



HEARING THE VOICE OF THE LORD

One of the most important experiences for every Christian in this hour, and certainly for every person who understands they have a prophetic call or ministry, is for us to learn how to hear the voice of the Lord because in Romans 8:14 it says “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God”.

Paul prayed, what to me is one of the most important Apostolic prayers in:

Ephesians. 1:17-18

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints...”

I believe that this is exactly what we need to appropriately understand how to hear the voice of the Lord. We need revelation, wisdom and understanding. Revelation is the method, or the channel that the Lord chooses to use to reveal His purpose to us. The following are a list of ways that the Lord has chosen to speak to me.

A. REVELATION

1. His Word

God speaks through His Word. His Word comes alive for us. He confirms his word with signs following. No matter how he speaks to me, one of the most important aspects of my hearing the voice of the Lord is that I bring it back to the Lord, to confirm the source, to know that I heard from God. God is the same yesterday, today and forever, but he is doing new things, and saying new things all the time. He puts his finger on revelation that is Rhema and now for man from the Word that makes the Word come alive for us personally, like “for such a time as this”. God maybe speaking new things to us individually or personally, but He is not going to contradict His word, so I test the Spirit and I test the Word, back to the more sure word of God.

2. Dreams and Visions

God certainly speaks to us through dreams and visions. He promised that in Acts 2:17-18, when Peter quoted the prophet Joel

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy

He didn't leave anyone out. It is His will that everyone hear His voice and prophesy. In **Job 33:14-16**

“For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed; Then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction..”

Throughout the word from the beginning right to the end, God has used dreams and visions and the revelatory realm to communicate with His people for personal direction, personal guidance, like He did with Paul in Acts 16 where He gave him the Macedonia vision, but also to guide the nations like he spoke to Moses, and through Moses to deliver the children of Israel from the hand of Pharaoh. It is the prophetic voice that He wants to use today to guide the church and to keep us from falling in the pit, and pitfalls of this world. He says in Numbers 12 vs. 6 *“Hear now my words, if there be a Prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known to Him in a vision and will speak unto him in a dream”*. He speaks to us in dreams in the deep of the night but also in the slumberings upon the bed. He knows moments right before you fall asleep and right when you wake up, fix your heart on the lord, communicate with Him then, quiet your Spirit before Him. Listen to Him instead of the self and Job 33 will come alive. Sometimes He speaks in open visions, open revelations, it is either when you see it or actually hear it, in the reality realm, in the natural realm. A closed vision is when you see it or hear it in the spirit.

3. Audible Voice

The audible voice of the Lord is an open revelation and many people that is the only way they think God speaks. From when I was first baptized in the Spirit in 1976 I have heard the Lord nearly every day and every night when I pray and when I sleep, but I have only heard his Audible voice only a handful of times. When he uses this method He does so for real impact. *“This is My Son in whom I am well pleased”*, but lets open our hearts to every way;. The Lord can speak to us and desires to communicate with us intimately. I can hear him as clearly during a walk in the park as all nature declares His glory. As I can on a busy street corner, or in the midst of a meeting, or trial or tribulation in my life. If I will only begin to tune in, if I can set my spiritual channel on the channel of the Spirit of the Lord, and plug into the power of the Holy Spirit, I get access to a whole revelatory realm, why would I just settle for a little, when the whole earth and all the heavens declare His glory.

4. Small Still Voice.

This is the way the Lord uses most often to speak to us, when we get a witness in our Spirit or a check in our Spirit, or we know in our heart that we heard Him directionally for

ourselves. This is also the area where we are most challenged for discernment. It is much easier to tell the voice of the enemy from the voice of God, more difficult to know whether it is me and my thought or whether the thought came from my God.

5. Preaching

In Luke 4:18 the word tells us that Jesus was anointed to preach. When someone is anointed to preach that means that the Holy Spirit takes the Word and amplifies it in the heart of man and clarifies it as well. Many times two people can listen to the same message yet we can hear it so differently for ourselves because under the unction of the Holy Spirit, preaching comes alive.

In 2 Peter 1:21,

“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

6. Prophetic Voices

God uses both personal and corporate prophecy, through individuals who operate through the gift of prophecy according to 1 Corinthians 12, which is available to all believers, or at times through men and women who are in a place of leadership in the office gift of the Prophet, according to Ephesians 4:11. Many times you can tell when the Office gift is in operation because of its depth, accuracy, authority, in sound and decree, but I personally don't move on the word of another man, and want to hear the voice of the Lord for myself and use the prophetic voice and prophetic word as confirmation.

7. Feelings (Physical)

Sometimes when I am preaching or pre-occupied mentally or emotionally in a task or function the Lord will speak to me in a physical feeling in my body. Sometimes it is for a word of Knowledge that God wants to heal because He sent His word and he healed His people. I have had times when I felt so out of sorts that I couldn't do something that I actually wanted to do and the Lord was trying to alter my path, my steps, my choices. Example, I had a friend who had a physical symptom in his body, so significant that he went to the Doctor for treatment and when he went, the Doctor found out that he had something totally unrelated to the original symptoms. So in reality He prompted to him, in that original symptom, so that he could be treated for a more threatening situation.

8. Emotions

Again, many times He will speak to me in my emotional feelings when I'm not really fully in tune or paying attention. Sometimes I will walk into a meeting and I feel depressed, and I'm not given to depression or moody or angry. What I am doing is sensing the spirit that is in the house and he is using my gift of Discernment of Spirits to do spiritual warfare, either intercession, or deliverance, or to prophetically speak of how we are to fight or what the enemy really is.

