

## Foundations of Freedom – Hearing God

Hearing God's voice is about 3 things: God wants us to know...

- 1) Who we are.
- 2) Who He is in us and who we are in Him.
- 3) How to connect with Him as our Source and letting go of knowledge as our source.

2 Timothy 3:16

***All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness.***

- 1) Teaching is about presenting God to man.
- 2) Reproof refers to dealing with character issues.
- 3) Correction refers to false doctrines.
- 4) Training in righteousness refers to our right standing with God through Jesus.

Hebrew 4:12

***For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.***

John 5:37-40

***And the Father who sent me has Himself borne witness about me. His voice you have not heard, His form you have never seen and you do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe The One whom he has sent. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.***

When the Bible is referring to the written word it describes itself as scripture or the law and the prophets as Jesus did. When the Bible refers to the Word and Yahweh it is talking about the person of God we know as Jesus.

The Word of God in both forms has power. Our word has no power other than what we give it unless we are plugged in to God as our Source for life and power. The word of God is the only word that has the power to fulfill itself.

This is because the language God speaks is reality. Our use of language is a description of what has been or is being created from what already exists. Therefore, the language we speak is symbolic for what already exists. God's language is not symbolic. When God spoke in the beginning what was invisible became visible. When God spoke about stars and planets, stars and planet came out of His mouth.

In Romans, Chapter 4, God calls into existence that which is not and brings life to the dead. When God says Peace, be still. He isn't presenting a concept. He is speaking a tangible reality of peace upon you, inside and around you. The Word of God contains the very thing it describes. God is not trying to convince us what He is saying is true. He speaks; it exists as reality & truth.

Hebrews 11:3

***By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.***

God is our supply and our Source. When we go to God for instruction and direction we perceive God's language to be descriptive like ours is. In this instance a thing to do. We often forget God is not describing He is saying it is. Changing our understanding from how we use language to how God uses language opens us up to a whole new dimension for what our reality is today.

The Word of God contains the life, the power, the love, the peace, the joy, the completeness of who we are. The Word of God is more than printed words on a page, a document or a book. The Word is not an expression of an idea, but the reality of the idea.

Romans 10:8-10

***But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.***

The Word of God is the expressed nature of God in reality not a concept. It is when we separate God's nature, His heart from the Scriptures that God's Word fails as truth. We don't have the power to speak reality. When we separate the two we are presenting the concept from our understanding.

God's Word speaks life in us and yet how many of us have experienced God's Word being presented in a way that tears down, destroys and kills the hope and joy God is giving us in our circumstance or situation at that time?

It is because God's language is reality that hearing the voice of God is revelation to us. God is not sharing an idea with us. He is saying what is. This is how our wrong thinking and wrong believing are changed. God moves us from our idea or concept into His reality.

***As a person thinks in their heart, so are they.*** Read the story of Gideon, a man God called brave of heart in Judges 6-8.

As we connect with God we are beginning to change the way we look at reality. Our focus is changing from our knowledge as our source to our God and Creator as our true Source. We have been learning in the previous lessons there is a way of seeing and a way of knowing. Now we are learning there is a way of hearing as well.

Roman 10:17

***So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.***

We are created to take dominion over creation as God's representative. Jesus lived by every word that proceeded from the mouth of God. We are designed to live this way. The decisions of our will become motivated by the presence of God with us and in us not by our own efforts.

Consider: If God is not speaking to you, perhaps you are asking the wrong question.

What if we are asking God what to do and where to go while God wants to speak to us about what we believe and who we are? When this happens we are not receiving what God is saying to us and we think He is not talking to us at all. Our frustration because we think God is not listening is really because we aren't listening.

One of the most important aspects of hearing God's voice is that we are drawn into a relationship with two way communication. We are receiving the reality, our truth, of who we are, who God is and how He sees us and operates in our lives.

### Ways that we hear God

\*Scripture is our primary way for understanding who God is, how He thinks and what His plans for us are. The Bible is filled with ways that God has spoken to man throughout history.

Jerimiah 33:3

***'Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'***

\*Another way is through teachers and preachers that are proclaiming the Word of God. Out of their mouth God is speaking to your inner man. If He is not then all you have is the word of the man not God through man. When knowledge is our source this can be harder to discern.

\*A prophetic word is when someone who has heard the Lord speaks and proclaims it out loud to another. This can be for an individual or a group.

\*Personal revelation and ways to discern if it is God or not God

God is communicating with us in a spirit to spirit exchange. He is not necessarily trying to pass on information, but changing the way we see. Our challenge is that we are familiar with knowledge as our source and want to filter God through our mind. Our mind is not made to contain God so He bypasses the mind and communicates from His heart to our spirit.

