

Hearing God - Teacher's Notes
Lesson Two – Part Two
God Speaks: His Way

I. Review Part One

God's Pattern: The Way God Speaks – the characteristics of how He speaks to us

God speaks:

- Uniquely
- Personally
- Progressively
- Consistently
- Faithfully
- Unmistakably
- Diagnostically

II. God's Purpose

Remember:

- God wants to speak to us
- Without the presence of the Holy Spirit, we could not understand God.
 - Holy Spirit reveals God's will
 - Holy Spirit enables us to respond in obedience.
- Never forget the work of the Spirit in our lives.

What does God want to reveal to us?

There are at least three things.....

1. God speaks to reveal His character.

God wants us to not just know about Him, but to experience Him in a personal way.

To understand what is in His heart...

When this happens:

- We will walk in a godly way –because we have experienced His holiness.
- We will be able to trust Him ---because we see His faithfulness.

- We will be able to forgive others ---because we will have experienced His forgiveness.
- We will be bold (attempt the impossible) –because we experience His power.

The Holy Spirit will take what we know of God and move it from our head to our heart. A relationship with God grows from head knowledge and becomes an exciting, personal experience.

2. God speaks to reveal His purposes.

God's purposes are not always our purposes.

We want Him to answer our prayers, to indulge us-----
His purpose is to transform us.

Romans 8:29

²⁹ God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him.

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We tend to be self-focused----
He wants to save the world.

As our heart changes and we begin to desire His will, adjust our lives to fit His plans---
He will reveal His purposes to us and we will hear Him clearly.

3. God speaks to reveal His ways.

David prayed:

Ps 25:4 Make me know Your ways, O LORD ; Teach me Your paths. NASU

David recognized that his own ways were not necessarily God's ways. He knew he had a lot to learn and his heart yearned to better understand God's ways.

Many things are done in God's name that He never intended.

- Ex - Paul – thought he was doing God's will by persecuting Christians.
- Ex. - Don't cheat on your income tax to give more to missions.

The way we do something is just as important as the outcome.

True - "The end doesn't justify the means."

God is holy and He wants all our ways to be holy as well.

III. God's Focus

1. God speaks disclosing specifics.

God gives specific guidance (instructions) to us.

Examples:

- Noah – given detailed plans for building the ark
- Abraham – specifically told to go to Canaan
- Moses – given detailed instruction on building the tabernacle
- David – given plans for the temple
- Gideon – told to assemble an army and then told how to reduce it to 300 men (battle strategy)
- Joseph – told to go to Egypt with the baby Jesus
- Paul – told to go to Macedonia
- Ananias – told to pray for Paul (go to the street called Straight – Acts 9:11)

Expect God to give you specifics, not just generalities.

2. God speaks requiring faith.

Ask yourself ----Do I believe God will speak specifically to me?

Do you really expect God to answer your prayers?

Ex. Acts 12:1-15 (Peter released from prison)

If you love God, you will want to know His specific commands and desire to obey them.

Blackaby (p. 53) – “A failure to follow God’s word is a failure to love him.”

We need to have a willingness to hear God speak to us. If you spend each day with an expectant awareness of God, you will hear Him speak to you.

Blackaby (p.53) – read story *Recognizing God’s Answer*

3. God speaks Step-by-Step

What God wants you to do is important, but how you do it is also important.

The Christian walk is a lifetime task.

God does not give us all the details (answers) at once.

(We mentioned in the last lesson how God speaks progressively.)

Be constantly ready for God to speak to you.

It is a walk of faith to take one step at a time.

4. God speaks expecting us to heed specifics.

God expects us to take His word to us seriously. If He gives us a specific detail, we need to be very careful to pay attention to it.

Ex. David transporting the ark did not follow God’s instructions.

Ex 25:12-15

"You shall cast four gold rings for it and fasten them on its four feet, and two rings shall be on one side of it and two rings on the other side of it.

¹³ "You shall make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold.

¹⁴ "You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, to carry the ark with them.

¹⁵ "The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark; they shall not be removed from it. NASU

Dt 10:8

At that time the LORD set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to serve Him and to bless in His name until this day. NASU

2Sa 6:3-7

They placed the ark of God on a new cart that they might bring it from the house of Abinadab which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were leading the new cart.

⁴ So they brought it with the ark of God from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Ahio was walking ahead of the ark.

⁵ Meanwhile, David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the LORD with all kinds of instruments made of fir wood, and with lyres, harps, tambourines, castanets and cymbals.

⁶ But when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out toward the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen nearly upset it.

⁷ And the anger of the LORD burned against Uzzah, and God struck him down there for his irreverence; and he died there by the ark of God.

NASU

2Sa 6:12-13

David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obededom into the city of David with gladness.

¹³ And so it was, that when the bearers of the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. NASU

Ex. Saul did not wait on the battlefield for Samuel to come and offered the sacrifice himself. God took Saul's kingdom from him.

Conclusion -----

God speaks in specific ways to His people.

Examine your relationship with God.

Are you hearing Him speak to you?

Are you responding in faith and obedience?

Questions:

1. What has God been revealing to you about his character, his purposes, and his ways?
2. When you ask God to guide you, do you really believe he will?
3. Have you been diligent to obey everything you know God has told you to do to the letter?
4. What are you doing to find God's will for you? Are you prepared to do whatever God tells you to do?