

Hearing God's Voice - Teacher's Notes  
Lesson Seven  
Other Ways We Hear God

(Additional resource for this lesson: *Hearing God 30 Different Ways* by Larry Kreider, House to House Publications, 2005, pp. 59-65, 106-114, 148-153)

I. God Speaks to People through People

The Bible is filled with accounts of God using people to bring his messages to other people.

That was the role of the prophets. They spoke for God. To ignore the prophet's message was to ignore God. Those who did suffered the consequences.

Ex. Young Samuel to Eli.

Nathan to King David.

Moses to the Israelites.

Jonah to the people of Ninevah.

John the Baptist to the Jews.

Since the Holy Spirit dwells in every believer, we should pay attention to what other believers say to us.

Jn 13:20 – Truly, anyone who welcomes my messenger is welcoming me, and anyone who welcomes me is welcoming the Father who sent me.

The reason God uses others to help us hear His voice is to remind us that we are not self-sufficient. God created us for relationships from the beginning.

The church is meant to be a community

- where we are to relate to other believers
- serve one another
- build each other up
- hold each other accountable to God

We need each other.

If we hold ourselves apart from the church (other believers) , we will not hear all God has to say to us.

God uses each member uniquely.

**I Cor 12** – there are many parts, yet one body. Each has his own function. When believers function in the church body the way God calls them to, the entire body is strengthened and effective.

God knows what you need to hear and will lead someone to say the exact words at the right moment. You will recognize the message is from God. Even a casual statement can be used by God's Spirit to speak to you.

Ex.: **Acts 9 10:19 Saul and Ananias**

Why did Saul need Ananias to speak to him? God could have spoken everything to him on the road to Damascus.

- To connect to the church (other believers)
- To be baptized in the Spirit and water
- To teach him to depend on other believers

God connects believers so we hear Him together. This creates unity in the body of Christ.

There is power in agreement.

**Matt 18:19-20**

Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

If God has spoken something to you, He will usually confirm it through another.

In the church:

- Pastor
- Speakers
- Leaders
- Mature believers
- Godly counselors – people who practice what they preach and have a track record of making good decisions. Someone who lives close to Jesus.
- Those with gifts (prophecy, word of knowledge, word of wisdom, teaching)
- Whoever God chooses

The Bible encourages us to test the words given to us.

- Ask God to confirm to you if it is really from Him.
- Ask another trusted leader.
- Know those who you receive from.

1 Thess 5:12 (amp)

Now also we beseech you, brethren, get to know those who labor among you – recognize them for what they are, acknowledge and appreciate and respect them all – your leaders who are over you in the Lord, and those who warn and kindly reprove and exhort you.

Ask ourselves:

- Are you presently involved in the church body to the degree Christ wants you to be?
- Why did God lead you to the church that he did? What does God want to do through your life that will build up the body?
- What is the Holy Spirit presently trying to say to you through fellow believers?
- What is the danger of seeking others' opinions before God's?

## II. Visions and Dreams

The Bible records for us many times that God used dreams and visions to speak to people.

This is an important part of the last days outpouring:

Acts 2:17

In the last days, God said, I will pour out my spirit upon all people, Your sons and daughters will prophecy, your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams.

We must evaluate every supernatural experience by the Word. We must be grounded in the Bible.

### 1. Dreams

Look for a person who has the gift of dream interpretation. (like Joseph)

Most of us dream nightly and not all our dreams are spiritual.

Some dreams (Joseph to flee to Egypt) have a specific purpose and the message is clear.

Some dreams are a confirmation of what God has already spoken to us. (Joseph to marry Mary)

Some dreams are given to us to alert us to pray.

Some dreams are abstract and cannot be interpreted easily.

Joyce Meyer: “God doesn’t give us dreams to make us feel good or make us more spiritual. Dreams are often interesting to talk about but often are unstable in giving us clear direction for our lives. I have found that people who try to make too much out of their dreams are asking to be deceived.”

Look for confirmation in the Word or other ways.

Write down your dreams and review them periodically to see if God gives you more insight or if they have come to pass.

## 2. Visions

### Open Vision

Paul had an open vision...like watching a movie. With your eyes open.

### Impression/Mental Image

Another kind of vision is when you experience things “in the spirit”. This is a type of impression God places in your mind and spirit. This could be an impression or a mental picture.

Visions are used by God, but we must test them. Examine the message and the messenger.

### 1 Jn 4:1-3

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

Use wisdom and discernment in hearing God through dreams and visions. Look for confirmation.

### III. Angels

God speaking through angels is not a common supernatural experience. But God does speak through angels as seen in the Bible.

Angels are servants of God. They were created to serve God and man.

Heb 1:14

But angels are only servants. They are spirits sent from God to care for those who will receive salvation.

Remember:

There are holy angels and also demons of darkness. We are told that fallen angels can masquerade as angels of light.

We should never try to contact angels, pray to them or worship them. All actions of holy angels will glorify God and be consistent with the Bible.

You may not be aware of the presence of angels around you.

You cannot predict when they will appear.

They will make themselves visible when needed.

We must be careful when receiving words from angels. But expect God to use angels to minister to you.