

Eastgate House of Prayer

Hearing the "Voice" of God—Kara Sensenig

- I. **Discerning God's "Voice"** You learn to discern what His "voice" sounds like when you understand who He is and what He's like. When you know who He is then you have an idea of how he wants to encounter you and speak to you.
 1. This includes both hearing and seeing.
 - o **Proverbs 20:12** *Ears that hear and eyes that see -- the LORD has made them both.*
 - A. In **Exodus 33:18-19**, Moses pretty much begs God. He says: "Please, show me Your glory." In other words, He was begging God to **show** him who He really was.
 1. **God responds**, *I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you.*
 - a. The way in which God reveals His glory to Moses is by revealing His heart and His personality to Moses.
 - b. **Exodus 34:5-7** - *The LORD descended in the cloud and stood there with him as he called upon the name of the LORD. ⁶ Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; ⁷ who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished...*
 2. What is God really, really like? This is the heart of the Gospel.
 - B. God is relentless in His goodness, and unchangeably so. His outlook about you is consistent because God is constant and unchanging in His nature.
 1. He works out of his own nature not dependent on our approach to Him. He is faithful and gracious toward you all the time.
 2. Any voice that you hear that is condemning or accusatory is not the voice of God. Any angry judgmental voice is not of God. Anything you hear has to be compatible with who He really is.
 3. We must train ourselves to listen for this voice.
 - a. **We must teach our hearts to be still to listen to the voice that is kind.**
 - b. Even when you're not doing well with God or you're in a difficult place...**His voice will always demonstrate His love for you, because He is always doing well with you.**

- c. As we spend time in this kind of empowering presence of God listening for His voice, He can begin to transform us, to bring peace and clarity to every situation.
- 4. So, when I'm ready to hear the voice of God, I need to position myself in the heart of God, within the nature of God.
 - a. He will tell you the truth in such a way that sets you free and edifies you. He will stir you up and cheer you up.
- 5. Sounds great, but it takes some time and intentionality to get here.
 - a. Often we go through life and there's a lot of background noise, there are a lot of voices and clutter swirling around us.
 - b. We need to practice being still. We need to practice waiting on the Lord. We need to practice listening.
 - c. We need to practice discerning the voice of the Lord.

II. Quiet yourself so you can hear and See God at work: *In stillness God speaks and shows us things that are important.*

- A. If we want to hear the still, small voice of God within us, we must become quiet.
 - a. God will speak more to a person in silence than He will in conversation. We must be still and listen.
 - 1. **Psalm 46:10**—*“Be still and know that I am God.”* (Cease Striving)
 - 2. **Psalm 62:1 & 5**—*David commanded his soul to wait in silence for God only.*
 - 3. **Psalm 37:7**—*To rest and wait longingly for God*
 - b. Often we miss the importance of quieting ourselves when we approach God. –Our lives are such a rush; we just run up to God, blurt out our prayers, and rush away again. We cannot enter the realm of the Spirit this way.
 - c. Remove external distractions.
 - d. Removing Inner Noise—all those voices and thoughts within us that are calling for our attention. Until they are quieted, we will not hear His voice.

III. Look For Vision

- A. Look with the eyes of your heart as you pray.
- B. **Jesus saw visions all the time.**

- a. Jesus demonstrated this ability of living out of ongoing contact with Almighty God. He said that He did nothing on His own initiative, but only that which he saw the Father doing, and heard the Father saying (**John 5:19-20,30**).
- C. Daniel simply said, "I looked," and he saw (**Daniel 7:2, 9, 13**).
- D. **We need to look.** Daniel was seeing a vision in his mind and he said, "*I was looking...I kept looking...I kept looking*" (**Dan. 7:2, 9, 13**).
 - a. If you don't look you won't see.
- E. Habakkuk said, "I will keep watch to see," and God said, "Record the vision" (**Habakkuk 2:1, 2**). He gave us the "eyes of my heart" to see in the spirit world, the vision and movement of Almighty God.
 - a. Inner vision comes so easily that you will have a tendency to reject it, thinking that it is just you.
- F. **Fix your eyes on Jesus**—As I fix my gaze upon Jesus (**Hebrews 12:2**), becoming quiet in His presence, and sharing with Him what is on my heart, I find that two-way dialogue begins to flow.
- G. **Find your "Meeting Place"**—Invite Jesus to this place and let him show you things or speak to you.
 - a. If you fix your eyes upon Jesus, the intuitive flow comes from Jesus. If you fix your gaze upon some desire of your heart, the intuitive flow comes out of that desire of your heart.
- H. God continually revealed Himself to His covenant people using dreams & visions.