B. UNDERSTANDING/INTERPRETATION.

Paul prayed we would have a Spirit of understanding as well, and we need to have understanding and knowledge about the way God speaks, but also how to interpret what He is speaking to us because many times the Lord speaks to us in allegories, symbols, colours and parables. For example: In speaking in symbols, it goes beyond our natural languages. If you see the symbol on the door to a men's room or ladies room, you may not understand English, but when you see the symbol of a woman, you know it's purpose, or handicap symbol, or the universal symbols of stop signs, or yield. Symbolic interpretation, many times, just transcends our natural languages, and the Lord speaks to us in those ways. When I receive a revelation, a dream or a vision, a word from the Word, I write it down and date it, bring it back to God, pray it back to Him, seek Him for the interpretation. The interpretation of dreams or visions is not a science that you can specifically point to. God is a personal God. Many times He will speak to us in our personal experiences, different that He would speak to someone else. My wife Mave, was in the restaurant business for 20 years, and I was involved in sports and athletics. Many times He will speak to me in dreams of golf or baseball, but I remember once He spoke to my wife and said that He was an apple pie, and she was an apple dumpling. The only thing I know about apple pie and apple dumpling is about how to eat it. But she knew that all the ingredients in the apple dumpling were also in the apple pie, so she had everything that was in God, in His likeness and image and it spoke wonders to her.

He knows every place that we have ever been, what we have ever done, every relationship we have ever had, every voice we have ever heard and it is all recorded in the heart of God in eternity and He can play it back in a way that we can always understand. But most of the time when he speaks to me symbolically, when the natural interpretation does not want to work for me, or doesn't seem applicable, then I know he is prompting me to a deeper place of relationship and I have to seek him for the interpretation, because I have not, because I ask not. And the greater blessing always comes to the seeker.

I wrote a book in 2005, called Night Watch, Unlocking your Destiny through Dreams and Visions, which I think can be a great help to you if you receive revelation and don't quite understand how to interpret it. In this book I put a section on dream symbols that may help you to develop a vocabulary and a dialogue with the Lord. You can order this book right on our Website www.eagleworldwide.com , or call our office at 905-308-9991.

Most importantly, I record everything and pray it back to Him and spend time trying to find out exactly what He is trying to tell me.

C. WISDOM

The Word of God says that wisdom is the principal thing, and it is the principal thing when it comes to understanding the voice of the Lord. When the Lord speaks to me, I have to know that he is doing it with purpose and design, but when I get the revelation the first place that I need wisdom is in discerning the Spirit, testing the Spirit. Not every voice I hear, or every thought I think is from God. In checking the source it can be:

1. From God by the power of the Holy Spirit,

John 14:26. *“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you*

2. From man. Many times from my own thoughts, emotions, problems of the day, concerns and burdens that are on my heart, or even from my own desires I know that thoughts can be birthed and revelation can come forth. Some people have lots of pizza dreams, not always because they eat pizza, but that they really come from their own thoughts and emotions. I have to get a witness in my spirit, I need to test it by the Spirit, and my spirit will bear witness to it. Sometimes we test it to our own flesh, our own soul, something we wanted to hear, or something we wanted to do. When I receive a revelation that makes me tingly all over, because it is what I wanted I go out of my to test that Spirit by the spirit of God, and back to the Word of the Lord.

3. Satan or demonic spirits and all of us have heard from the demonic realm and at times can fall under the influence of those spirits. In Luke 4:1, Jesus was led by the Spirit of God into the wilderness. In Luke 4:2, the Word tells us that He fasted for 40 days, was tempted by the devil and the first voice that He heard in verses 3-6 was not the voice of God, but the voice of Satan. He opposed him with the word. We need to discern the source, know if it is unbiblical, and then fight Him with the truth of the Word, or if it is immoral, God is not going to tell us to do something that is immoral.

4 Angelic visitation/Third heaven revelation. Throughout the word, God sent angels, and brought men of God like Paul to high places in revelation, but we need to know that there is also an Angel of Light. Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, had what he described as an angelic visitation, but you have to know what the angel said, and it has to bear witness with your spirit and be backed up with the Word of God. I read about this encounter Joseph Smith had, and I’m here to tell you that Moroni is full of baloney.

These are the four ways that we test the Spirits and check the source, but I also need to have wisdom in knowing what God wants me to do with the revelation. Does he want me to prophesy, is He telling me for my own personal direction, Does? He want me to use it for intercession for another person or for the church. I need to have wisdom to know what to do with the revelation and interpretation that God has given me.

Finally, I need to have wisdom concerning the timing of the fulfillment of the revelation, and the timing for me to act prophetically. We that hear the voice of the Lord are supposed to seek Him for the times and seasons, not just the mysteries. The prophet tells us in:

Habakkuk 2:3: *“for the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak”.*

I don’t want to be a moment too soon, or a moment too late. Our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He is the God of Elijah, He is the on-time God, the show-up God. He showed

up for Elijah, He is no respecter of persons, He will show up for you as well. I'm not the one who chooses the times and the seasons, but He is. He measures time in eternity, man measures it in days, hours and minutes. In Daniel 2:21, 22, let me paraphrase; It is He that changes the times and seasons, it is He that removes and sets up kings, it is He that gives wisdom to the wise, and knowledge to them that understand. It is He that reveals the deep secrets. He is the One who reveals the things in darkness and brings them to light.

I pray the prayer that Paul prayed, that God may give you revelation and wisdom and understanding, that He would truly guide you and direct you by the power of His Spirit. I pray that the Gift of Prophecy will be stirred afresh in your heart and that He would put a hunger inside of you to seek Him, to thirst for His presence and His power. I pray that He would raise you up as an end-time warrior, in power and understanding to do mighty exploits and signs and wonders in His name. Jesus' name. Amen.

God bless you,

Brother Russ Moyer