

HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

The following is a short list of what will be covered in this lesson.

Hearing God's voice through:

- His Audible voice
- Dreams and Visions
- Inner Witness
- Thoughts and Impressions
- His Word
- Prophetic Utterances
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit

INTRODUCTION (CONTINUED)

Genesis 3:8

John 10:4

These verses introduce us to God speaking to man

He speaks but all too often are not listening. In fact, God is always speaking.

Jesus said, "My sheep know my voice."

To know God's voice and to obey is to never be deceived, which is possible to those who seek Him.

Too often, He speaks by His Spirit, and what He says goes against what we want to do. Therefore, we ignore Him and simply say to ourselves, "That is not God".

Then there are those precious believers who have arrived at the place that they feel that they are the only ones that hear God. This is dangerous. Tragically, many pastors and leaders have made their congregations feel this way, resulting in lack of spiritual growth on the part of those dear souls.

John, on the isle of Patmos (in Revelations), heard this phrase over and over, "He that has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches." God's voice must be learned to keep us in His Will.

1. GOD'S WILL IS ENFORCED BY HIS WORD AND HIS VOICE

Hebrew 10:36

A) God's will is: His word, nature and plan applied

His will is in His:

Love	Salvation
Forgiveness	Peace
Health and Healing (3 John 2)	Unity of Believers
Abundance and Provision	Power
Victory	Fruitfulness
Holiness	Fulfillment
Joy	Liberty

B) God has placed five (5) ministry gifts in the church to "equip the saints." Ephesians 4:11-13

These gifts can assist you in hearing God's Voice, but no one and nothing replaces your relationship with God and the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit will "seed your thoughts". He will bring "impressions" in your "spirit eyes".

God speaks in many ways. He will always speak to you at a level you can understand.

For Example:

- At your level of faith.
- At your level of growth, spiritually

2) THE AUDIBLE VOICE

Now, understand this; God rarely speaks in and audible voice. But, He can.

A) Examples of God's audible voice in the Old Testament:

Genesis 3:8 - Adam and Eve

Genesis 7 - Noah

Genesis 12 - Abram

Exodus 3:4 – Moses

1 Samuel 3 – Samuel

There are myriads of references in the Old Testament where God spoke audible and others standing nearby heard the same thing as the one God was addressing.

Understand this: When God speaks whether audible or within, He has a specific purpose for His voice being heard.

B) Examples of God's audible voice in the New Testament

Matthew 3:16-17

Matthew 17:5

John 12:28-29

Acts 9:1-8

There are numerous places in the New Testament where God's voice could be heard.

Note: Every time Jesus opened His mouth; this was God's voice. (God, the Son)

3) DREAMS AND VISIONS

Joel 2:28

A) Examples of Dreams and Visions in the Old Testament

Genesis 15: 1 - Abram

Genesis 28: 10 - Jacob

Genesis 31

Genesis 41 - Joseph in Prison
Pharaoh's Dream

Genesis 46: 2 -

Numbers 13: 6-

1 King 3:5 - Solomon

Ezekiel 32 - Valley of Dry Bones

Dreams and visions are a method of revelation. There are numerous secular or non-Christian books written on this subject, but these do not reveal dreams or visions on a spiritual level. One must be very careful as to not let "mind power" or "soul power" take over what God is trying to say.

B) Examples of Dreams and Vision in the New Testament

Acts 9:10 - Ananias and Saul (Paul)

Acts 10: 9-33 - Peter (Vision of Unclean Beast)

Acts 16:9 - Paul (Concerning Macedonia)

There are numerous references throughout the New Testament where God spoke His plan by dreams and visions.

C) Dreams and Vision are given as a “Point of Reference or Faith”

For Example: when trial or attack from your enemy or persecution comes, you know what the dream or vision is and now you have got something to hold on to. Reference Point of Faith.

There are to show and inspire or direct.

D) Vision – A direct illumination from God. It can come while awake or asleep.

1) Visions can be given to prepare one for a task or a ministry.

Acts 10:9-19

Peter’s preparation for ministry to the Gentiles. This vision became a reference point for his faith when persecution came.

2 Corinthians 12:1-4

Paul’s Vision

Note: Many people have “out of body” experiences. Be careful of those who say they have them often!

- 2) The vision comes in your “soul realm”. Your spirit becomes the projection by the illumination of the Holy Spirit indwelling in you. Your understanding becomes the screen.

Ephesians 3:20

For example: In your mind’s eye, you are seeing something you do not normally see.

God will always, at some point give confirmation of the vision.

