

Sermon Notes

The New Life Part 11: Hearing from God

August 6th – 7th, 2022

- **Hearing from God**
- I pray pretty much the same way before each sermon, mentioning that the Lord guides us by His Holy Spirit and by His Holy Word. Why?
 - To be led by the Spirit, being able to hear from God is a HUGE DEAL!!
 - Can be the difference between stagnation and growth, confusion and clarity, lies and truth.
 - Holy Spirit's guidance: **John 14:25-26, John 16:12-13**
 - Guidance from the Bible: **2 Timothy 3:16-17**
- For me, hearing from God started with honestly (though critically) reading the Bible. **Matthew 7:7-8**
 - This quickly changed to include the supernatural. The vision, then the Holy Spirit's still small voice.
- Both the Bible and the Holy Spirit are essential to hearing from God.
 - The Bible and the Holy Spirit's leading work together.
 - If what you think you have heard from God contradicts the Bible, you have a problem.
 - If what you read in the Bible is not living and active, you have a problem.
 - If we don't have both it can get messy. Thinking you are hearing from God but it's just: your emotions or imagination, human theological constructs, or religious culture.
- Some Biblical examples of people hearing from God.
 - Personal prayer: Jesus picking his 12 disciples. **Luke 6:12-13**
 - Corporate prayer and fasting: Barnabas and Paul set apart. **Acts 12:25-13:3**
 - Prophetic Word: The interesting case of Agabus and Paul. **Acts 21:7-14**
 - Same word from God, very different conclusions on what to do!!
 - Paul had already been warned by the Holy Spirit that hardships were coming. **Acts 20:22-24**
 - Besides this there are dreams, visions, Scripture references, and other ways to hear from God.
- Hearing from God can be tricky, so let me give you my top 5 tips on hearing from God.
 - 1) Pray!!! AND read your Bible!!!
 - Have listening be a significant part of your prayer time as well. Seek the Lord's guidance!
 - Don't complain that you never hear from God if you don't pray and read your Bible!
 - 2) Be Honest. Eliminate the biases in your heart.
 - The guy who had 8 girls say "God told me we were going to get married" at Bible school.
 - There can be noise in your heart that is louder than the still small voice of God. Get quiet.
 - 3) Take your time.
 - It was a 3-year process for me to discern if we should move to Cloquet! Lots of noise...
 - 4) Trust and Obey.
 - Don't waste your time trying to hear from God unless you are prepared to follow through on what He shows you. However, for the one who calls Jesus 'Lord' there is only one option.
 - Six months of quiet example.
 - Start with obedience to the simplest Scriptures, like **Matt 7:7**.
 - 5) Learn from your mistakes.
 - We all miss if from time to time. Go ahead and practice and learn!
 - Giving as an example.
- This is a Holy Communion weekend.
 - This is something Jesus commanded his disciples to do. **Luke 22:14-20**
 - This is something we do to honor and remember what Jesus has done for us.
 - A simple Scripture to obey. Not just receive, but remember.
 - Let's pause a moment, and listen, then receive Holy Communion together.
- Get personal prayer by emailing prayer@goodhope.ag.