

## HEARING GODS VOICE 2

*The Principles of Hearing God's Voice*

### INTRODUCTION

Much of this message is inspired by Joy Dawson's book *Ruined For The Ordinary*

### THE STILL SMALL VOICE

Before going through the actual steps of *hearing* God's voice, we need to focus how we experience God's "still small voice."

**1 Kings 19.11-12** *Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; <sup>12</sup> and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.*

*"The Spirit is not mute, restricting himself to an occasional nudge, a hot flash, a brilliant image or a case of goosebumps." (Dallas Willard)*

**The still, small voice of The Lord looks and sounds like:**

**(1) A 'peace' or a 'dispeace'**

**(2) A mental image or impression of a 'Yes' or a 'No'**

**(3) A mental image or impression of a Bible passage**

- Psalm 119.133, *"Direct my steps by your word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me."*
- Psalm 119.35, *"Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight."*

**(4) A surprising idea that you wouldn't have thought of** (this can confirm that your emotions are not involved)

**(5) A sentence that appears on the screen of your mind like the typing on a computer screen** [John Wimber]

### STEPS TO HEARING GOD'S VOICE

**STEP ONE: Always start by praising God for who He is.**

- The pattern here is the Lord's Prayer. Jesus taught us to always start by getting God into our view: *Our Father who is in heaven. Holy is your name...*

**STEP TWO: Yield yourself to the Holy Spirit.**

**James 4.6-7** *God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore submit to God.*

**Romans 6.13:** *Present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life.*

**Ephesians 5.18:** *Be filled [continuously under the control of] The Spirit*

Prayer: "In this moment of listening to You Father God, I yield myself to Your Holy Spirit, wanting only that which will glorify Jesus."

**STEP THREE: Ask The Holy Spirit to show you any unconfessed sin.**

**Psalm 66:18:** *"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."*

- This word *iniquity* does not encompass just any sin, but specifically those sins we know to be there, yet stubbornly refuse to confront.

**Isaiah 59:2: “But your iniquities have separated you from your God...so that He will not hear.”**

- True - but let's understand it in context.
- To be justified means He has unconditionally accepted those surrendered to Christ.
  - God knows all the future sins we are going to commit and sets His love on us anyway.

**Lamentations 3:44 “You have covered yourself with a cloud so that no prayer can get through.”**

- Yet, this is actually an act of love on God's part.
  - It ensures we aren't open to deception

Wisdom Points

**Don't go 'looking for sin.'**

- God wants to reveal unconfessed sin in you more than you even want it revealed.

**Allow The Spirit time to convict you as you worship God.**

- Just spend time worshiping the Lord, focusing on Him, allowing the Holy Spirit to bring any sin to the surface
- If the issue brought to mind requires some restitution – making it right with someone – simply write it down, and commit to the Lord you'll follow through as soon as you can.

**Give The Holy Spirit adequate time to convict.**

- Not accustomed to doing this? Spend a half-hour just waiting on God with a pad of paper
- Come before the Lord for a “daily cleansing.”
- We must always keep before us the wise distinction between conviction and condemnation.
  - When the Lord convicts, there will always be a sense of hope. True conviction motivates us to confess and change. We are energized because we don't feel condemned.

**Because we are new creations in Christ [2 Cor. 5:17], our motivation to confess sin is not shame or guilt; it is the pain of disrupted intimacy with Jesus.**

- But this assumes one all important thing: that a person who has truly surrender to Christ will be overwhelmed by the love FOR Christ!
- When we came to Christ, we acknowledged our sin because we DID feel shame and we DID feel guilt. Yet, because our response to sin was based in shame and guilt before our relationship with Christ, we have a very difficult time re-orienting ourselves to a new motivation to deal with sin. Shame and guilt were appropriate motivators BEFORE WE CAME TO CHRIST, BUT NOW we are intimate with Christ! Godly sorrow is not the result of shame and guilt but disrupted intimacy with Jesus!

**Because we have been declared righteous, we no longer deal with sin to gain access to God's presence; we are now free to deal with sin in God's presence... but we still must deal with sin.**

**STEP FOUR: Silence the devil's voice.**

**James 4:7, “Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”**

- Always resist the devil with the Word of God, even as Jesus did when tempted in the wilderness.