- 3) God uses your “harnessed imaging source”.
Be careful that you do not let your soul overpower your spirit.

The soul consists of your mind, will, desire and intellect.

An example of a vision or envision in the soul is when someone says, “Church”, “Jesus”, “Devil”, etc., what do you see?

- 4) Paul ‘s vision in Acts 16:4-13 could have been while he was:
 - 1) Awake
 - 2) In prayer
 - 3) Asleep

“A dream interpreted is a night vision”.

Remember: The vision becomes a faith reference point for you when difficulties arise.

Example: When you have stepped out in faith to do a work for God and “all of hell” seems to rise against you.

You have prayed and believed and seen your loved one saved in your mind’s eye, but they get worse instead of better.

NOTE: Be careful that you do not try to have visions. Those will not be from God.

There is “spiritual imaging” which gives faith.

For Example: “If you can see it, you can conceive and do it”, with God’s help.

NOTE: A true vision is “a direct illumination from God.

- 5) Some dreams and vision come due to:
- a) Our state of mind
 - b) Problems we are facing
 - c) Fears
 - d) Tasks before us

Be careful attributing these to being from God.

LESSON II – VOLUME I

HOW DOES GOD SPEAK?

1) INNER VOICE AND CONSCIENCE

There is much controversy on this subject among religious people and especially “Leaders” because they do not understand it, and if they do not understand it, they do not want the congregation to understand it.

A) The inner voice is

- 1) Inner witness
- 2) Quickening (Like a rush or surge)
- 3) A rush of emotion

B) Conscience is Consciousness.

Conscience:

- Is the capacity within to know right from wrong.
- Is “a warning system” or a “radar system to protect”.
- Warns before the “fact” or “act”.
- Does not argue, but “agrees” or “disagrees”

Hebrews 9:14

Hebrews 10:22

Heart and conscience are coupled together.

NOTE: The Holy Spirit will interrupt wrong messages from conscience.

C) Inner Voice of Witness

Note: Just as we have fine natural senses to relate to the natural world, we have spiritual senses to relate to the spiritual world or realm.

Natural Senses

Spiritual Senses

Hearing

Inner Hearing (ear)

Seeing

Inner Eyes

Touching

Mind of the Spirit

Tasting

Will of the Spirit

Smelling

Emotions of the Spirit

1) You hear with the “spirit ear” or “inner voice” out of your spirit man.

2) Even those who do not know the Lord are still “subject to” or “directed” by conscience.

Consciousness = “Conscience of good or evil, right or wrong, should or should not.

3) Intuition is commonly or most popular used in terms of “a woman’s intuition”.

a) Caution; “inner witness”, “inner voice” is not “suspicion”. Suspicion leads to “accusation”. Accusation leads to embarrassment and hurt.

TURNING LOGOS INTO RHEMA

James 1:22

Proverbs 4:22

Proverbs 3:18b

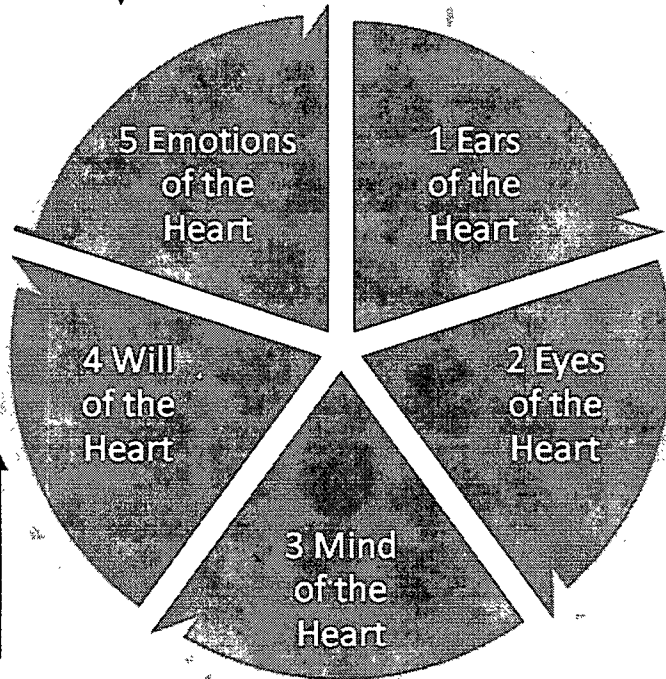
Proverbs 3:2b

Proverbs

4:18b

Proverbs 4:20a

Proverbs 4:20b



II Cor. 4:13

Proverbs 4:24

Proverbs 4:21a

Ephesians 1:18a

Hebrews 12:2a

Proverbs 4:23a

Proverbs 4:21b

D) 1Peter 1:13-14

Mind translates “soul or intellect”.

v.14 – A paraphrase could be “not training the new man of the heart, - the old way.

v.15 – “Conversation” – another translation of this word is “conscious behavior in words”.

