

INTERPRETING GOD’S WORD AND GOD’S VOICE FOR OUR LIVES
HOW TO HEAR AND TRANSLATE WHAT GOD IS SAYING TO US AND THOSE WE
SERVE
WEEK 1 - 1/11/2023

I. Introduction

Today, we want to do an overview of goals for this class and the framework in which we want to address this crucial topic.

A. Structure

- We will have teachings with notes you can review, the Zoom link is also available in case you miss any class or want to review the class.
- We use what we call transformation tables because we believe discussion is so key to growth and application.
- Beyond notes I really encourage journaling, especially to highlight how God begins to apply this to your life outside of the class. We expect you to see an increase in “whispers” or promptings you receive from the Holy Spirit for yourself and others.
 - Sharing with your table will help you be mentored in your hearing.
- Outside reading is highly encouraged especially for those who want to take credit.
- Books I’m recommending are:
 - Bible Study Methods”-Rick Warren
 - “The Power of a Whisper”-Bill Hybels
 - “Translating God”-Shawn Boltz
 - “How to Read the Bible for all its Worth”-Gordon Fee
- “There is an invitation to put into practice Bible interpretation by joining Pastor Dale in his Daily Bible Reading through the Bible with the Chronological Bible Reading Plan. Go to the YouVersion Bible App. Look up Pastor Dale and request to be his friend.

B. Expectations

- Class Attendance and Participation
- A Final Exam
- A Book for further Study

II. Focus

The focus of this class is on hearing and translating God’s words from a leadership perspective.

(Church classes focus on discipleship, Bible School classes focus on leadership)

- A.** Hearing and translating God is the highest priority of spiritual leadership. So, leadership in its essence is helping the people we serve follow God. The more

- accurately we can hear God the more we can be trusted as a leader. (By the way, this is a team effort-for example: in the home, husband and wife must learn to hear God's voice together for maximum effectiveness.) A great leader is like a security person with ear plugs hearing from a higher perspective in every move.
- B. Leaders recognize the added weight of every decision. Like captains of the ship, navigation is our essential task. That is why it is important that we seek to master our awareness of all the ways God speaks. (map, stars, compass, advisors, gut...)
 - C. The underlying secret of every impactful leader is rooted in how they hear and obey God's voice. If you trace back the key heart component of every great spiritual difference maker, you will see it is linked to how they trained their ears to hear from heaven.
 - Example it says of Moses.
 - a. "The Lord would speak to Moses' face to face (as a man speaks with a friend). (Exodus 33:11 NIV)
 - b. Isaiah 30:21 Describes the lifestyle of an effective Christian leader.
 - c. "Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, "This is the way; walk in it."
 - d. John 5:19-20 NIV Jesus described the source of all His ministry actions.
 - e. "Jesus gave them this answer: 'Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by Himself; he can do only what he sees the Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed."
 - D. As teachers and preachers hearing God is key to communicating life giving messages. Our job feeding the sheep is all about "rightly dividing the word of truth", translating, putting what God wants to say to a group of people on the lower shelf so people can understand. I believe God has a "rhema" for every "logos" He wants us to present.
 - E. One of the most important acts of leadership is teaching people how to hear God for themselves. (Skidoo) A life changing shift occurs when people begin to hear God for themselves. For example, when people learn to hear God's affirmation, it frees them from insecurity and bondage to the opinions and approval of people. God's affirmation is the only affirmation that fully breaks the "imposter syndrome."

III. The What and the Why

- A. Foundations of understanding of hearing God's voice.
 - 1. God is an ever-communicating God.
 - 2. He is speaking even when we're not listening. God doesn't speak to certain people more than others (certain people don't have a hot line to God). Some just learn to listen better (some answer the phone and others don't).
 - 3. Revelation 2:7 MSG
 - "Are your ears awake? Listen. Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches. I'm about to call each conqueror to dinner. I'm spreading a banquet of Tree-of-Life fruit, a supper plucked from God's orchard."

