you know and closer than you can comprehend. And when your created purpose has been fulfilled, I will bring you out of Flatland to live with me in my 3D kingdom ... where depth goes on *forever*.

Just before the cross, Jesus said to His disciples:

"Where I am going, you cannot come." ... Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later." - *John 13:33-36 NIV*

God cannot be restricted to three dimensions of space and one dimension of time and still be God. The fact that He is beyond the reach of this dimension assures us that He is able to watch and listen and delight in our lives.