

Session 3: How to Hear God's Voice

Intimacy

An intimate relationship is a close interpersonal relationship.

It can be defined by these characteristics:

- enduring interdependence,
- repeated interactions,
- emotional attachment, and
- a freedom to be transparent.

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What happens when we become Intimate with God?

1. We develop a relationship with God as His children

1 John 3:1 *"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God"*

2. We learn how to abide in Christ become dependent on the Lord

1 John 15:4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

3. We are transformed by His Glory

2 Cor 3:18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate[a] the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

4. We impact others by His Glory

Luke 24:32 They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

5. We enter into a place where we receive greater revelation

Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

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How to Develop an Intimate Relationship

1. Communication
2. Spending Time
3. Being Transparent/Vulnerable
4. Receive Instruction & Council
5. Discuss Destiny & Dreams

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Biblical Illustration

1CH 28:2 King David rose to his feet and said: "Listen to me, my brothers and my people. **I had it in my heart** to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD,

1CH 28:11 Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the portico of the temple, its buildings, its storerooms, its upper parts, its inner rooms and the place of atonement. [12] He gave him **the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind** for the courts of the temple of the LORD and all the surrounding rooms, for the treasures of the temple of God and for the treasures for the dedicated things.

1CH 28:19 "All this," David said, "**I have in writing from the hand of the LORD** upon me, and he gave me understanding in all the details of the plan."

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**"I will stand at my guard post
I will keep watch and see
What He will speak to me..."
Then the Lord said, "Record the vision..."**

Habakkuk 2:1,2

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Stillness

Key #1

*“I will stand
at my guard post*

**Quiet yourself in the Lord’s
presence**



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Vision

Key #2

*I will keep
watch and see*

**Look for vision and listen as you
pray**

Fix your eyes on Jesus



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Spontaneity

Key #3

*What He will
speak to me...”*

**Recognize God’s voice often comes
as spontaneous thoughts**



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Journal

Key #4

*Then the Lord said, “Record
the vision...”*

**Write out the flow of thoughts
and visions within you (two-way
journaling)**



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Personal Application: Journaling Exercise

- Lord, do you love me?
- Lord, Tell me more
- Lord, would you like to keep meeting here or would you like to meet elsewhere



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How do know what we see and hear is from God

Analyze your thoughts (not all of them are yours)

Three categories of thoughts

1. Spontaneous Positive Thoughts = Holy Spirit
2. Spontaneous Negative Thoughts = demons
Condemnation thoughts = demons & our own heart
3. Analytical Thoughts = Self

2 Cor 10: [5] We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

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How to test what you hear

1. Does it line up with God's Word
 - *God will not contradict his written word*
2. Test the fruit in your heart, does it give you peace and hope
 - *But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. 1Cor 14:3*
3. Does it line up with the character of God
 - *God is omnipotent. Jeremiah 32:26,27*
 - *God is good. Psalm 119:65-72*
 - *God is love. 1 John 4:7-10*
 - *God is just. Psalm 75:1-7*
 - *God is holy. Revelation 4:8-11*

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How to test what you hear

4. Does it line up with names of God

- *Jehovah-Jireh* (The Lord will provide) - Genesis 22:14
- *Jehovah-Raphe* (The Lord my Healer) - Exodus 15:26
- *Jehovah-Nissi* (The Lord my Banner) - Exodus 17:15
- *Jehovah-Shalom* (The Lord my Peace) - Judges 6:24
- *Jehovah-Raah* (The Lord my Shepherd) - Psalm 23:1
- *Jehovah-Tsidkenu* (The Lord my Righteousness) - Jeremiah 23:6; 33:16
- *Jehovah-Shammah* (The Lord is there) - Ezekiel 48:35

5. Does the body of Christ witness that it is the Lord

- 1 Cor 14:29 Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh what is said

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Safeguard #1: Be accountable to someone What to Look for in a Spiritual Counselor:

1. A close friend, someone you trust, who will be honest with you.
2. One who knows the Lord, who is a Christian.
3. One who has a solid biblical orientation.
4. One who can sense the voice of the Spirit of God in his own heart.
5. One who is willing to commit himself to you, who will invest their time and energy in your growth,
6. Receives counsel themselves.
7. Is ahead of you in spiritual growth.

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Safeguard #2: Beware Idols in your Heart

"...any man in the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, puts right before his face the stumbling block of his iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, I the Lord will be brought to give him an answer in the matter in view of the multitude of his idols." (Ezek. 14:4)

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Types of Idols

1. Desires

Colossians 3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed, which is idolatry

- A desire of the heart
- Want of a position or a possession
- The desire for sex,
- lust for fame or credit
- The desire for money,
- Unforgiveness toward those who have hurt you.
- Desire for vengeance

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Types of Idols

2. Mental strongholds

- An opinion
- Belief, Existing Thought Processes
- Judgement
- Prejudice
- Purpose
- Personal cause or Political preference
- Anything you want to hear

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Types of Idols

3. Hope

- Hope that has no basis for being true.
- A time of celebration
 - Holiday
 - Trip
 - Experience
 - Celebrating a past event
- Victory over something that you have not dwelt with the root reason the problem is there
- Trusting in your good works