**Jude 1.8-9: “When the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.”**

- You resist, the Lord rebukes

**Prayer: "I resist you Satan, The Lord rebuke you! In Jesus' name and by His authority I declare you cannot counterfeit God's peace, or distract me from His voice, or imitate His voice, or interrupt my spiritual birthright as God's child to hear His voice." (2 Cor. 10:3,4; Is. 54:17; Lk. 10:19)**

- NOTE: Make sure you renounce all involvement with the occult no matter how trivial.

**STEP FIVE: Ask God to silence your own voice.**

- At this point as we wait on God, it is important to focus on ourselves, bringing our will into conformity to the will of God.

**Isaiah 55.8: "As high as the heavens are above the earth, so are His thoughts above ours."**

**Proverbs 28.26, "He who trusts in his own mind is a fool."**

- This is why it is important to seek The Lord in detail.

**Proverbs 3.5-6, "Trust in the lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding or insight; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths."**

- Since our natural mind can so deceive us, we need to seek God in detail. Our desires, reasons, ambitions, emotions

**Jeremiah 17.9-10: "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind..."**

**Prayer: "Lord I choose to die to my own reasons, feelings, desires, and fears. I know that Your thoughts are so much higher than my thoughts. Therefore I ask you as a miracle of your grace to conform my thoughts to what your thoughts are about this situation. You have said that if we ask you for bread, you will not give us a stone. I ask you to silence my voice in this moment." (Matthew 7.7-11)**

Note: This requires faith – we can't 'crucify' ourselves as it were. Picture of you crucifying yourself... even if you could stand the pain, you would still have one hand dangling. That's why it requires faith.

**To allow The Spirit to silence your voice, picture yourself surrendering to Christ's surrender.**

**Romans 6.4-5: We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.**

- We are not just baptized into Christ's death, but we're also baptized into Christ's total surrender to the Father.
- The cross is not just Christ's sacrifice for our sins; it is His ultimate example of how He surrendered to the Father.
- We have been baptized into this complete surrender to the Father. To allow The Spirit to silence your voice, see yourself in the moment coming to God empty handed, holding nothing dear but the desire to be fully yielded to Him
  - Therefore there should be no power of sin that can maintain its grip on us. To be baptized into utter surrender, is to abandon ourselves to apparent failure, rejection, misunderstanding, mission. That is what Jesus took upon himself at the cross. He did not just take on our sins; he took on our condition, our predicament, our enslavement.

Picture yourself surrendering to Christ's surrender: "Whatever it is I am desiring, I accept not receiving it. Whatever direction I desire, I accept God telling me to go the opposite. I will not attempt to generate faith and I will not attempt to generate hope... I am like my Master in this moment: a slain lamb."

**If you have silenced Satan's voice, and God has silenced your voice, what voice is left? God's voice. Therefore, have the faith to believe that *that* which comes into your mind next is the voice of God.**

### **HOW TO LISTEN WELL (More Wisdom Points)**

We need to be mindful when asking God for confirming scriptures. Though the Word can be a rich source of guidance, we do well to remember the following guidelines:

**If God gives us a scripture the meaning will be obvious. We won't have to "wrestle from the text" a meaning that is not there.**

### **Always interpret the scripture you get by the question you have asked God**

- We must ask ourselves 'What was my original question?'
  - It's best to approach the Lord like David did: "*Shall I go up?*" (1 Chronicles 14, which we shall look at in more detail in the next study) rather than "*What should I do?*" Asking binary questions (yes/no questions) helps us better discern the still small voice.

**Often, when God speaks through Scripture, He will give you book and chapter and the answer will be in the chapter.**

**If you get a Scripture that makes no sense, take time to walk through the steps again very slowly. If you sense God's peace, just conclude that God is not ready to reveal anything to you yet.**

- If we receive a scripture that makes absolutely no sense and bears no connection to the issue we are praying about, it doesn't mean that God hasn't spoken – it's just an indication it is not His time to reveal an answer.
  - We should diligently seek God, but never push to get answers.

**If no clear impression comes, it does not mean God isn't guiding. His silence is often an indication that it is not His time to speak about the issue we're bringing to Him.**

**Never play Bible Roulette with scripture. Never just open the Bible, see where your eyes land, and pick a verse at random.**

**When it comes to seeking God's guidance about key decisions, never go on the Scripture alone. Let God confirm it in other ways, too.**