**Exercising Our Senses: Part 3**

**Our Spiritual Sense of Touch**

In part 3 of this series, let us not forget the verse that tells us that we have spiritual senses that need to be exercised so that we can mature in the Lord. **Hebrews 5:14** says “even those who by reason of use **have their senses exercised** to discern both good and evil”.

And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, Came behind *him*, **and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanched**. **And Jesus said, Who touched me**? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press *thee*, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And Jesus said, **Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me.** And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how **she was healed immediately**. And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: **thy faith hath made thee whole**; go in peace. Luke 8:43-48

This passage is amazing in several aspects. This woman touched Jesus’ garment, but didn’t actually touch him. In fact, it was just “the border of his garment” from behind him that she touched.

1. Jesus said this woman touched him, but she didn’t actually physically touch him. This is Jesus’ way of telling us that we indeed can touch him, but is spiritual touch he refers to now.
2. She came from “behind him”—Just as the woman with infirmity, we can still touch Jesus, even if we feel we are behind him and not close to him and we feel he has his back to us. In reality, he never has his back to us, but we feel he does. Nonetheless, we can touch him.
3. Crowds were actually physically touching Jesus, “thronging” and “pressing” upon him, but Jesus said they didn’t touch him-only the woman did…
4. When Jesus said, “Somebody touched me,” he was obviously not referring to being physically touched per se, for as it mentioned above, multitudes were physically touching him.
5. The woman who touched his garment denied touching him when asked, for scripture said “all denied” touching him. Even with this denial when confronted, the woman’s small faith was enough to be healed.
6. **Jesus was referring to being touched by faith**. The proof of the woman’s faith was that “virtue”, Jesus said, “is gone out of me.” “Virtue” flowing from Jesus to the woman is the evidence Jesus used that he was touched, and this is an amazing truth for us to realize about our spiritual sense of touch.
7. When we touch Jesus by faith, even a little like the hem of his garment, **we will know we touched him by the virtue that we will receive from him**. It is his goodness and holiness that will be imparted to us like the woman with the issue of blood.
8. We don’t need any programs, priests, or penance to touch him. We simply need to touch him, to reach out by faith, and if it is just the hem of his garment, we can still reach him.
9. He is not far from us. As with the woman, he walks right by us, right next to us.
10. Notice that Jesus did not reach out to her with his hand, but he was waiting for her to reach out. He positioned himself so that she could.
11. When we touch Jesus by faith, we receive “immediate” help as it says above.
12. All of the other people were trying to touch him without faith, but Jesus said to the woman “thy faith hath made thee whole, go in peace”
13. Our touching of Jesus can still be of faith even if we do it as the woman with fear, trembling, and doubt and even to selfishly get a healing.
14. What an amazing contrast-multitudes touched and pressed on him, but Jesus denied they touched him. The woman did not touch him, only his garment, but Jesus said she did touch him. She was the only one that touched him by faith.
15. We should meditate on this: that God can be touched, physically and spiritually, and what a wonderful thing it is, what a marvelous privilege we have.

For we have not an high priest which **can**not **be touched with the feeling of our infirmities**; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin. Heb. 4:15

1. **It is critical in our relationship with Jesus that we recognize that he has been tempted in his flesh “in all points” like we have**. Jesus has felt every single solitary feeling we have had, especially since he lives in us and we live in him. His compassion and love flow to us from being touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He has literally walked in our shoes
2. **We touch Jesus “with the feeling of our infirmities”. Scripture says he CAN BE TOUCHED.** When we say something or someone “touched” us, we mean it touched our spirit and our heart and moved us greatly. Our feelings matter greatly to the Lord, and he actually feels our feelings. That is why he is touched by them according to scripture. He actually feels what we are going through, unlike any other person. This is why we can be so close to the Lord Jesus. No other person, not even our wives or husbands or children or closest friends, can be as close to us because they don’t live in us and they haven’t felt our every weakness and infirmity.
3. **This is why we should glory in our infirmities and weaknesses. It is how we touch the Lord the most**. Without them, we would not touch Jesus as much, near as much.