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PERCEPTION

When I look at a building, I perceive what it is by what I see. If I am looking at the front I may see a door, an entry way, a driveway, windows and more. Yet, if someone else looks at the building from the side or back they will not see what I see. They may see a fire escape, solid doors, different shaped windows and more that I can't see from the front.

I could say that the building was only as I see it, but I would not be entirely right because I only saw one side of it. Someone else may argue that the building was only as they see it, but they would only see what they saw and would not be entirely right.

Perception means to see, hear, or become aware of something through the senses. It leaves out discerning a situation spiritually. We must factor in the whole picture, not just what we think is the picture. If we don't, we will miss it.

One night at our church bible study the Lord had me shut down the bible study and told me to take those present out of the church and to look for people to witness to and pray for in our strip mall where the church was located. We paired up and did just that.

We came across a gentleman and asked if he needed prayer. He said, "Yes. I have been sick for a long time." Now, in perceiving this situation we saw a man that needed a touch from God. He appeared to be a nice person, but as I went to pray for him there was a check from the Holy Spirit. I heard "He won't be healed until he forgives."

Now to look at this man there was no evidence that he had an issue with not forgiving. He wasn't dressed sloppily or shabbily. He looked peaceful and was eager for prayer. That perception was wrong.

I asked him if he needed to forgive someone. He said, "Yes." There had been a situation that happened thirty years earlier that had caused an offense. I asked him if he was ready to forgive that person and he said, "Yes." I led him in a prayer of forgiveness, then prayed for his healing and he was instantly healed.

Often, we do not perceive the entire situation when we meet people. We may wonder why some never get their breakthrough. Outwardly they seem to be "good people" but in fact there may be something deep within them that needs to be dealt with. Remember, that things aren't always what they seem. We often judge a situation by the "outer" appearance, but God looks at the heart.

If we listen to the Holy Spirit, we can never go wrong. In this case, I only saw "one side of the building" while the Holy Spirit saw it in and out and all around. Ask God to help you perceive what is truth in your situation and others.