

Radiance Bible Studies
Lesson Three
“THE FIFTH DIMENSION”

Song Lyrics

ALL MEN WILL KNOW

Words & Music by Keith Lancaster
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I have lived among you here on earth
I have shown you love
I have shown your worth
Now it's nearly over you will find
That the Spirit will remind you
Of all the things I had in mind
Now I want you to remember

All men will know
All men will find
All men will see
That you are Mine
All men will know
All men will find
All men will see
That you are Mine

Now the time is coming I must go
But the Comforter will guide you
In the things you need to know
No it won't be easy you will see
They will hate you and despise you
All the same they did to Me
Now I want you to remember

Chorus

Very soon His own disciples found
The testing quickly came around
To share their faith with boldness, without fear
Now today we face an equal test
Divinely called to do our best
To share with the world -- What will they hear?

Chorus

Scripture Source:

Read John Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16

In the passage under consideration, Jesus addressed his disciples as He prepared to go back to the Father. “My children, I will be with you only a little longer” (13:33.) The disciples would be left on the earth to carry on the work for which they had been trained: “Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later” (13:36.) These men and all the others that touched by the life and work of Jesus would remain in the world to serve His purposes.

PART ONE: SERVING GOD IN THE WORLD OF FOUR DIMENSIONS

1. Jesus called the disciples to serve in the world of four dimensions: height, length, width-- and the fourth dimension of time. Despite the passage of years, these are the same four dimensions in which we all live today.
2. But Jesus knew that it would take special, non-natural help for these servants to function effectively, so He promised the coming Holy Spirit, the other Counselor that He promised would be with them “forever” (14:15.) He lovingly promised, “I will not leave you as orphans” (14:18.)
3. The Holy Spirit would come to them and add another dimension to their world and to their work; a dimension not defined by, nor confined by, height, width, length nor even time. “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you” (14:26.)
4. The work of the Spirit takes place within, and using, a FIFTH DIMENSION! This is the eternal dimension, without which the apostles cannot complete their work, and without which the church cannot survive.
5. Unlike dimensions of substance and of time, this FIFTH DIMENSION cannot be quantized—that is, it cannot be gauged nor calculated. Nor is it subject to formalization in mathematical terms. It is eternal and therefore not measurable. Eternity is, by definition, not quantifiable in human terms; and this fifth dimension partakes of eternity itself, from whence it comes.
6. Because of the presence of the Holy Spirit, the church of the apostles’ time --and the church of today -- live in an environment or context consisting of five dimensions. Four of these of these are temporal; that is, they have to do with earth and time.
7. But the Fifth Dimension is unique. It is invisible and eternal. Even more than that, it is determinant. It has the ability to affect and change any one – or all—of the

other four dimensions. Thus ours is a universe of dimensional hierarchy: The fifth dimension is at the apex of the hierarchy and the four temporal dimensions are at the bottom.

8. This Fifth Dimension doesn't just affect the other four dimensions, it is actually causal. This ability of the eternal to cause results here on earth is demonstrated in the miracles of Jesus. He said: "Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves" (13:11.)
9. According to Jesus, this Fifth Dimension will be the cause of the apostles' ministry, the basis for the church, and the explanation for Jesus' resurrection from the dead. It's true that resurrections occur *in* the world of the four dimensions – but those dimensions can't explain a resurrection! Only the Fifth Dimension does this.
10. Jesus warned the apostles that the world is highly resistant to the Fifth Dimension. Unbelievers will try to explain it away or dismiss it altogether. When that won't work, they'll turn to hate, persecution, and even murder. The apostles, Jesus said, should expect this kind of reaction (15:18-25 and especially 16:1-4.)
11. Furthermore, people who are mentally locked up in the four-dimension world will have a distorted view of the Fifth Dimension (14:15-17.)

PART TWO: THE CREATION OF **RESONANCE**

RESONANCE occurs when two entities vibrate at the same frequency. For instance, when someone blows on a pitch pipe or strikes a tuning fork to begin an a cappella song, the corresponding replication of that sound by vocal chords is a type of created **RESONANCE**.

This concept of **RESONANCE** helps us demonstrate the interactions between the dimensions. We begin to understand it first of all by seeing the role of the Holy Spirit:

The Holy Spirit links the Fifth Dimension to → The world of the Four Dimensions

Such a linkage creates a resonance between the Fifth Dimension and earthly things. For instance, the action of the eternal God performing miracles caused people and events to resound in response to His power.

