

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

Oswald Chambers: “No man by mere high human wisdom would dare undertake a step for Jesus’ sake unless he knows that the Holy Spirit has directly spoken to him.”

It is important for each of us to hear God and know He has spoken to us.

But how will He speak to me?

Ps 103:7 – “He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.”

Israel only saw His acts.

Moses learned God’s ways. (Some of that learning came from observing God’s acts.)

I. **God’s Pattern**

1. **God speaks uniquely.**

Compare how God first spoke to:

Samuel

vs

Saul(Paul)

Quiet

Bold

Gentle

Dramatic

Private

Public

---each heard God call their name

God will not speak to you exactly as someone else.

2. **God speaks personally.**

p. 42 – Blackaby – “God’s choice to communicate in so many divine ways forces us to put our faith in him, not in a method.”

God wants a personal relationship with us. God does not limit himself to a formula.

James 4:8a

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. NASU

As we seek to develop an intimate relationship with God, He will speak to us.

3. God speaks progressively.

The Bible shows us a progressive pattern of God communicating with His people.

- 1) OT – God spoke in multiple ways
- 2) Gospels – God fulfilled OT prophecies and sent His Son.
- 3) Next – God sent the Holy Spirit and established His Church – continuing to communicate with His people.

God also relates to individuals in a progressive way.

- 1) First meeting with God is often more dramatic than later encounters.
 - Moses – burning bush
 - Paul – road to Damascus
 - Ezekiel – vision of angels
 - Isaiah – vision of God on the throne

As they grew in their relationship with God, God did not need such dramatic means to get their attention.

The dramatic seems to be the exception rather than the norm.

God wants our relationship with Him to continue to grow, so as He speaks to us He continues to build on what He has said previously.

Did you have a dramatic event in your early walk with God?

2) Ex - Abraham

- Told him to leave his homeland
- Spoke to him several times
- After 45 years asked him to sacrifice his son Isaac
- Abraham would never have been prepared for this word at the beginning of his relationship with God.

Disciples

- Jesus progressively taught them for three years.

- He did not even mention the cross until the end, after they understood that He was the Christ.

Have you noticed God speaking to you differently today than in the past?

4. God speaks consistently.

Blackaby – “We cannot say ‘God always....’ Or ‘God never....’, because God is God. He can do what he chooses, when he chooses, and how he chooses.”

But some things are true absolutes ----- one is that God will never say anything inconsistent with his character.

- God is HOLY – Therefore he does not speak in an unholy manner.

Ps 60:6

God has spoken in His holiness: ... NASU

Ps 65:5

You answer us in righteousness, ... NASU

Therefore he does not guide us in ways that would cause us to act unholy.

- God is LOVE – So his words will always reflect perfect love.

Even when he speaks to us harshly, he speaks in love.

5. God speaks faithfully.

Isa 14:24

²⁴ The LORD of hosts has sworn saying, "Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand,...NASU

God's word is reliable. If he says something, he will bring it to pass.
We can trust his word.

Isa 55:10-11

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;

¹¹ So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it. NASU

When God makes a vow, he keeps it. (Question 1- **Do you believe God keeps His word?**)

6. **God speaks unmistakably.**

The Bible shows that God's people recognized God speaking to them. The question in their minds was not "Is this God?" but "How do I respond?"

This is often our thought, as well.-----"What do I do, now that I have heard God?"

The problem is-----We don't always like what He is telling us. **Why?**
(See Question 2)

7. **God speaks diagnostically.**

When God speaks, we must respond.

Our response reveals the condition of our hearts. We need to know what is in our hearts.

Example: Angel appeared to Zacharias and to Mary.
Zacharias doubted/Mary believed

Questions:

1. Do you believe God keeps his word?
Are you presently waiting for God to fulfill a promise? What is it?

2. Do you agree that the problem most often is not that people don't know what God is saying to them, but that they are unwilling to obey what they do know God is saying? Why or why not?