



MULTIPLYING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Study Notes by Thomas Hale

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“HEARING GOD’S VOICE”

1. INTRODUCTION

Jeremiah 1:9 Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me, Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. (AMP)

1 Kings 19:12-13 (AMP) And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire [a sound of gentle stillness and] a still, small voice. When Elijah heard the voice, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave...

- a. Our age is so married to rationalism and cognitive, analytical thought that we almost mock when we hear of someone actually claiming to be able to hear the voice of God. Despite this, we all have a deep hunger to commune with God and hear Him speak to us.

2. THE BIBLE IS FILLED WITH MEN AND WOMEN WHO HEARD GOD’S VOICE.

- a. *Gen 3:8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day..*
- b. *Isa 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (NIV)*
- c. *2 Sam 23:2-3 The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me; his word was on my tongue. The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me...(NIV)*
- d. *John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. (NIV)*

3. A PRIMARY MISCONCEPTION ABOUT THE VOICE OF GOD

- a. To us, the voice of the Lord is seldom audible or even a voice that we “hear” within us. We struggle unsuccessfully to hear God’s voice. We pray, fast, study the Bible, and listen for a voice within, all to no avail. There is no inner voice that we can hear!

4. THREE KEYS TO HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD

- a. **Key #1**—God’s voice in our hearts sounds like a flow of spontaneous thoughts, feelings, or even simply a knowing by the working of the spiritual gifts of the Word of Knowledge or the Word of Wisdom. Therefore, when I want to hear God, I look for spontaneity.
- b. *Habakkuk 2:2 And the LORD answered me, and said...*
- c. Habakkuk knew the sound of God’s voice. Elijah described it as a still, small voice (**I Kings 19:12**). Most of us listen for an inner or outer audible voice, and surely God can and does speak that way at times. However, I have found that God’s inner voice comes to us as spontaneous thoughts, visions, feelings, or impressions, or a supernatural knowing (Word of Knowledge, Word of Wisdom) from God to my spirit.
- d. For example, each of us has had the experience of driving down the road and having a thought come to us to pray for a certain person. We generally acknowledge this as the voice of God calling us to pray for that individual. My question is, “What did God’s voice sound like as you drove in your car? Was it an inner, audible voice or a spontaneous thought that lit upon your mind and illuminated (enlightened—**Ephesians 1:18**) in your spirit?”
 - i. When I listen for God’s voice, I listen for a flow of spontaneous thoughts. Spirit-level communication is received as spontaneous thoughts, impressions, feelings, and visions. It’s an Old Testament Word, “*paga*,” a chance encounter thought that accidentally intersects my thought processes. Therefore, when I tune in to God, I tune in to chance encounters or spontaneous thoughts.

Key # 2: I must learn to still my thoughts and emotions to sense God's flow of thoughts and words within me. 1 Corinthians 2:14-16.

- i. *14 But the natural (Greek psychikos), nonspiritual man does not accept or welcome or admit into his heart the gifts and teachings and revelations of the Spirit of God, for they are folly (meaningless nonsense) to him; and he is incapable of knowing them [of progressively recognizing, understanding, and becoming better acquainted with them] because they are spiritually discerned and estimated and appreciated.*
 - ii. *15 But the spiritual (Greek pneumatikos) man tries all things [he ^aexamines, investigates, inquires into, questions, and discerns all things], yet is himself to be put on trial and judged by no one [he can read the meaning of everything, but no one can properly discern or appraise or get an insight into him].*
 - iii. *16 For who has known or understood the mind (the counsels and purposes) of the Lord so as to guide and instruct Him and give Him knowledge? But we have the mind of Christ (the Messiah) and do hold the thoughts (feelings and purposes) of His heart. [Isa. 40:13.] - ^a Joseph P. Lightfoot, Notes on the Epistles of Saint Paul.*
- e. **Key #3 - I set my heart and mind to hear the voice of the Lord, and I speak and obey whatever He says to me. Isaiah 50:4-5.**
- i. *4 [The Servant of God says] The Lord God has given Me the tongue of a disciple and of one who is taught, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He wakens Me morning by morning, He wakens My ear to hear as a disciple [as one who is taught].*
 - ii. *5 The Lord God has opened My ear, and I have not been rebellious or turned backward.*

5. THIS IS MY PRAYER...

- a. *Acts 22:14 And he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will, and to see the Righteous One, and to hear an utterance from His mouth.' (NAS)*