

Session 3 – Extra notes - Hearing from God in the everyday and in the prophetic

We believe in the sufficiency of scripture in all things pertaining to the spiritual life and godliness, but the truth is you aren't going to find what car to buy, what job to take, who to marry, or where to move house to in the Scriptures etc. The Bible doesn't have answers in that way but thankfully we have a living God who still speaks by His Spirit, and He has all the answers.

One of the ways you will know the voice of God is through the scriptures. Here is an important principle. The Word which is quick, powerful, alive, sharp, discerning (Heb 4:12) etc is the scripture that the Holy Spirit is **currently animating with His life, power and directive presence**. That's when we hear God through the Bible. It might come through anointed preaching or teaching, or through times when we seek God on our own. It is that God breathed word that is transformative. Anyone can memorise whole portions of scripture but that doesn't mean they are hearing God and being transformed by it.

AW Tozer speaks of two voices in the scripture, the voice of the parent and the voice of the turtledove within Scripture. Not the voice of the parrot! There is no life, no power, no guidance, no strength in parroting scripture if there is no Holy Spirit upon it! Faith without works is dead. If Father is a distant deaf-mute who throws His book at us then barks, "leave me alone, just read the book", it would be hugely inconsistent with how He communicated with Jesus!

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17). The Word "hearing" here in passage refers to the present continuous tense.

Present simple: I hear

Present continuous: I am hearing

Present perfect: I have heard

Present perfect continuous: I have been hearing

Also,

In the beginning was the WORD and the WORD was with God and the WORD was God. John 1:1

And the Word BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. V14

So we receive faith when we are actively hearing the living Word Jesus and the Holy Spirit activated scripture. This happens in relationship. Jesus said I don't say anything unless I HEARD the Father say it and don't do anything unless I SEE the Father doing it. This is a great way of understanding the faith He walked in. Faith came in His relationship with Father as He heard what He was currently saying!

It is the normal function of a born again, spirit filled person to be hearing from God. In fact you are more likely to be hearing from God than not hearing from God! God is communing and communicating WITH your born-again Spirit. The deposit of the indwelling Christ within you! This is the gift of God (and We will come to him and make Our home with him. John 14:19-23)

Accuracy of hearing and delivering prophetic utterance

If you're eating the grass around the stump, eat the grass and leave the stump!



Right from the off, we must be humble enough to recognise that each one of us will be accurate in part and inaccurate in part. Sometimes even within the same utterance! Even for the most practiced accurate prophetic people there will often be something of what makes them human in that utterance (it might be a worldview, a prevailing theology, an emotional leaning/desire etc. The glory shines from a broken vessel). For the prophetic speaker, we cannot allow fear of making a mistake stop us from responding to His leading. For the prophetic receiver, we need to learn to receive the word with humility and eat the grass and leave the stump!! What do I mean by that?

Sometimes the word we give or receive is inaccurate (It doesn't witness with us or those who weigh it). However, if it is shared in love, we can always receive the love even if we leave the message (if it's a stump! 😊) This is one of the safety nets of prophesy, namely, the heart and motive with which prophesy is given.

He is the supreme communicator. The frequency upon which God speaks is the frequency of Jesus Christ crucified. His tone is that of a perfectly good Father. It will be clear, firm, inescapable, loving and tender **all at the same time**. It is experienced in the constant knowingness of one another. It is recognised only by reason of frequent INTIMACY with the Father and this is how you get better at recognising His voice.

When Father speaks it is normally either to help us (guidance, encouragement, affirmation etc) or correct us (calling us to repent, warning us away from sin, illuminating something new or forgotten, etc). Sometimes God will even invite us to share with Him what we want. This is ace when this happens. "Son, what do you want to happen in this situation?"