The way we translate what God is saying is often a reality more than it is a word. An impression, a picture or a sense of... that is not easy to describe in words. Our inner man, our soul and spirit, translates what God has given us into a form of communication that we are able to process and understand in our mind. The mind is where all three; body, soul and spirit connect.

Our translation often comes to us in our preferred method of communication style as auditory, visual or kinesthetic. We can operate in all three yet we have one that is most comfortable for us. An auditory tends to have sounds and words they connect to what God is saying. A visual often sees pictures or has a vision. A kinesthetic often has an impression and a sense of what is the right thing to do or the next move for them. Most importantly we can accept that God is not limited in His ability to communicate His heart to us. Are we listening?

\*Other biblical examples are a finger writing on the wall; Balaam's donkey talking to him.

### 3 tests to verify: Am I hearing God?

- 1) Does what I've seen, heard or sensed line up with the Bible and the nature of God?
- 2) Does my word from God produce the fruit of the Spirit in me described in Galatians 5:22  
Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, mercy and self-control
- 3) John 8:32 *"The truth you know shall set you free."*  
All truth has the ability to set people free. Does what you have been given have a sense of releasing you? This is about being released from the power a circumstance or situation has over you. This is not necessarily changing the situation or circumstance, but changing you in it.

What do we do when we hear God? What is our part after we hear His voice?

Our part is confession; we are speaking and or doing what we have heard from God.

We tend to only associate confession with sin. This is just a small piece of the whole for what the blessing of confession is designed to accomplish with us, in us and through us.

In Romans 10:8-10 we learned that confessing our belief in Jesus has eternal rewards. The word of our testimony is confessing; we are telling our story.

God knows the motives behind our thoughts and choices. When we confess, are we confessing our compassion, our need or our agenda? How often do we go to the Lord with our own agenda and yet we present it as if it's His idea so He needs to help us with it? When we are confessing our thoughts and ideas instead of God's reality to us and for us we are only confessing our word with no power.

When we let God reveal to us the motives in our own heart we can let them go with His help. As we do this we are able to seek God and what His word and agenda are for us this day, at this time. When we do this we are able to confess through words, action or both flowing in the power of God as our Source. The Word of God is more than just labels and language. It is power and creativity. If you know who I AM, you would ask and I will give you Rivers of Living Water.

We hear and believe and speak and/or act. Confession begins with God and is fulfilled by God.

The difference of a faith statement is that we hear, believe and agree. Check out the difference in how Zechariah in Luke 1:5-25 and then Mary in Luke 1:26-42 responded to the angel Gabriel as the Lord's messenger. When Mary believed Gabriel and confessed her agreement with God's will for her could very well be the moment she was impregnated by the Holy Spirit.

When we agree and confess the very power of God is being extended toward us as it come to us, flows in us and through us we are being empowered in our life, our anointing and our purpose. Rivers of Living Waters flow...

We want to keep the flow of God's power going through us to others. When we stop the flow to others before long we have dammed up the river and we no longer have God's power continuing

to flow to us. Consider the Dead Sea. The Jordan River, water with life in it flows into the Dead Sea, but there is no outlet resulting in a dead sea.

The kingdom of God comes to me, inhabits me and flows through me as I express God's heart.

Have you noticed how God seems to break through to us in our moments of being still while rushing to accomplish whatever task is pressing us? We are stopped at a red light, in the middle of the night, taking a bath or doing a mundane chore; times when we are slowing the pace in our mind God shows up with a revelation of His reality for us. Often with the very word we have been longing for and needing.

When we really believe God is for us and wants the best for us, trusting that His best is on time and on target for the destiny we have been created for, it is easier to let the quiet in our mind and environment happen. We are not busy trying to fill the void with noise and movement because we are afraid of what we might hear. In the quiet if what we hear is condemning, creates anxiety or holds fear this is not from God. We need to tell that, whatever it is, to go away.

We can all hear God. Sometimes we don't recognize that God is talking to us because it doesn't happen to line up with how we think God will talk to us; or it is not happening in a way we thought it would or even how we think He should talk to us. Our biggest challenge in this situation is that we are most likely trying to connect God talking to us with what our knowledge of good is.

When we get a Scripture we want to verify it is from God.

When you read the verse(s) does it bring life, release you from something even an idea; free you and encourage you? If so, then this is from God.

If what you read puts you down, belittles you putting you in a corner and condemns you this is not from God. Our Perfect Father does not talk to His children in this way.

If when we read the Scripture it seems flat and dead and there just doesn't seem to be life in it this could just be our knowledge of good. If this is the case we want to ask God what He wants to say about that Scripture to us.

As we practice hearing God's voice this becomes easier and more comfortable for us to receive what God's good for us is this day. Our God says, I have many plans, plans for your good and not plans for your harm. In this we want to remember God is always looking at us from our destiny not our history. You have nothing to make up for, this has already been taken care of by our God who loves you completely.

Let's take a moment and ask God what He wants to say to us.