

Knowing Father's Voice



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February 2007

P O Box 765, Robertson, 6705, South Africa

www.godwithusmin.com

US \$ 5.00

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Chapter 1

An intimate relationship

God's will

God wants an intimate relationship with you, therefore He created you. The only way that this relationship can be strengthened is by communication; therefore He wants to communicate with you every single moment. He has no favourites and the ability to hear His voice and discern His counsel and direction, through His Word and the Holy Spirit, is available to you and to all His children. God has placed a yearning in your heart to be able to communicate with Him and He loves to communicate with you!

Sometimes people experience great difficulty in discerning the voice of our Heavenly Father, because they have the impression that it is a complicated or difficult thing. The truth is that it actually is a simple uncomplicated process – so uncomplicated that you should become like a child in order to grasp it. Did Jesus not say:

“... Truly I say to you, Unless you are converted and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of Heaven.”

Mat 18:3

As is the case with everything pertaining to our walk of faith, our Father never leaves us in the dark, for He is Light, and in Him there is no darkness. Therefore He provides the answer to hearing His voice in His Word:

*I will stand on my watch and set myself on the tower,
and will watch to see what He will say to me, and
what I shall answer when I am reproved. And Jehovah
answered me and said, Write the vision, and make it
plain on the tablets, that he who reads it may run.
Hab 2:1-2*

Four keys

Habbakuk offers four keys to hearing God's voice:

1. Wait – Still yourself.
2. Keep watch and see – Fix your eyes upon Jesus.
3. Keep watch and listen.
4. Record it.

In the following chapters we will look at each of these keys.

Chapter 2

Key 1 - Wait

Wait on the LORD and quiet yourself. Ps 46:10 instruct us to be still:

“Be still and know that I am God.”

An important decision

Today, in our busy world, we have almost forgotten how to quieten ourselves and how to be still. It does not come naturally, although God intended it that way. Through the ages man has become used to being busy all the time, and especially today with the age of technology and information where computers, mobile phones, television etc take up most of our time awake, we need to relearn how to be quiet.

Therefore hearing God’s voice will ask a personal choice and act of will from your side. God never stops communicating with us – however, we have lost the ability to hear and discern His voice in the busy, noisy world in which we live.



You and I have to make a conscious decision to take time out of our busy schedules and to retreat to a place where we can spend time at our Father's feet. Even Jesus, although He was in constant communion with the Father, took time out to spend alone on the mountain communing with God.

*“And when He had sent the crowds away,
He went up into a mountain apart to pray.
And when evening had come,
He was there alone.”
Mat 14:23*

Quiet yourself and get ready to receive. God is Spirit and where the Spirit is, there is liberty – i.e. freedom from your own limiting beliefs and human thought patterns. God communicates to your spirit through His Spirit:

“These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to

*him; neither can he know them, because
they are spiritually discerned.”*

1 Cor 2:13-14

Like a baby

Therefore it is important to relax totally, to open up your spirit and to stop striving to hear. Sometimes we get so anxious to hear God's voice that our anxiety prevents the very thing we desire. Ps 131:2 says the following:

*“Surely I have behaved and have quieted
my soul, as one weaned by its mother;
my soul on me is like one weaned...”*



That is how we should become quiet – totally relaxed and at ease as a baby just been weaned by its mother. Just relax fully in His presence with an expectation that He will speak to you.

*“You will make Me know the way of life;
in Your presence is fullness of joys.
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”*

Psa 16:11

Open your heart and spirit to receive the fullness of joys and pleasures spoken of in Psalm 16.

Ways to enter in

There are various ways to enter and to become quiet and responsive to receive from God:

- Listening to soaking music – it tends to quiet us and make us more perceptive to the Holy Spirit. When Saul was agitated, David had to come and play his harp:

“ ... David took a harp and played with his hand. And there was relief for Saul, and it was well with him, and the evil spirit departed from him.” 1Sa 16:23



- Softly praying in tongues – When we pray in the Spirit, we communicate through the Holy Spirit and our spirits become more receptive to hear the

voice of God. As our minds are usually the culprits for not discerning God's still small voice. If you pray in the Spirit, your mind becomes unfruitful, but your spirit receptive and sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit:

*“For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays,
but my mind is unfruitful.”*

1 Co 14:14

- Spirit led Bible reading.

Sometimes, the moment you decide to become quiet, the enemy will start bombarding you with everyday problems and tasks in order to hinder the communication process between you and God. A good way to deal with that is to keep a little notebook handy and to immediately write down all the things you should remember – the moment it is written down, you will relax, as you know you will not forget it.

Chapter 3

Key 3 – Keep watch and see

Fix your eyes on Jesus

How did the prophets of old hear?

“And He said, hear now My words. If there is a prophet among you, I Jehovah will make Myself known to him in a vision, and will speak to him in a dream.”

Numbers 12:6

As stated here in the Old Testament, God spoke to them through dreams and visions, which means that He communicated with them day and night. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb 13:8). He is still communicating with us 24 hours a day.

Visions

He speaks primarily through images and pictures, as a picture paints a thousand words. More than 90 % of the Bible consists of pictures and images, while only 10 % is instruction. When God spoke to Abraham, he told him to look up to the sky and then prophesied that his descendants will outnumber the stars in the sky – much more powerful than only hearing it, was seeing it. God knows that He created man in such a manner that his memory has an amazing capacity to retain much more of an image seen than what is only heard. Therefore Jesus also taught through parables.