IV. God Communicates Spontaneously

- A. When God communicates, He does so through spontaneous thoughts, words, feelings, pictures or impressions.
- B. **Spontaneous Thoughts**
 - a. Have you ever just "heard a phrase" out of nowhere?
 - b. General Rule
 - Thoughts from my mind are analytical.
 - Thoughts from my heart are spontaneous.
- B. **He will use His Word to speak to us**
 - a. **John 14:6**—*Jesus wants to be our Way, our Truth, and our Life.*
 - b. Jesus becomes our truth by illuminating Scripture to us, by leading us into truth, and guiding us by giving us peace or pressure in our spirits.

- c. A “word” can be either *logos* or *rhema*—Greek word meaning “word”
- d. **Logos vs. Rhema**—One way Jesus becomes our life is by speaking His words directly into our hearts.
 - 1. **Logos**—indicates that you are emphasizing the content of the message.
 - 2. **Rhema**—demonstrates an emphasis on the way in which the message was received, specifically through a spoken word.
 - 3. His *Logos*, the Word: “*Thy word is...a light to my path*”
Psalm 119:105
- e. **John 6:63**—“*The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.*”
- f. The content of the Bible (*Logos*) is necessary because it gives us an absolute standard against which to measure all “truth.”
- g. *Rhema* is necessary because it emphasizes the way the Bible was originally given—through individuals interacting with God. It emphasizes that God spoke and continues to speak to His children today.

C. Spontaneous Feelings

- a. You may have a strong emotion or even a physical pain or sensation somewhere in your body.
 - 1. Could be a strong emotion like fear or panic
 - 2. Could happen as you walk into a room or as you’re praying for someone. Or it could be a way that the Father conveys His love to you...you actually feel an overwhelming sense of love or peace.

D. Spontaneous pictures

- a. Have you ever been driving down the road and have a picture of a person you know pop into your mind? We generally acknowledge this to be the voice of God calling us to pray for that individual. Or the Holy Spirit alerting you about someone or something.
 - o The Bible confirms this—The definition of **paga**, the Hebrew word for intercession, is “*a chance encounter or an accidental intersecting.*” When God lays people on our hearts for intercession, He does it through *paga*.

E. Spontaneous Impressions

- a. You get a sense in your mind or heart about something. It’s a mental impression. It’s a “knowing” about something.

V. Activation:

- A. I take a few moments to **quiet myself**.
- B. I use my *godly imagination* to **picture a scene from the Bible** as I read it. This is something most people do, and imagining is a part of *Biblical meditation* (Joshua 1:8) *Meditate on the Word, (This book of law) it day and night...*
 - a. Or I use my godly imagination to go to my **meeting place** with Jesus.
- C. Then *I ask the Holy Spirit to give me a vision*. I ask Him to show me what He wants to show me. **Ask for a picture.** (
 - a. **Ephesians 1:17-18** - *That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling...*
- D. As I place myself in the scene with Jesus, I begin to **look and tune into what He wants to show me**.
- E. The scene *comes alive* through the life of the Holy Spirit and I watch a flow of images (biblically speaking this is called a vision). So I have stepped from a godly imagination into a vision.
- F. Now I can **ask Jesus a question**.
 - *Jesus, is there anything you want to say to me?*
 - *Jesus, how do you feel about me?*
 - *Jesus, is there anything you want to show me?*