E) The inner voice will speak in

- 1) Confirmation
- 2) A check or feeling of stop or go.
- 3) In line with God’s word.

NOTE: When God is speaking through “the inner voice”, it can be interrupted easily or overridden by other thoughts. That is why we must “learn to discern”.

God speaks clearly, distinctly and precisely.

LESSON III – VOLUME I

HOW DOES GOD SPEAK?

1) THOUGHTS OR IMPRESSIONS

REMEMBER: We can be taught how God speaks, but to learn to “hear Him” must become a personal experience.

Too many of God’s people are wanting someone else to “hear” for them. This is dangerous.

REMEMBER: He says that which is important and worth remembering.

He always goes right to the point, to the heart of the matter. He will always comfort and encourage, even if His message is one of rebuke.

A) Examples of Thoughts in the New Testament

I Peter 1:13-14

Romans 12:2 (Garbage in, garbage out.)

Philippians 2:5

Philippians 4: 7-8

NOTE: We are not including all the scriptures on this topic that could be used, but only enough to give you understanding.

B) Thoughts

Thousands of thoughts go through the mind and intellect daily. Some thoughts remain, other simply pass through.

Thoughts that stay are stored in our subconscious and at later time are remembered and acted on or dismissed.

1) Two (2) ways to view thoughts:

A) "Thoughts are seeds of deeds not yet done which contain success, etc."

B) "Thoughts are seeds from deeds done, which had consequence, whether good or bad."

2) Thoughts influence decisions. Decisions set the course for action or for life.

Thoughts are "impressions" in or on the mind or an awareness.

C) Thoughts versus Inner Voice

Thoughts and the inner voice are very similar:

1) Difference between inner voice and thoughts.

Inner voice: When God speaks through this channel you actually feel:

- A) A rush inside
- B) Excitement or
- C) Cringe, etc.

Thoughts: (That are seeds of God) come often and most of the time very gentle.

An alert comes before He speaks in our thoughts; there is a sense of “peace” or “awareness” of His presence. We find ourselves then beginning to receive impressions that are different from our normal thought patterns.

- 2) During WWII in Europe, as well as in the USA civil defense sirens would sound, bringing a warning before an air raid or even a drill. At that point, people dropped what they were doing to respond.

- 3) Examples of alert:
 - a. Restlessness
 - b. A surge of power or quickening within
 - c. A burden to pray
 - d. A feeling as though you want to weep, etc.

When God speaks through thoughts, it is something you have previously not thought of

OR

Something you have thought on and forgotten.

- 4) Ester 6:1 – This story conveys how God spared His people by impressing on the king’s mind and made him restless.

God’s voice in our thoughts will conflict with “human reasoning”. That is one sure way to know it is Him.

D) When the Enemy Speaks

Let us not forget the enemy of our soul who also speaks in our thoughts.

These “thoughts” are suggestions, not commands, for the devil cannot command anything.

A) The devil will “suggest” or “accuse”.

- 1) Guilt and condemnation
- 2) Fear
- 3) Fear of: loss, sickness, failure, etc.
- 4) Justifying anger or unforgiveness
- 5) Pride
- 6) Suspicions
- 7) Accusation

Romans 10:17 -- “Faith comes by hearing...” this can work in the negative as well as the positive.

E) Training Our Mind

Our mind needs to be trained to hear.

Romans 12:1-2

Read Again

Proverbs 16:3, 9

Amplified Bible

Psalms 45:1

Psalms 39:3

Joshua 1:8

As you meditate, after prayer or during prayer, listen. God will speak your thoughts.

He will seed your thoughts with His.

- 1) “Why did you doubt?”

Matthew 14:22, 25:31

Doubt – translates as “double” (root word), as to “double think” or “think twice”.

James 1:8

- 2) We are not robots. We live normal lives, but when God wants to speak, He will interrupt our normal.

For example: You need to know what to do. You have believed, now, go on about your routine, and listen.

The thought of:

- a) What to do
 - b) How to do
 - c) When to do
- 3) Luke 24:31-38 – Their thoughts troubled them.
 - 4) Meditation is another way God speaks to our thoughts.

Joshua 1:8

Read again

Psalms 19:14

Psalms 104:34

Psalms 77:12

Many of God's people are afraid of "meditation". God is the one that gave it as a vehicle toward obedience and successful action. But, the devil has perverted it.

