

## How to Hear God – 3

**John 8:47**

“He who is of God hears God’s words.”

The facts are that God is not silent, has never been silent. It is His nature to speak.

- God speaks to our spirits. His Spirit bears witness with our spirit.
- In this new series will look at the ways God still speaks to His people today.

**John 10:27 (NKJV)**

<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

Some Christian leaders insist that God has stopped speaking today or only speaks through His word, the Bible.

Two things we need to settle

- Scripture is finished
- The Holy Spirit still guides and prompts, convicts and leads – **John 16:12-13**
- He may not speak audibly
- Yet He still speaks!

**John 10:4 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

Logical steps for hearing God through His word

Enter God's Presence

Psalm 100:4 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, *and* into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name.

Read in a logical place

Healing, finances, relationships, marriage

- Also, ask the Lord what to read
- Bring Him into the conversation
- A scripture or book in the Bible might come to mind

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come *boldly* to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

There are times we need to ask godly leaders for counsel, but if you want a word from the Lord, don't depend on anyone hearing that for you

- God is a good, wise father that loves for His children to come to Him
- He loves to guide and direct our paths

Psalm 119:32 (NIV)

<sup>32</sup> I run in the path of your commands, for you have broadened my understanding.

## Hearing God's Voice Through Worship

Exodus 25:22 (HCSB) Holman Christian Standard Bible

<sup>22</sup> I will meet with you there above the mercy seat, between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the testimony; I will speak with you from there about all that I command you regarding the Israelites.

Let's think about what happens during a worship service at most contemporary churches

- Welcome
- Songs
- Offering
- Announcements
- Sermon
- Benediction

There is nothing wrong with organizing a worship service but many times I believe we need to be aware of what is happening

- Singing of songs is not merely the singing of songs
- It is not merely a “warm-up” for the sermon
- Singing is actually a vehicle by which we can worship the Lord and connect with His person
- Worship should never be treated as a routine exercise

Worship can happen anywhere

- Driving your car
- Spontaneously when gathered with family and friends
- In a small group
- Hiking or spending time in the outdoors

## Three Things That Happen When We Worship God

### 1 – God “Meets with us” and “Speaks with us”

#### Exodus 25

God gave specific instructions on how to build the tabernacle

- The size and shape
- Furnishings
- Overlaid with pure gold inside and out
- Elaborately decorated mercy seat
- This seat was placed on top of the ark
- Above this mercy seat is where God would meet with and speak with His people

This is a picture of where Jesus went for us in heaven and now makes a way for us to come “boldly” into Gods presence as we meet with Him in this “earthly temple”

#### 2 Corinthians 6:16 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup>For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “*I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*”

#### Ephesians 3:17 (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup>that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

God meets with and speaks with us!

God invites us to come to a place where we give Him all of our fear, worries, anxiety and stress

**Galatians 5:20 (NLT) “works of the flesh”**

<sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division

**Galatians 5:22 (NLT) “fruit of the Spirit”**

<sup>22</sup> But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness

It is possible to be in the same vicinity of another person and never speak with them

- Don't let that happen
- We can come with fear and leave with faith
- We can come with stress and leave with peace
- We can see God for who He truly is
  - He is in control
  - He is sovereign
  - He holds the universe in His hands
- When we worship Him, He meets with us

**Philippians 4:19 (NIV)**

<sup>19</sup> And my God will *meet* all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

- *Meet* – “supply”
- “*God will supply all your needs*” – GNT
- Means more than filling up a container

### Romans 15:13 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> Now may the God of hope *fill* you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Same word, translated *fill* here
- God meets with us and supplies from His own person what is lacking in our lives
- He fills our need by communing with us and transforming us
- God cause us to abound in hope!

### Exodus 25:22

Doesn't just say that God wants to *speak to us*, it says He *wants to speak with us*

- There is a major difference
- When someone speaks to us it's a one-way conversation
- Its more than just information
- God invites us into a two-way conversation
- He says I want us to talk with each other
- When we talk with each other there is an awareness of the other person's feelings
- It's not about lists, rules and regulations

### Isaiah 1:18 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> "Come now, and **let us reason together,**" Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

## 2 – During Worship We Gain Perspective

### Psalm 16:11 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> You will show me the path of life; **In Your presence** *is* fullness of **joy**; At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

### Acts 3:19 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that **times of refreshing** may come from the presence of the Lord,

- Do you want joy?
- Do you want to be refreshed?
- Do you need a new perspective on life?

It's good for us to remember that God has forgiven and redeemed us

It helps us remember how good He is and how He wants nothing more than to see us free and enjoying life

- He has a future and a plan to prosper and bless us!

### Ephesians 5:19 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

- Worship should be a daily discipline
- Great things also happen in corporate worship

Story: Pondering a move from Ionia to Newaygo. I go back to hear Jimmy Evans. I arrive late but stand next to Paul Ruzinsky. During worship God speaks to both of us!

When we worship the Lord we get our eyes off our problem and refocused on Him and His goodness!

**Psalm 103:12 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Isaiah has a vision during a time of worship  
He sees the Lord in all His Glory as the angel's worship Him

**Isaiah 6:3-7 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!"

<sup>4</sup> And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts." <sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup> And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged."

- During worship we see God for who He is
- We see what He has done for us
- We realize the call and the power available to us
- He will send us on our mission
- "Here I am, send me"
- We see the same with Peter and Cornelius in Acts 10



### 3 – During Worship We Are Empowered and Receive Boldness

God can speak to us during times of worship

- When we enter His presence we get a fresh glimpse of Him
- When we worship the Lord we look intently at Him
- We see Him as He is
- We listen to His voice
- We learn from Him

#### Revelation 3:20 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

- Jesus is not talking about food
- He is talking about communion with God

We need to turn aside and draw near

#### Exodus 3:3–5 (NKJV)

*The Angel of the Lord appears to Moses at Mt. Horeb as a flame of fire in a bush*

<sup>3</sup> Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.” <sup>4</sup> So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”

<sup>5</sup> Then He said, “Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.”

- Stop what you’re doing and focus on God
- Our minds can wander
- We must focus our thoughts and hearts on God in worship

When we behold the Glory of the Lord it changes us

## 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- Set aside our thoughts of the world
- The project that's due
- What we heard on the news
- We hear best when we focus

When our kids were little, we would always get down to their level and make them look in our eyes when we had something important to teach them

When we are deliberate about setting in the Lord's presence we are much more likely inclined to listen to Him

## Psalms 103:7 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.

- To know God's ways, we must draw near
- Many times things in life don't make sense
- Challenges and difficulties can seem unfair
- If we are going to have the victory, we need to understand God's ways
- We need to see clearly, beyond the trouble we are facing

### Psalm 73:1–3 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Truly God *is* good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart. <sup>2</sup> But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped. <sup>3</sup> For I *was* envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

- They live painless lives
- Nothing bad ever happens to them
- Why am I keeping my heart pure?
- I get nothing but trouble all day long!

### Psalm 73:17, 21-28 (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end.

<sup>21</sup> Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind. <sup>22</sup> I *was* so foolish and ignorant; I *was like* a beast before You. <sup>23</sup> Nevertheless I *am* continually with You; You hold *me* by my right hand. <sup>24</sup> You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me *to* glory. <sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven *but* You? And *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire besides You. <sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart fail; **But God** *is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever. <sup>27</sup> For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry. <sup>28</sup> But *it is* good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, That I may declare all Your works.

- Worship is more than just singing songs
- Worship is an encounter with God
- It continues as we hear a message
- We see God for who He is and respond accordingly
- That's worship!