- B. Hearing God is at the essence of living a healthy, growing, productive and powerful life for God.
1. Things God's words and voice does.
 - i. Heals
 - "He sent His word and healed them." (Psalms 107:20)
 - Brings life to dead things (Adam, Dry bones-Ezekiel 37)
 - Releases power for us to see supernatural outcomes (McKelligan's Canyon)
 - Creates out of nothing.
 - Encourages, corrects, loves, comforts (His words impart "grace" to the hearers)
 - Changes destinies (Saul of Tarsus)
 - Calls and empowers people to impossible tasks, to be agents of miracles (Loaves and Fishes) **John Bevere** (20 million books)
 - It is the key to prayers of faith... knowing the difference between something we hope God will do to something we know God wants us to believe He's going to do.
 - ii. One of the key things in a life of faith is realizing the difference between a risk that is being dangerously presumptuous and a risk that is led by God and is key to seeing. Miracles released in your life and in the lives of others. (The rich young ruler) ... Nevertheless, at your word... miracle actions are all whispers of faith.
 2. Hearing God's voice is a key and essential component of discipleship. We grow to our fullest potential in Christ by learning to continually hear and respond to God's prompting allowing them to shift our perspective, help us surrender wrong attitudes, make Kingdom minded decisions, take character transforming steps, and learning to release words that bring life and kingdom power.
 3. Hearing God is the other half of prayer. The secret to every successful relationship is learning how to listen.
- C. To accurately hear God's Word, we must learn how to interpret, discern, and accurately understand and apply what God is saying. This is especially true in a world that is gung-ho about being spiritual but very resistant to being Biblical. In our culture the attitude is "if it feels true believe and do it!"
- Jesus warns over and over "Be careful how you hear!" (Luke 8:18)
 - John warns us, "Don't believe every spirit! Test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out to the world." (I John 4:1) We are told in the last days many will be deceived giving heed to seducing spirits. We've all heard of ax murders who claimed God told them to do it.
 - Learning how to interpret Scripture is such a key part of that.
 - 2 Corinthians 3:6 NIV says: "He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant-not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."

D. Another foundation for hearing God is knowing the way He speaks. This will be the essence of what we will be looking at in this class. (Luke 24:13-35).

5 key ways Jesus speaks:

1. He speaks conversationally through intimacy and friendship.
“Prayer in its essence is discovering that Jesus wants to have friendship conversations with us.” -Mother Teresa
2. He speaks exegetically through the Bible.
 - This will be the biggest part of our study because God’s word is the ultimate arbitrator of truth. No matter what our experience is, the Biblical explanation or confirmation is the basis of the final verdict on whether God is speaking or not. (We haven’t heard the truth until we hear what Jesus says-the call from the replay booth.)
 - As we see it is very easy to misinterpret the Bible, so it becomes an instrument of death. Learning to see and understand Scripture in the light of the new covenant is essential.
 - “Christians read the Bible not as a document of history but as a world they enter so that God may meet them there.” -Rowan Williams
3. He speaks sacramentally-breaking of bread
4. He speaks prophetically (their eyes were opened). This includes visions, dreams, spiritual gifts)
5. He speaks inwardly (still small voice/promptings) “Our hearts burned within us.

III. Some initial keys to starting to train our spiritual ears to hear

A. Be aware of the common categories God is speaking into.

1. Whispers of assurance
2. Whispers of affirmation
3. Whispers of admonition, conviction, or correction
(God’s voice doesn’t condemn, it convicts and we must know the difference. Don’t be guilty of speaking a word of condemnation to someone else, something that was a word of conviction to you.)
4. Whispers of action/prompting
(To pray, to share with someone else, to wait, to know it is done...)

B. Be relational with Jesus all the time.

People’s view of God as a distant CEO prevents the up-close conversations and expectations that prompt. Too many people are used to relating to God in non-relational ways.

C. Be willing to tune into God on his frequency.

“Inner calm is God’s intercom.” -Rick Warren

“Be still and know that He is God.”