4. False Gods

- Physical idols:

5. Worry/Anxiety

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How to deal with Idols in your heart

1. Acknowledge that you have an idol before the Lord, and imagine putting it in a box and telling the Lord that it is an idol and that you do not want to hear from it.
2. If it is a sin or addiction, Repent of the sin and deal with the root cause.
3. If it is a worry, repent of it as idolatry and declare what your Heavenly Father will do for you according to his word.
4. If it is an opinion, belief, issue or something you have strong feelings about. Submit to three spiritual advisors for confirmation

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Safeguard #3: Let the Peace of God Rule in your hearts

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Colossians 3:15

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The Secret Place

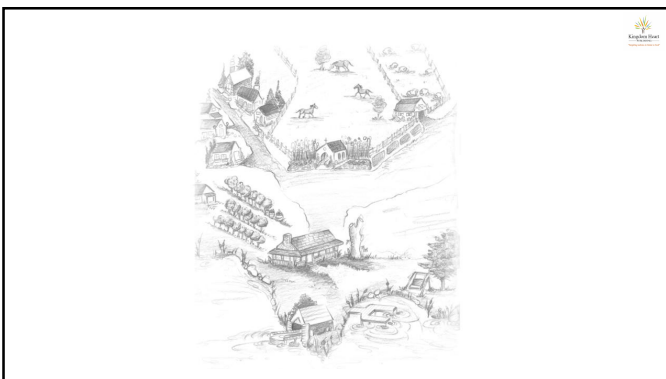
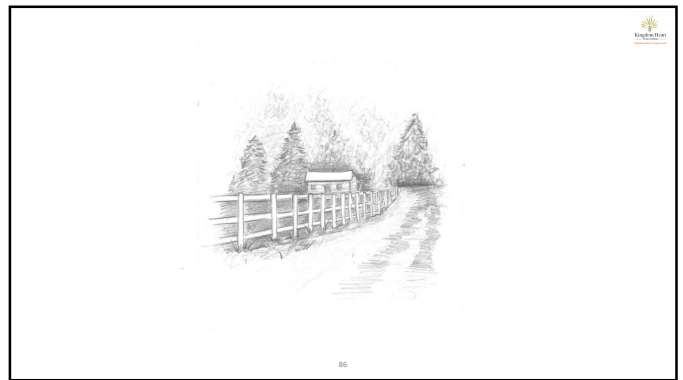
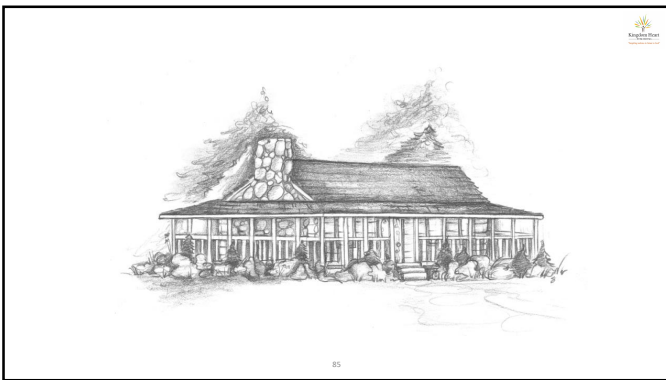
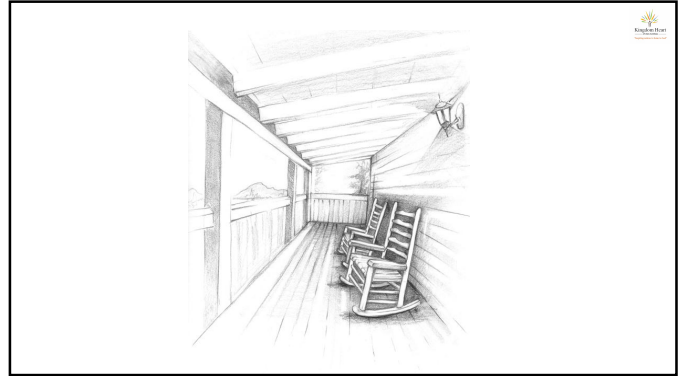
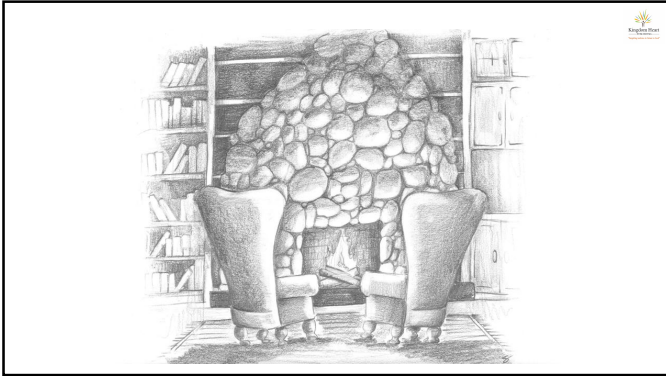
Psalm 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

John 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. [2] In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. **I am going there to prepare a place for you.** [3] And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. [4] You know the way to the place where I am going."

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**Personal Application: Journaling
Exercise**



**Father, what would you like to say to me about a
Secret Place**

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