

Dare to Draw Near

RESPONDING TO GOD'S INVITATION

Lesson Six Reflection: *The Golden Lampstand, Part 2*

Review Last week we explored how the oil in the lamps of the Golden Lampstand represents the Holy Spirit. Oil is often a picture of the Holy Spirit in the Bible. So the lamp stand is a picture of the Holy Spirit shining into our hearts fueling and empowering us to walk out a faithful life with the Lord.

This week we looked at another facet of the Lamp stand -- the actual light that it produces.

When we enter into the Tabernacle the only light is from the Lampstand. This one source of light definitely represents Jesus who said in

John 8:12, *"I am the light of the world, he who follows me will not walk in the darkness but will have the light of life."*

It also pictures our life in Christ when we follow the path that He lights for us.

Matthew 5:16 *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."*

Therefore, if we have a saving faith in Jesus, then we have the oil of the Holy Spirit filling us and giving us strength so that we can follow Jesus and go out into the world spreading His Light.

Sounds awesome but it's also pretty vague --- how do I know what being God's light looks like for me? How do I know the specifics of how I'm going to spread God's Light?

In **John 10:1-4** Jesus tells the people: *"When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice."*

And if we are in Christ then we are His sheep --- and we should be hearing His Voice as we follow Him.

Hearing God's Voice

Why does God speak to us:

- To encourage us; to give us peace – to comfort us, quiet us
- To correct us – to get us out of sin
- To give us direction
- To teach us things
- To tell us about what He is going to do
- To warn us

Main Reason He speaks to us:

Because we are in relationship with Him -- it is normal and necessary for a Father to speak to His children.

Ways that God speaks: (some of them)

- Through Scripture
- Through other people
- Through dreams, visions, angels
- Through nature
- Through inner impressions and leadings
- Through physical sensations

Notes

What helps us be able to hear God's voice?

Based on - *He Speaks to Me: Preparing to Hear the Voice of God* by Priscilla Shirer

1 Samuel 3: Story of the boy Samuel hearing from God for the first time:

- Nearness - - Samuel was in the temple, close to the presence of God. For us, the closer we are to Him the easier it is to hear.
- Worship and bless the Lord-- vs. 1 Samuel was ministering to the Lord - he was a worshipper. We must be worshippers too. Recognizing the holiness of God
- Childlike faith and belief - Samuel was open to hearing from the Lord once Eli told him it was possible. Be willing to hear from God and believe He can talk to you and that you can hear - it is possible to hear Him!-
- Samuel was set apart in a lifestyle of holiness. "He was always in the temple ministering to the Lord." For us -- Staying cleaned up - confession and repentance as a lifestyle. Allowing God to sanctify us daily. Remember that Eli didn't get the word from the Lord - his sin was blocking his relationship with God.

Other things that help

- a posture of humility
- stillness, waiting on the Lord
- practicing all those disciplines we talked about last week --

Notes

Process of Hearing God's Voice

Step 1. Quickening – something grabs our attention in an unusual way

Exodus 3:1-4 Moses and the Burning Bush

“Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”

Moses was quickened when he saw that the bush was not burned by the fire. It caught his attention. Sometimes things just catch our attention or get highlighted. Sometimes a dream sticks with us. Sometimes a scripture jumps off the page. Sometimes we just can't shake a feeling or impression.

So once something quickens your spirit, you move to the next step. . .

Step 2. Discernment: Determine if the quickening is coming from God.

Three “voices” or possibilities for the source of the quickening --- Is it Me, God or the enemy?

How do we distinguish between these three?

A. Does it line up with scripture? Yes, then it could be God but look further...

B. Will it do harm or good? God is in the business of good

Sidebar - recognizing the enemy

- condemnation
- confusion
- fear
- shame, not appropriate guilt
- bad things happen

C. Check it out with trusted believers

“Where there is no guidance, the people fall, but in an abundance of counselors there is victory.” Proverbs 11:14

D. Test it and see – build a track record

If you decide that the quickening is probably God, then you go to the next step.

Step 3. Interpretation: What does it mean? What is God actually saying-

We have to pull away and pray about what God is saying and asking of us.
We have to ask for the revelation.

Mary, mother of Jesus, “Pondered in her heart all that the angel had said to her”.

Is there a response required of me?

Is there a change I need to make?

Do I need to share what I’m hearing?

Is this a call for intercessory prayer?

Don’t skip these steps --- they are each important!

I’ve seen people, myself included, that were hurt and discouraged because we didn’t take the time to fully engage with God when we were quickened.

Be sure to check out the video to see the interviews with Cody Andras and Laurence Bragg about how they hear God’s voice.

Homework

Watch this video with Mark Virkler to learn a way of journaling that helps us to hear God’s voice:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=8czdKN4U0hc>

Then try out the method for yourself. It really works!

Lecture Notes:

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