

LISTENING TO THE RIGHT VOICE

(The voice of God)

JESUS HIMSELF SAID,

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”
(John 10:27)

JESUS ALSO SAID,

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (John 14:26)

AS CHRISTIANS WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO HEAR FROM GOD AND TO RECEIVE DIRECTION AND COUNSEL FROM HIM – His ways are far higher than our ways

To know the voice of God and to follow the Holy Spirit’s guidance and direction in our life is crucial if we are to lead an overcoming and victorious Christian life

God had a good plan for our life

In the book of Jeremiah we read,

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”
(Jeremiah 29:11)

However every person is in a constant spiritual contest, both for their eternal destiny and for their God given destiny here on earth

The Devil will firstly try and prevent people from coming to Christ to receive the free gift of eternal life

Once a person comes to Christ and secures their eternal home with Jesus, the enemy will try and prevent them from fulfilling God's Kingdom plan and purpose for their life

Jesus Himself said,

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)

The Apostle Peter wrote,

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” (1 Peter 5:8-9)

KNOWING AND LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF GOD IS THEREFORE CRUCIAL IF WE ARE TO CONSISTENTLY MAKE RIGHT CHOICES IN LIFE

I will FIRSTLY begin by looking at what are some of the voices that we can listen to other than the voice of God

- **The enemy (demonic spirits) will firstly whisper words of defeat and discouragement into our minds in many ways.**
- **The real battle ground is the mind**
- **The enemy will continually try and place in our minds thoughts to distract and trouble us – TO GET OUR FOCUS OFF THE LORD**
- **THOUGHTS OF:**
 - **FEAR**
 - **HOPELESSNESS**
 - **TEMPTATION**
 - **DOUBT AND UNBELIEF**
 - **REGRETS AND DISAPPOINTMENTS FROM THE PAST**
 - **TO GET US FOCUSING CONTINUALLY ON OUR PROBLEMS SO THAT WE ARE CONTINUALLY PREOCCUPIED WITH THE CARES OF THE WORLD**

- **SECONDLY** we can listen to our own thoughts of reasoning where we continually try and work out our own problems independent of God

In the book of Proverbs we read, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

- **THIRDLY** we can receive counsel and advice from others that is not in line with what God says about our life and future and that is contrary to God’s will for our life
- In my own life in my twenties, before I became a Christian, I made many poor choices based on the ungodly counsel of others that was not in line with the Word of God
- Many of us have also had negative words spoken over our life in the past that have impacted and framed our lives in a detrimental way
- Ungodly counsel from others can greatly influence our lives and prevent us from entering into all that God has planned for our life

- **The Apostle Paul wrote,**
 “Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.”
(1 Corinthians 15:33)

- **In the book of Proverbs we read about the dangers and consequences of allowing wrong influences into your life,**
 “The thoughts of the righteous are right, But the counsels of the wicked are deceitful.” **(Proverbs 12:5)**
 “The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.” **(Proverbs 12:26)**
 “He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.” **(Proverbs 13:20)**

- **ON THE OTHER HAND GOD OFTEN SPEAKS TO US THROUGH OTHER CHRISTIANS, WHO ARE CLOSE TO THE LORD, GODLY COUNSEL FROM HIM (We all need people of FAITH in our life)**

- **In Chapters 13 and 14 of the book of Numbers we see how a whole generation of the Children of Israel missed out on their God given inheritance because of the negative and unbelieving words of just ten people who did not trust God**

- **I will look at just a few passages of Scripture from these two chapters that relate to this incident**

- **I will begin at the beginning of Chapter 13 of the book of Numbers**

“And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a leader among them.” **(Numbers 13:1-2)**

“Then Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them, “Go up this way into the South, and go up to the mountains,” **(Numbers 13:17)**

“Then they came to the Valley of Eshcol, and there cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes; they carried it between two of them on a pole. They also brought some of the pomegranates and figs. The place was called the Valley of Eshcol, because of the cluster which the men of Israel cut down there.” **(Numbers 13:23-24)**

“And they returned from spying out the land after forty days. Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel...”
(Numbers 13:25-26)

“Then they told him, and said: “We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there.” **(Numbers 13:27-28)**

“Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.” **(Numbers 13:30)**

“But the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we. **And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”** (Numbers 13:31-33)

“And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, “If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in the wilderness!” **(Numbers 14:2)**

“Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?” **(Numbers 14:3)**

“And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, “How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me. **(Numbers 14:26-27)**

“Say to them, ‘As I live,’ says the LORD, ‘Just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: “The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. **(Numbers 14:28-29)**

“Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in. **(Numbers 14:30)**

“But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised. But as for you, your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness.” **(Numbers 14:31-32)**

