Lesson 9: Maturing in Childlikeness

Main idea:
God trains us to hear His voice as we learn to trust Him with a childlike heart.

1. The fear we often face

Common fear:
What if I step out and do not hear God?
What if I hear Him wrong?
What if I used to hear Him clearly, but now I do not?

Key reminder:
Spiritually, we can regain sensitivity to God's voice.
God's frequency is not lost forever.

2. The heart stays tuned to God by staying childlike

To hear God clearly, we need to keep a childlike heart.

Childlike does not mean immature.
Childlike means trusting, teachable, honest, full of wonder, and dependent on God.

3. A hearing heart is trained, not simply given

Key verse:
Hebrews 5:14
Solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice.

Hearing God is not only for a few special people.
Every believer can learn to hear God.
Discernment grows through practice.

Spiritual maturity comes one faith step at a time.

4. Regain childlike wonder

We have not figured God out.
No one ever fully will.

Deuteronomy 29:29 reminds us:
The secret things belong to the Lord, but the things He reveals belong to us.

God reveals His kingdom to those who come like children.

Key thought:
We are all preschoolers before God.
That is not an insult.
It is the right posture of humility, wonder, and dependence.

5. Childlike versus childish

Childlike:
Trusting
Teachable
Transparent
Full of wonder
Curious
Matures over time

Childish:
Distrusting
Disruptive
Dishonest
Jaded
Presuming
Stays immature

Important reminder:
The most dangerous day in your hearing life is the day you think you have God's voice figured out.

6. Walk as God’s dependent child

Jesus sends His followers into the world, but not alone.

Matthew 10 shows us three ways to walk:

Walk in Jesus’ authority
We carry the authority of the King.

Walk in God’s wisdom
God gives wisdom that matches the schemes of the enemy.

Walk in the Spirit’s purity
The Holy Spirit helps us stay clean in a fallen world.

Key thought:
We are not children afraid of wolves.
We are children sent out with the Shepherd’s wisdom and the Spirit’s purity.

7. Practice God’s presence

Example:
Brother Lawrence learned to walk with God while working in a kitchen and later repairing sandals.

He discovered that he could experience God’s presence in ordinary, busy, and noisy moments.

Key lesson:
Do not wait for perfect quiet to walk with God.
Practice His presence in everyday life.

When you forget, simply turn your attention back to Him.

8. Interact with your loving Father

Time with God is not just about gathering information.

It is about interaction.

Come to God expecting relationship.
Come ready to listen, respond, and walk with Him.

God is not disappointed when we stumble.
Like a father teaching a child to walk, He helps us get back up.

Key verse:
Psalm 37:23-24
Though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the Lord upholds his hand.

9. Final reminders

God sees you as a walker, even when you see yourself as a crawler.

Curiosity leads us to listen.
The Father's voice turns us toward Him.
Faith helps us take the next step.

Main takeaway:
God's job is to train you.
Your job is to trust Him.

Closing prayer focus:
Ask God to restore childlike wonder.
Ask Him to help you hear His voice throughout the day.
Ask Him to teach you to practice His presence in ordinary moments.
Ask Him to mature you as a childlike follower of Jesus.