However, it's equally true that an inferior resonance is created between unaided human intelligence and the world of the four dimensions:

Human intelligence ----**RESOUNDS WITH** -----the four earthly dimensions

In contrast, the Fifth Dimension does not resonate with the four earthly dimensions unless they are linked by the force and power of God. Thus these results:

The Fifth Dimension ----- RESOUNDS WITH -----Holy Spirit

The Fifth Dimension ----- RESOUNDS WITH -----the Word of God

The Fifth Dimension ----- RESOUNDS WITH ----- the believer

All of the above lines of **RESONANCE** pull the Lord and a believer together

Love—the kind of love that Jesus talked about in the passage we’re studying-- is a manifestation of **RESONANCE** between the Word of God and the believer:

- Jesus washed the disciples’ feet (13:1-17)
- He left the prime example (13:12-16)
- The theme of Acappella’s song: (13:34-35) -- “by this all men will know”

All the mighty acts of God in the Bible show that He masterfully manipulates matter, time, energy and information. Now, in the chapters of John we’re studying, Jesus says that God also manipulates linguistic symbols (words).

These symbols are the starting point for us. There are two kinds of symbols that the Holy Spirit uses mentioned here: the miracles (pure power), and the words of God. Then on top of these symbols there is the faith of the believers! Their love, their unity and their behavior become symbols as well. The importance of this is that symbols are the source of knowledge for those who follow the Lord. If we act on this knowledge, then resonance between us and the Fifth Dimension is an inevitability!

God -- RESOUNDS WITH – Apostles -- RESOUNDS WITH -- the Word -- RESOUNDS WITH – a believer

This produces a master **RESONANCE**:

God----- RESOUNDS WITH ----- a believer

In other words, **RESONANCE** rolls through this continuum.

Through it, the Fifth Dimension is no longer hidden -- but made known! This what Jesus came to do, and what the apostles would do; and what the church lives to accomplish.

Consider the following implications of this Fifth Dimension and the creation of Resonance:

1. God wants **RESONANCE** between Himself and our thought, speech, and behavior
2. People will perceive this relationship, by observing the non-natural symbols that we become

3. Science can never capture nor detect nor resolve the Fifth Dimension
4. Mere experience at no level can capture, detect nor resolve the Fifth Dimension
5. Extreme human willfulness can in effect banish the reality of the Fifth Dimension world in the mind of a person
6. Example: In the desert of the Exodus, manna and water was the equivalent of:
The Fifth Dimension --- **RESOUNDING WITH** -----matter
7. Example: Jesus Himself was the equivalent of:
The Fifth Dimension ----- **RESOUNDING WITH** -----His ministry
8. In considering resonance as it is demonstrated in the passages in John:

The Fifth Dimension --**RESOUNDS WITH** – the believer’s mind →
thought, speech, behavior -- **RESOUNDS WITH** – brothers

This is the source of true unity!
9. And this is the key to what are called relationships – which is, simply, the creation of just such a **RESONANCE** --15:1-13

THE HARDEST MESSAGE OF THEM ALL: OBSERVATION HAS BEEN DISPLACED! Here is how:

1. Men have always relied on observation of the world of Four Dimensions and then made their assessments accordingly – but the kingdom of God does not operate that way, and the disciples cannot either.
 2. Jesus intended that the church be guided by the Fifth Dimension exclusively. Human observation must be displaced by the presence of the Holy Spirit and His work in the earth!
 3. However, in the last several hundred years the Western world has developed what we can recognize as **THE SCIENCE OF OBSERVATION**.
 4. In the kingdom of Heaven – the kingdom that emanates from the Fifth Dimension -- we do not function on the basis of our observational capacity and genius.
- Newtonian science (classical physics) drew a distinction between the observer and the observed. The idea was that one could observe all that one wanted to, and by so doing one would have no effect on the things observed. It was taught that both the

observer and the observed were distinct and had no direct causal contact with each other.

- Then came Quantum Theory, which banished the “objective observer” from science. This way of thinking insisted that the observer directly influenced that which was to be observed. The observer and his instruments somehow became causal just by the very act of observing.
- But according to these 4 chapters in the Gospel of John, both of those ways of thinking about the universe we live in-- including the human situation -- must be displaced by something superior!
- Reliance on Fifth Dimension is superior to all of this above. It looks like this:

The Fifth Dimension----- **RESONDS WITH** -----Thought/Speech/Behavior
The world of matter/energy/information

There is, thus, a “master **RESONANCE**” between God and the thought, speech and behavior of believers. Jesus taught that this **RESONANCE** will be a mark of the believer.

This means that we Christians cannot think of ourselves as mere “observers” any more. We insist upon participating in the creation of **RESONANCE** between the Lord and us. Such **RESONANCE** does not build upon our observations of the world of matter, energy and information.

Nor does it directly affect the temporal world. To the contrary, the effect is purely indirect. That is to say that we create **RESONANCE** and then the Lord responds however He chooses. The result is that He causes effects upon the physical world in which we live.

THIS UNDERSTANDING OF OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE THINGS WE OBSERVE AROUND US, THEN, GOES BEYOND CLASSIC AND QUANTUM WAYS OF THINKING ABOUT THE UNIVERSE THAT WE LIVE IN!

- **THIS UNDERSTANDING IS A SHOCK TO HUMAN INTUITION:** Imagine all believers dedicated to this proposition and way of thinking. Imagine the effects that they would have on human history and human conditions (individual and collective) if they lived by this superior code of life and thought!

