

Having Ears To Hear God

Based on the command of Christ #24(Pt.2) – “Hear God’s voice”.

Matthew 11:15 (NKJV) He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Deut 8:3 (NIV) He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

To build a relationship with God, we must hear His voice.

God is speaking 24 hours a day.

His proceeding word is always available.

“God does not speak intermittently, we hear intermittently” – Steve Sampson

The church has become de-sensitized to the voice of the Spirit.

Heb. 5:11- of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

Paul begins making comparisons of Jesus and Melchizedek.

He then digresses to complain of the low attainments of these Palestinian Christians.

He’s saying that It’s, “hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.”

So, instead of saying many things, he writes in comparatively few words.

Many in the church today have become dull of hearing.

The Spirit is unable to explain much.

We have to learn to hear by our spirit man, not our natural man!

Rom. 10:17 - “Faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God.”

Word = rhema (spoken, revealed by the Holy Spirit, not a physical transaction)

We are triune beings.

We are spirit beings, we have a soul and we live in a body.

1Thes 5:23 - May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Our body is world-conscious.

- It is corruptible and likened to machinery.
- It is lead by the five senses.
- It operates in the physical realm.

2. Our soul is self-conscious.

- It is our mind, our will and our emotions.
- It operates in accordance with feelings and reasoning.

3. Our spirit is God-conscious.

- It is the human spirit that communicates with God.
- Heavenly communication happens in the spirit realm!

Anything that God speaks to you, is not a product of your reasoning or thought processes!

1 Cor. 14:14 - For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.

Your spirit man resides deep within you.

John 7:37-39

37. On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.

38. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

39. By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

KJV - 38 - He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

koy-lee'-ah – belly, womb, heart, innermost being

Notice Jesus didn't say out of your head will flow rivers of living waters.

Your spirit is not in your head... it's your core!

It's not made up of physical matter.

It's of the unseen, not the seen.

Prov. 20:27 (NIV) - The lamp of the LORD searches the spirit of a man; it searches out his inmost being.

Prov. 20:27 (NKJ) - The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inner depths of his heart.

So, how does the Holy Spirit Communicate with us?

God speaks through...

1) The witness of the Holy Spirit

Rom 8:16 (NIV) - The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Rom 8:16 (KJV) - The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

A witness is a 'knowing' or a 'spirit connection' that God is confirming an answer.

It is like a light bulb turned in our spirit man.

You just suddenly know something.

When my wife and I graduated from Bible College, we had offers to work in several different churches or ministries, with pay I might add, but we both knew that we were supposed to go back and serve in our home church in Lake Charles for no pay.

God knew that we needed some more development and refinement and that was the place where it would happen.

No one told us that, we both just knew!

God had placed that "knowing" in our spirits!

It can be described as a flooding peace.

There is such a thing as a positive and negative witness.

With a negative witness, instead of feeling peace, you sense a sudden heaviness or dread in your spirit man.

Some describe this as a sinking feeling concerning what they are hearing.

It's really not a feeling at all, it's a knowing in your spirit!

1 Jn. 5:6 ... And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

God speaks through...

2) The revelation of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit gives specific revelation knowledge!

Ephesians 3:1-6.

1. For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles--
2. Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you,
3. that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.
4. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,
5. which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.
6. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

I Corinthians 12:8 - "For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit."

I Corinthians 2:9-10. "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him. *But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.*"

The word of the Lord is simple, but it's ramifications are profound!

The revelation of the Holy Spirit is simply knowing the thoughts of God.

Amos 4:13 - He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals his thoughts to man, he who turns dawn to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth-- the LORD God Almighty is his name.

Micah 4:12 - But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD, nor do they understand His counsel; for He will gather them like sheaves to the threshing floor.

Psalms 139:17 - How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

We can know the thoughts of God!

The Holy Spirit will speak with us this way.

We must fast from our own thoughts!

John 5:30 - By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

God's thoughts are higher, but they are obtainable.

Isa 55:8-9 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

He speaks simply, but the revelation to our inner man is profound!

God speaks through...

3) The instructive voice of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit speaks to us with his voice...

Sometimes it's a still small voice.

Acts 10:19-20

19. While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you.

20. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them."

Sometimes it's a more commanding voice!

Acts 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

The Holy Spirit will speak to us typically in our spirits, not audibly, so that our physical ears hear it, because He is not speaking to our brains.

1 Cor. 2:14 - The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Paul when he was Saul heard an audible voice, but he was not saved yet and his spirit had no ability to communicate with the Holy Spirit.

It was the person of Jesus Himself who spoke to Paul!

God speaks through...

4) The voice of the human spirit

Rom 9:1 - I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit,

Our inner man has a voice – it is the conscience.

This is how our spirit communicates to our soul.

When we listen to our spirit, then God has dominion in our life.

We are yielded to Him.

We find His perfect will for our lives.

This is why we must train our spirits to hear the Spirit of God, to be sensitive to the voice of the Lord.

Jesus said "He would send the Holy Spirit and He would lead us into all truth."

The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of truth.

So many Christians worry about whether they are doing the "right thing."

If we are correctly hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit, we are doing the "right thing", unless we are in rebellion.

God is imparting strategies to increase the Kingdom of God and our personal lives regularly.

God speaks through...

5) The Visions from the Lord.

Acts 2:17 - In the last days, God says, "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams."

Acts 9:10 - In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

Acts 10:3 - One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!"

Acts 10:9-19

9. About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray.

10. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance.

11. He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners.

12. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles of the earth and birds of the air.

13. Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."

14. "Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."

15. The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

16. This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

17. While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate.

18. They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there.

19. While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you."

Acts 16:9-10 - During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Acts 18:9-11

9. One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.

10. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city."

11. So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

There are many more!

God speaks through...

6) The Angels of the Lord

Acts 12:6-11

6. The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance.

7. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.

8. Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him.

9. Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision.

10. They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.

11. Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating."

There are also many more of those examples.

God speaks through...

7) The Prophets or Spokesmen of God

The Holy Spirit will speak prophetically to us through others.

Acts 2:18 - Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

Acts 11:27-28 - During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.)

Acts 21:10-11 - After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, `In this way the Jews of Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'"

God uses both men and women to prophecy!

Remember Acts 2:17 "...Your sons and daughters will prophesy,"

Acts 21:8-9 - Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven. He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.

And most importantly...

God speaks through...

8) The written Scripture

Every voice, vision or prophetic word must line up with the written Word of God!

If it doesn't, it must not be acted on!

Ephesians 3: 3 - that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.

2 Peter 1:19-21 2:1.

19. And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

20. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation.

21. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 2:1 - But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves.

II Peter 1:20, 21: "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

So God speaks in many different ways to us...

Ask Him to help you clearly discern when He is speaking to you and always be willing to obey!