A vision is a spontaneous picture that appears spiritually. It can be in the form of a picture flashing through your

mind's eye, or can appear during prayer, or even take the form of a trance where you are not conscious what is happening around you, as happened to Peter:

“And he became very hungry and desired to eat. But while they made ready, an ecstasy fell on him. And he saw the heaven opened and a certain vessel like a sheet coming down to him, being bound at the four corners and let down to the earth; in which were all the four-footed animals of the earth, and the wild beasts, and the reptiles, and the birds of the heaven. And a voice came to him, saying, Rise, Peter! Kill and eat!” Acts 10:10-13

In John 5:19 it is also stated that Jesus did what He saw His Father doing.

To fix your eyes on Jesus means to become quiet and to start focusing on Him and Him alone, not allowing any other thought to intrude. It also means that you become open and available to God's voice and visions, and that you have a child-like faith and expectation that He will communicate with you.



Blocks

A number of blocks can prevent you from seeing:

- You may have a misconception that it is not a valid way of seeing and hearing God's voice.
- Your church culture or religion.
- You may be fearful – renounce all fear and believe 2 Tim 1:7:

“For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

- If you experience sinful visions, repent and shut off all sinful visions in the name of Jesus Christ.
- You may have had bad experiences in the past which cause flashbacks. Take authority over such negative experiences and ask the Lord to protect you against it.

Chapter 4

Key 3 - Keep watch and listen

How to recognize God's voice

Sometimes people are afraid that they will open themselves up to negative and evil forces when becoming quiet, because they do not know how to recognize God's voice. Again God teaches us in His Word how to recognize His voice:

“And He said, Go forth and stand on the mountain before Jehovah. And, behold, Jehovah passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains, and broke the rocks in pieces before Jehovah.

But Jehovah was not in the wind.

And after the wind was an earthquake, but Jehovah was not in the earthquake.

And after the earthquake was a fire, but Jehovah was not in the fire.

And after the fire was a still, small voice.

1 Ki 19:11-12

God's voice is a still, small voice, a gentle whisper – a whisper that can be easily overrode by our own thoughts and actions, if we are not attentive.

Pray beforehand that God will speak to you, and then believe and receive it, thereby banishing all fearful thoughts from your time spent with Him.

Discernment, not fear, is the name of the game

Your spirit will discern if you are hearing your own thoughts, which usually are logical and analytical,

thoughts of the enemy that are evil, destructive and will unleash fear and negative forces, or God's voice which will be creative, gentle, kind and loving and will bring you life, peace, love and comfort, as the Holy Spirit is your Comforter.

In 2 Cor 10:4-5 we read the following:

“For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, pulling down imaginations and every high thing (thought) that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought into the obedience of Christ;”

You will immediately discern evil or even your own thoughts that is contradictory to the Word of God and to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, there need not be any fear when entering a place of quietness and communion with God – He will meet you there and come and minister to you His love, kindness, peace, joy and wisdom!

A river of thoughts

The Hebrew word for prophesy is “naba” which means to bubble up. God's voice will usually occur as a spontaneous interruption, literally bubbling up. You may be busy reading the Bible, and from nowhere a spontaneous thought or vision literally drops or bubbles up in your mind/spirit.



The Holy Spirit will release a river of thoughts in you, if you allow Him. God's voice will almost always be in the first person, because He communicates with you on an intimate and personal level. He desires a close relationship with you, therefore there will not be distance and formality – He will speak to you as a loving Father speaks to the son or daughter He adores.

Chapter 5

If you think it, ink it

A Command

In Revelation 1:11 the Lord instructs John:

“...Also, What you see, write in a book...”

Therefore you should also write down what the Lord told you. The moment it is recorded in ink, the enemy cannot come and lie to you or throw forgetfulness at you – it will become a precious possession, which will strengthen your faith in times of need, and a legacy to your children and grandchildren.

Just think a moment on the fact that if Paul, Matthew, Luke, John and all the writers in the Bible were not obedient to record what they had seen, heard, and experienced, what a great loss it would have been to the Christian faith! And yes, God did inspire them supernaturally, but so He still does every day with you and me!

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever.”
Heb 13:8

“En Petrus het sy mond geopen en gesê: Ek sien waarlik dat God geen aannemer van die persoon is nie ...”
Hand 10:34

The Holy Spirit manifested

Another important reason to record it is that it is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit and controlled by the Holy Spirit. It can be in the form of questions that you asked the Lord, words you heard, or visions or pictures you saw. Always record in the 1st person – God is a God of intimate and loving relationships and will not be distant or impersonal – His voice will be edifying and loving.



If you think it, ink it!

Tailormade for you...

You are a unique human being – God created you that way. He knows you, your likes, dislikes, feelings, circumstances, and even the way you like to hear, intimately for He created you – He will honour that because He knows that is the way you will be able to communicate with Him. Do not compare yourself with others – look only to your Heavenly Father who loves and adores you!

A word of caution

A word of caution – a human tendency is to immediately start to analyze and explain everything we hear – even our Father's voice! Do not fall into that trap - faith is not natural, logical and analytical, but creative, unexplainable, and spiritual!

Confirmation

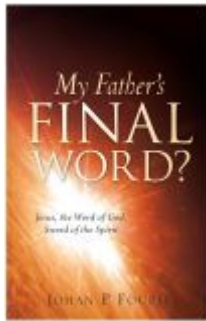
If you experience any doubt concerning the message you heard from God, ask Him for confirmation. He is the Creator of the universe and will use His Word, people, books and other creative ways to confirm His message. He is a gracious, loving Father and will not let you live in uncertainty – He promises in His word:

*Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and inscrutable things which you do not know.
Jer 33:3*

*Marié Fourie
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