- **HERE WE SEE HOW A WHOLE GENERATION OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL NEVER ENTERED INTO THE PROMISED LAND BECAUSE OF THE UNBELIEVING AND FEARFUL REPORT OF 10 OF THE 12 SPIES WHO WERE SENT OUT TO SPY OUT THE PROMISED LAND THAT GOD HAD PROMISED TO GIVE THEM – They only had to step out and enter into the land of Canaan that God was giving them to receive it**
- **God has so much planned for our lives**
- **God has a unique destiny for each of our lives**
- **God loves us more than any other person ever could – He is absolutely faithful**
- **God knows what is best for us in every circumstance**
- **How important it is that we listen to the voice of God and always act upon His counsel and direction for our life – IT IS THE KEY TO EXPERIENCING GOD’S BLESSING IN OUR LIFE – To seeing His God given destiny for our life coming to pass**

- **In the book of Deuteronomy we read the promise of God to the Children of Israel,**

“Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above the nations of the earth.

And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God:

Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out”
(Deuteronomy 28:1-6)

- **As New Testament Believers we can also tap into these promises as we walk in obedience to the Lord**

- **The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” (2 Corinthians 1:20)

- **Jesus Himself said,**

“More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” (Luke 11:28)

SO HOW DOES GOD SPEAK TO US?

I WILL JUST QUICKLY SHARE 6 WAYS IN WHICH GOD SPEAKS TO US AND HELPS TO DIRECT US IN LIFE AS BELIEVERS

i) God speaks to us through His Word, Both Generally (All that we need to know for life is found in the Bible) and Specifically (with Rhema Words)

Generally - The Apostle Paul wrote,

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Specifically with Rhema words - In the book of Psalms we read,

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

“Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.” (Psalm 119:133)

ii) God speaks directly to our heart through the still small voice of the Holy Spirit

Jesus said,

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” (John 16:13)

iii) The LORD gently impresses upon our minds some thoughts in relation to His will for our life and things to do

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.” (Proverbs 16:3)

iv) God speaks through other Christians godly counsel to help us in our circumstances (Words of Wisdom and Words of Knowledge)

In the book of Corinthians we read,

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.” (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” (Proverbs 11:14)

God will often speak to us through other Christians and even at times non Christians

v) God places upon our heart desires to do certain things, people to ring to encourage and other things that need to be done to fulfil God's plan for our life

King David wrote,

“Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4)

And

vi) God also gives us His peace to help us to know that we are making right choices in life

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.” (Colossians 3:15)

I WILL NOW FINISH WITH 4 KEYS TO KNOWING THE VOICE OF THE LORD CLEARLY

- 1) Spending time being still in the presence of the Lord (Being a worshipper) To get to know anyone we need to spend time with them – We need to make time to get alone with the Lord**

King David, a man after God's own heart wrote,

“O GOD, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for you; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.”
(Psalm 63:1-3)

In the book of Jeremiah we read,

“For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD, And has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it?” (Jeremiah 23:18)

- 2) Meditating on the Word of God – That God's Word dwells richly in our heart (The Holy Spirit will bring to remembrance key Scriptures when needed)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”
(Colossians 3:16)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” **(Romans 12:2)**

The Lord said to Joshua just prior to him leading the Children of Israel into the Promised Land,

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” **(Joshua 1:8)**

WE NEED TO ALWAYS HAVE AN EXPECTATION THAT GOD WILL SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Whenever we have need of guidance in life, it is good to pray with an open bible. God will speak clearly to us through His word when we do

In Psalm 119 we read,

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” **(Psalm 119:105)**

“Your testimonies are wonderful; Therefore my soul keeps them. The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.” **(Psalm 119:129-130)**

“Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.” **(Psalm 119:133)**

3) Having Godly mentors and friends in our life

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.” (**Proverbs 13:20**)

BEING CONNECTED IN FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER BELIEVERS IS A GREAT KEY TO REMAINING STRONG IN OUR WALK WITH THE LORD – BEING ACCOUNTABLE TO OTHER MATURE BELIEVERS IS CRUCIAL AND HELPS US TO CONSISTENTLY MAKE RIGHT CHOICES IN LIFE AS GOD ALSO SPEAKS TO US THROUGH OTHER CHRISTIANS

Having a teachable spirit helps us to avoid much heartache and pain in life

4) Having short accounts with God AND with others (Having a repentant heart) – It is a great key to maintaining an open line of communication with God and a soft and responsive heart to the things of God

The Apostle John wrote,

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (**1 John 1:9**)

Jesus also said,

“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.” (**Mark 11:25-26**)

SO IN CONCLUSION

God has so much in store for every believer's life

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.”

(Ephesians 3:20)

HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT WE LISTEN TO THE RIGHT VOICE CONTINUALLY – THE VOICE OF GOD IN ALL THAT WE DO – SO THAT ALL THAT HE HAS DESTINED AND PLANNED FOR OUR LIFE COMES TO PASS

So that our life will make a great impact in this world for eternity