

## “ADJ - Hearing the voice of God Part 2” (5-15-22)

**Introduction: Today - Ways we hear God's voice** - what to watch for & how to cultivate that relationship.

- **Hearing God thru Scripture**

### **2 Timothy 3:14-17 (ESV)**

(14) But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it (15) and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (16) All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

**Note:** Become familiar with the word as a way of life!

**Personal Example** - from growing up in church, to having a living relationship

**Hearing God** - Use scripture & devotional supplements (that always bring you back to the scripture)

### **Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)**

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**Note:** Don't just read the word, let it read you!

### **Ephesians 6:17-18 (ESV)**

and take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance . . .

**Note:** Word - Spirit - Prayer - Perseverance

**Our Focus today:** Several ways we hear from God - through the story of the birth of Jesus . . .

\*Special Note - Scripture hovers over & is woven through all of this

#### 1) **Mary has a supernatural visit** (Gabriel visits the virgin Mary)

### **Luke 1:28-29 (ESV)**

(28) And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” (29) But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

**Note:** Mary realizes this is a unique situation and she uses discernment. So, the angel confirms with Scripture & gives confirmation thru circumstances . . .

### **Luke 1:30-33 (ESV)**

(30) And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. (31) And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. (32) He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, (33) and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

### **Luke 1:36-38 (ESV)**

(36) And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. (37) For nothing will be impossible with God.” (38) And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**Special Note:** Mary's response - She says yes to what God has spoken!

## 2) Mary & Elizabeth - God speaks through people & impressions from the Holy Spirit

### Luke 1:39-42 (ESV)

(39) In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, (40) and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. (41) And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, (42) and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

**Note:** Elizabeth (who was barren) is pregnant just as the angel said, Now she is filled with the spirit and encourages her friend!

### Luke 1:46-47 (ESV)

(46) And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, (47) and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior

**Note:** Mary pursued the direction she was given (your friend is pregnant too) & upon receiving confirmation she worships!

### Luke 1:56 (ESV)

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

**Note:** We need one another - Jesus centered relationships help us mutual encourage each other as we walk!

## 3) Joseph - God speaks through supernatural means (angels & dreams)

Joseph gets word that his virgin bride to be is pregnant & he's wrestling with what to do about it . . .

### Matthew 1:20-24 (ESV)

(20) But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. (21) She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (22) All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: (23) "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). (24) When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife

- Joseph is not reflecting on good news and celebrating - he is grappling with life changing circumstances that seem like decidedly bad news!
- God confirms that he is working in this through an angelic dream - and scripture that speaks right to his circumstances
- **Joseph's response** - Just like Mary, He says yes to God!

## 4) Joseph & Mary - God speaks through circumstances

### Luke 2:1-7 (ESV)

(1) In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. (2) This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. (3) And all went to be registered, each to his own town. (4) And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, (5) to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. (6) And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. (7) And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Note:** Scripture fulfilled thru circumstances (even difficult ones created by a pagan leader!)

## 5) Shepherds - visited by angels who point to Jesus!

### Luke 2:8-12 (ESV)

(8) And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. (9) And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. (10) And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. (11) For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (12) And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

**Note:** Angels speak (quoting scripture once again) and point them to see Jesus!

\*Important note on Angels & God speaking through supernatural means . . .

### Galatians 1:6-8 (ESV)

(6) I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— (7) not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. (8) But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

**Note:** What are you hearing - does it align with Scripture (God's character & ways). Does it build us up and point to Jesus or does it distract and instill fear.

\*Too much of what passes as prophecy & the supernatural is no more than fear-mongering, selling books, or promoting an individual instead of promoting Jesus

**Consider:** Is Jesus lifted up? Does it draw us to Him? Does it establish us in faith or move us toward fear?

## 6) Simeon & Anna - waiting on God & recognizing the Holy Spirit's voice

### Luke 2:25-29 (ESV)

(25) Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. (26) And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. (27) And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, (28) he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, (29) "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

**Note:** Simeon waited on God, was led by the Spirit, & recognized Jesus when he saw Him!

### Luke 2:36-38 (ESV)

(36) And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, (37) and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. (38) And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

**Note:** We cultivate ears to hear & responsive hearts by persevering in worship, prayer, fasting!

We are to be people of Word & Spirit who cultivate an attitude of responsive watching, listening, & waiting!

**Conclusion:** Let's be rooted in the Word, consistent in prayer, open to watch & listen for God's voice, and ready to respond in obedience to what He says!