

Teaching Syllabus:

HEARING GOD--Week 1

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Welcome to "Hearing God." Our goal and desire in the weeks that follow is to teach you how to "hear God" more effectively. Jesus said in John 10:27:

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

Every Believer under the authority of Jesus Christ has been given the privilege and opportunity to "hear the voice" of the Great Shepherd. God desires each of us to "hear His voice," so we may effectively "follow him" wherever He leads us. The key to the victorious Christian life is "hearing and doing" whatever Jesus says to do (John 2:5 KJV). Learning to hear is a process, and we grow from faith to faith, grace to grace, and glory to glory in our walk with Jesus Christ. Often God is speaking to us, but we don't yet know it's Him speaking. To help in this process, the following is a list of ways in which the Bible records God speaks to His children. God Speaks in at least 25 Different ways:

- 1). "Quickens" us through the Written Word (Psalms 119:25,50,107) (KJV).
- 2). Unction of the Holy Spirit within us (I John 2:20) (KJV).
- 3). Perceiving (Acts 27:10) (KJV).
- 4). Still Small Voice (I Kings 19:12) (KJV).
- 5). Bearing witness with our spirit (Romans 8:16).
- 6). Songs in the Night (Job 35:10).
- 7). In our Ear as we wake in the morning (Isaiah 50:4) (KJV).
- 8). In our Ear as we sleep in the night (Job 33:16) (KJV).
- 9). Visions (John 5:19) (Daniel 4:5) (Acts 10:10).
- 10). Dreams (Acts 2:17) (Matthew 1:20; 2:13, 20, 22) (Job 33:14-16).
- 11). Glimpses in the Spirit (John 5:19) (I Corinthians 13:12).
- 12). Trances (like Peter received) (Acts 10:10) (KJV).
- 13). Through Messenger Angels (Acts 27:23-25) (Luke 1:12-20; 1:26-38).

- 14). Visitations of the Lord (Acts 9:3-7) (John 14:21; 20:26-28).
- 15). Through Signs and Wonders (Acts 2:22; 20:30-31) (2 Kings 20:8-11).
- 16) Through our Five Spiritual Senses (2 Kings 2:15) (KJV).
- 17) We hear incompletely (I Corinthians 13:9) (KJV).
- 18). Through Dark Speech (Numbers 12:8) (KJV).
- 19). We don't hear, but the Spirit intercedes for us (Romans 8:26) (KJV).
- 20). Through interpretation of tongues (ours or others) (I Corinthians 14:5, 13-15).
- 21). The Audible Voice of God (Is. 30:21)(Numbers 12:8).
- 22). Through Animals (Num. 22:28-30) (Balaam's Donkey).
- 23). Through other People (Proverbs 15:23)(Isaiah 50:4).
- 24). In Response to our own idols (Ezekiel 14:1-4) (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12).
- 25). Through False prophets to "test us" (Deuteronomy 13:1-5)(2Chronicles 18:18-22).

The above 25 ways in which God speaks provides a strong Scriptural foundation to work with as we study the subject of "Hearing God" more deeply in the weeks ahead. As you grow and mature in the Lord, more effectively hearing our Shepherd's voice, be encouraged to invite others to join us as we learn how to distinguish God's voice from all the other voices of the world (1 Corinthians 14:10) (KJV).

## 7 REASONS WE DON'T HEAR GOD SPEAKING

(With Scriptural Cures for Each)

The Bible indicates there are several reasons for not hearing God speak. These can also hinder or distort our God-given ability to hear His voice accurately. These are fairly evident and self-explanatory. For additional study, please refer to listed Scriptures.