This is counter-intuitional to the maximum. But chapters 13-16 substantiate this generalization.

- This means that all human theories and all formalisms are insufficient. Not necessarily wrong in all cases; but always insufficient, because they would fall short of the Fifth Dimension.

- Sufficiency is not defined by how well the theory works, nor by how consistent it is, nor by experimental results it gives. It is determined by comparison with the Fifth Dimension. Whenever the people of God failed in faith, it was because they relied on their assessment of situations in the Fourth-Dimensional world, and without Fifth-Dimensional knowledge.
- It follows thus that that reliance upon worldly theories is a mistake; and it is a *de facto* cancellation of the mental sort of the reality, power, and self-expression of the Fifth Dimension!
- So scientific method and or methodological naturalism is insufficient by definition.

PART THREE: THE DOCTRINE OF THE DIFFERENTIAL

This is the Doctrine of the Differential:

There is a differential between creating **RESONANCE** with the Fifth Dimension, and trying to live on the basis of human observation no matter how profound and sophisticated that is.

Fifth Dimension----**RESOUNDS WITH** -- thought [*differential*] matter, energy, information

The disciples had to guard the doctrine of the differential in order to be faithful to their mission and in order to prepare the church for life in the material world! (15:1-8.)

How do we accomplish what Jesus commanded in “showing yourselves to be my disciples” (15:8) ?

Human Intelligence--- **RESOUNDS WITH** -----material world of Four Dimensions

Human observation----- **RESOUNDS WITH** -----material world of Four Dimensions

This inferior form of **RESONANCE** makes a powerful claim upon our thinking:

It gives junior rank or status to the Fifth Dimension as it---**RESOUNDS WITH**--- the mind!

Two opposing forms of thinking will war within the mind. These two forms of thinking are in a state of contradiction! One cannot do both at the same time

If we are right in this generalization from John chapters 13-16, this means that:

- The Fifth Dimension determines the shape/form/resolution of the universe; and ergo events, and situations, circumstances and states of being.

- The Fifth Dimension is a law unto itself! This is Jesus' message in this text, and therefore the Four Dimensions are subsequencies and dependencies.
- The Fifth Dimension is another world, but it shows up here as an extra dimension.
- So this indicates what we can recognize as the LAW OF SUCCESSION:

The Fifth Dimension is always the starting point (precedent). Everything in the Four Dimensions world follows in succession. The Fifth Dimension forces a unity between itself and the world of Four Dimensions where all of us live out the Christian life of faith and ministry. We see the effect of this unity as the power of God affecting our circumstances.

(This must also mean that the Fifth Dimension restrains itself in regard of our frailty and weakness. In the face of such unlimited Fifth-Dimension power, we need the mercy of God as well as His action.)

Final thought: Our **RESONANCE** with the Fifth Dimension is proof to all men that we belong to Him who called us and forged into us the non-natural reality that gives us the strength to accomplish the Lord's will. Jesus passed all of this on to us, saying He did it for a purpose:

“ . . . So that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33).

Questions for Discussion:

1. Consider these graphs from the lesson:

the Fifth Dimension -- **RESOUNDS WITH** -- money → a **RESONANCE** is created
 the Fifth Dimension -- **RESOUNDS WITH** -- a mind → a **RESONANCE** is created

Create similar graphs for James chapter 5's teaching about healing, James 1:5's teachings about wisdom, and Daniel chapter 1.

2. We could accurately say that obeying God should be the focus of every situation, circumstance, event and state of being. That's true, but how would individuals and churches be improved by first concentrating on creating resonance between us and the Word (and therefore the Lord)?
3. How could it be said that religious legalism is a lack of resonance?
4. Assess this statement: “Creating **RESONANCE** requires a certain reading of the Word of God.”

5. How did Nicodemus in John chapter 3 assess Jesus by the way the Fifth Dimension resounded with Him?
6. We do not see **RESONANCE** – rather, we see the effects of it. How does 2 Peter 1:21 demonstrate this?
7. How could it be said that prayer is an aspect of the practice of **RESONANCE**?
8. How could it be said that faith is the action committed to the task of creating **RESONANCE**?
9. This understanding of our relationship to the things we observe around us is beyond classic and quantum ways of thinking about the universe that we live in. How is this understanding illustrated in the story of the men in the fiery furnace in Daniel chapter 3? How is it illustrated in the story of Peter walking on the water in John 8:16-24?
10. How does Deuteronomy 6:20-25 demonstrate that faith in the God of the Fifth Dimension requires only indirect relations with the world around us? What, according to this passage, are we to have direct relations with?
11. How does Romans 12:14-16 demonstrate resonance? Which verse of this passage is most exactly descriptive of resonance?
12. What actions and attitudes can you share with the group, and commit to practice, that will promote resonance with your brothers and sisters in the gospel?

**For further reflection:
“The Second Singing”**

Now that you’ve studied in depth some of the implications of these chapters in John, what do you understand and think as you hear the song again?