REMEMBER: Our enemy, Satan, has never been an original in the things he says. He takes what is truth and perverts it.

A) An example of meditation God's way.

You sit totally quiet, remembering how good God has been; how He has moved for you; what His word says to you and about you. Then, suddenly, your thoughts become filled with an awesome peace and the calm, yet a powerful voice comes in your thoughts, directing or encouraging you.

B) David meditates:

2 Samuel 7:18

David laid aside battle plans, government plans and began to contemplate, meditate, on how to build God's temple.

C) Matthew 13:3 – "Thoughts" can be seen here.

Thoughts are seeds.

For example: God seeds our mind with His thoughts, but our enemy stands by to steal them as we speak them.

WARNING: Do not try to hear God in your thoughts, let Him, allow him to come in.

D) Isaiah 55:8-9 – Old Covenant

1 Corinthians 2:16 – New Covenant

There are multitudes of scriptures on this subject. Look them up and study them.

LESSON IV – VOLUME I

HOW DOES GOD SPEAK?

1) HIS WORD

Romans 15:4 - Read

John 10:1-5

There are many voices in the land and unless we “know God’s voice”

- A) He speaks and
- B) When He speaks

We could be swept away in deception if we do not know His voice.

A) The Word:

- 1) Logos – written word; “said word”.
- 2) Rhema – spoken word; living word; or “saying word”.

NOTE:	God word is:	His wisdom
		His thoughts
		His instruction
		His heart

Romans 15:4- Read Again

1 Corinthians 10:11

B) The Same Today

Words written nearly 2,000 years ago still speak loudly today.

- 1) God brings life or a quickening on or to a verse or context of scripture.

The Quickening – “A rush within”.

For Example: That verse now becomes “Rhema” or “the saying word”.

A) Rhema is: “Living Word”

“Saying Word”

“A specific word” ...to...

“A specific person” ...for...

“A specific situation”

Romans 10:17 - Read

- 2) “Quickening” on the word read

NOTE: We must be careful that “traditional doctrine” does not interfere with what God is saying by Rhema word.

For example: Trying to fit what He says in the framework of what we think or believe.

....Explanation needed here....

Example: Just opening the Bible and first verse you see you take as God speaking. That can happen, however...

A) Example: A situation of hopelessness comes, then, you are reading and the verses seem to leap off the page.

B) God's word always reveals that there is hope.

C) Learn to encourage yourself in the scriptures.

D) Example: A face of someone you know comes before you as you are reading a verse. They may be: ill, in trouble, need or etc.

3) Studying the word

2 Timothy 3: 15-17

4) Colossians 3:14-17

We can call this "Logos word" or "said word".

God speaks by His logos word for:

A) The way we are to live

B) The way we are to be

Rhema word is for:

A) Specific situation

- B) Specific time
- C) Specific instruction

Examples of Logos word can be found in:

- A) Galatians 5:22-23
- B) Matthew 5:3-12

5) God's word is already anointed, but when He desires to speak specifically through it, there seems to be life or power on a verse that is beyond normal.

6) God gives "directions" by Logos
and
He gives "inspiration and faith" by Rhema.

A) Acting on Logos produces RESULTS.

Acting on Rhema produces POWER and DELIVERANCE.

NOTE: Do not just take a verse at random and say, "This is God's Rhema to me." That can produce disappointment.

B) "Rhema word" means, God said this specifically to you.

For example: The word came alive and that promise, instruction or answer is yours.

C) We can claim promises and they will come to pass.

For example: Claim the Logos which will produce faith
then

when faith is conceived, it will produce the conditions of the promise or the willingness to walk it out.

D) There is a space between:

1) Believing what is promised, and

2) Receiving what is promised

E) Confessing the Logos will bring it around to Rhema when it is in line with the will of God for you.

F) Do not just name and claim, but “TALK IT AND WALK IT”.

G) Romans 4:17 – “He called those things which be not (are not yet) as though they were”

Romans 10:17 – “Faith cometh by hearing”

When God speaks His word and we believe it, we then should declare that Rhema word to our situation.

Proverbs 18:22 – “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.”

Declare, speak boldly what God has said by Rhema word and keep declaring it until it comes to pass.

Mark 11:23

Ezekiel 32: 4

LESSON V – VOLUME I

HOW DOES GOD SPEAK?

1) THROUGH PROPHETIC UTTERANCE

The old and new Testaments are filled with incidents, times and reasons where God spoke by “prophetic utterance”.