- 1). Unrepentant Sin (Isaiah 59:1-2)

-- Cure is Repentance and Confession (1John 1:9-10), (Psalms 51:1-19)

2). Unbelief (John 6:40) (Mark. 6:1-3)

-- Cure is Repentance (1John 1:9-10) and asking God to "help our unbelief" (Mark 9: 24)

3). Feelings of Unworthiness

--Cure is knowing the Truth (Romans 8:1), (1John 3:20-21)

4). Unforgiveness (Mark 11:25)

--Cure is forgiving (Mark 11:26), (Matt 6:12)

5). Anger Towards God (Romans 8:6-8)

--Cure is Repentance and asking God for His love in our hearts (1John 1:9-10; 4:19)

6). Fear (Proverbs 29:25)

--Cure is Repentance and asking God for His love and faith in place of fear (1John 4:17-18), (2Timothy 1:7), (2Corinthians 4:13)

7). Idolatry (Ezekiel 14:1-4) (2Thessalonians 2:10-12)

--Cure is Repentance and asking God to cleanse you from idols, hidden sin and secret faults (Psalms 51:1-19), (Psalms 19:12-13)

#### 7 KEYS TO PROPERLY HEARING GOD

Now that we've covered the many ways in which God speaks, as well as how to administer what He says unto others, let's move forward and learn 7 Helpful Keys to Hearing God.

Key # 1 -- Dwell in His Presence

As we cultivate the presence of the Lord in our lives, we are made more aware of when God speaks. This often occurs naturally as we spend consistent time with Him devotionally. This may begin with 15 minutes a day at first, then develop into 30 minutes, then 45 minutes and then an hour or two. This devotional time may include a time of singing unto the Lord, worship, devotional reading, study of Scripture and prayer. As we spend consistent time in His presence, we will find that true prayer with God is not just a "monologue" (one way communication. telling God all our problems. petitions and needs). Genuine prayer is a "dialogue" (two way communication, whereby God speaks back to us and imparts His love, truth, plans, knowledge, wisdom and understanding, as well as correction and instruction)(see Psalms 91).

## Key # 2 -- Focus on God's Purposes

As we cultivate a deepening commitment to the purposes of God, we position ourselves to receive prophetic revelation from Him. Amos 3:7 says, "God will do nothing except He reveal it to His servants, the prophets." Part of being prophetic is being a servant of the Lord. A servant's highest goal is to see his Master's purposes succeed. Before we go out each day, we should first ask Him to reveal His plan and our part in helping Him accomplish it for the furtherance of His Kingdom.

## Key # 3 -- Ask God Continually

The Lord desires to give us the Kingdom (Luke 12:32). Like any parent, He loves when we are eager and hungry to help others. If we ask the Lord for prophetic revelation in order to minister to others He will speak to us (see Colossians 1:9-13)(Jeremiah 33:3) (Proverbs 25:2) (Matthew 7:7-8).

## Key # 4 – Grow in Love Towards Others

The Spiritual Gifts are given so that we can effectively minister God's grace to others. True discernment is a by-product of Godly love (Philippians 1:9). Faith works by love, and as we grow in love for others, we are positioning ourselves to receive prophetic revelation.

## Key # 5 -- Check if God is speaking to through your physical body (five spiritual senses):

Whenever entering a meeting or ministry situation, or talking with someone, it is wisdom to do an initial "body check." Recognize that God may give you an impression in your spirit, soul, or body. Then, while ministering, make yourself aware of your total being and be open to God using "impressions" to get your attention and speaking to you about a person or situation.

## Key # 6 -- Seek God through Prayer and Fasting

Isaiah 58: 9,11 promises us that "prayer and fasting" will release God's answer to our "our cry," and that the Lord will "guide us continually." Jesus told his disciples that some things come forth only by "prayer and fasting" (Mark 9:29) (KJV).

## Key # 7 -- Become A Lover Of God's Written Word

The Bible is our "more sure word of prophecy" (2 Peter 1:19-21). If we love God's written word and feed our soul on it, we will begin to grow in our sensitivity to His speaking word as well. Knowing his written

Word will also enable us to hear Him more clearly when He communicates through "dark sayings" or "in riddles" that need interpretation (Numbers 12:8) (KJV). Then the Holy Spirit will "illuminate" our understanding and "bring all things into remembrance" that God has spoken to us (John 14:26).