Legalism has tried to take that away from God’s people. Not just in the historic or mainline denomination, but in the full gospel movement as well.

Luke 11:52 - Read

A) Prophetic Utterance

Definition: God’s voice through the voice of man speaking audibly what He will do or wants done.

It normally comes without preparation on the part of the one who is being used –

- On the other hand –

It can also come through one writing what God says.

1) Prophets of old were used to give God’s “voice word” of instruction or rebuke or direction.

Today, in this Dispensation of Grace, God’s Prophets will speak, but always in the love and compassion of God.

A) “The Spirit of the Lord came upon...”

Literal translation is, "The spirit of the Lord clothed Himself with (whoever)".

2 Corinthians 15:1

1 Corinthians 12:18

Colossians 2:9 - Read

God clothes Himself with the flesh of Jesus.

B) 2 Chronicles 20:14 - Jehoshaphat

1 Chronicles 28: 10-13 - David gives plans for God's Temple

2 Chronicles 32:1-8 - Hezekiah

1 Kings 17:8-24 - Elijah gives personal Prophetic word to a widow

2 Kings 3:6-20 - Elisha gives Prophetic Utterance

NOTE: Through the Old Testament we see the awesome examples of God speaking through the mouths of His servant.

Prophetic Utterance is "God's Spirit clothing Himself with man in order to speak".

The Holy Spirit clothes Himself with the person and speaks what is in the mind and heart of God.

C) 2 Chronicles 24:20

The king had Prophet Zechariah stoned because of the Prophetic Utterance.

NOTE: There are too many times throughout scripture when God spoke by Prophetic Utterance to mention them all.

God did not speak through everyone nor was His anointing available to everyone like it is in the New Covenant.

In the Old Testament, if popel heard from God it was through His prophets. Know this, God has not done away with Prophets or Prophetic Utterance.

Religious, unlearned legalists will dispute that. But, God needs no defense for His actions, nor will He allow man to effectively deny His power.

1 Corinthians 13:9-10

D) Prophetic Utterance is "The Word of the Lord"

B) Joel 2:28-30

Acts 2

The prophesy for the early church and this end time hour and the glorious church has not ended, but is continuing to be fulfilled.

C) 1 Corinthians 12:6:11

God speaks through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

1) The Gifts of the Holy Spirit can be categorized:

Gifts of Prophecy

Gifts of Divers Tongues

Gifts of Interpretation of Tongues

2) Three gifts that do (power gifts)

Gift of Healing

Gift of Working of Miracles

Gift of Faith

3) Three gifts that reveal (revelation gifts)

Word of Knowledge

Word of Wisdom

Discerning of Spirits

4) Prophecy

Since we are talking about “Prophetic Utterance”, let us look at Prophecy

A) There is “The gift of Prophecy” spoken of in 1 Corinthians 12:10

Prophecy means:

1) To speak forth or declare

- 2) To speak or foretell future events by divine inspiration
- 3) To speak the heart, mind and plan of God
- 4) One Hebrew translation : To take that which is fallen behind and push it forth into the future.

NOTE: Just because one Prophesies by the Gift of Prophecy does not make him or her a "Prophet" or "Prophetess".

1 Corinthians 14:1

1 Corinthians 14:39

B) Ephesians 4:11-12

The ministry of the Prophet is in the category of "The Five Fold Ministry" or "The Five Ministry Gifts". These Gifts which will be discussed at the end of this lesson.

Many have confused these with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

For example: Anyone who is filled or baptized in or with the Holy Spirit can be used in the Gift of Prophecy as the Holy Spirit inspires.

BUT

Not just anyone can decide "I am a Prophet or Prophetess".

The ministry of a Prophet is divinely called and ordained of God and what that one prophesies will come to pass.

C) Purpose of Prophets in the New Testament Church

Ephesians 4:12

D) 1 Chronicles 12:18 - Read

For Example: "The Spirit of the Lord clothed Himself with Amasai".
(Hebrew)

E) How does one recognize a true Prophet?

F) How does one know when the Gift of Prophecy (1 Corinthians 12:10) will work?

G) What are the guidelines for allowing Prophecy of "The Gift of Prophecy" in the church?

1 Thessalonians 5:19-20

1 Corinthians 14:31

NOTE: Do not confuse the Interpretation of Tongues for Gift of Prophecy.

PROPHETIC UTTERANCE is another way God speaks to His children.

5) The Five Fold Ministry Gifts

Ephesians 4:11

Apostle

Prophet

Evangelist

Pastor

Teacher

IN THIS LESSON WE HAVE LEARNED A FEW OF THE WAYS GOD SPEAKS.