Sunday, September 7, 2025

Hearing from God Pt. 1

Scripture is the Foundation.

- We are starting a new series, something that the world has a hard time understanding is how we as Christians depend on God in ways that seem completely reckless and strange to them. Something I've been asked about is if we really hear from God. The short answer is yes. But there are many different ways to hear from God, and this series is going to cover many of them.
  - **Revelation 3:20; John 16:13; John 10:27**
    - God still speaks to us, and He is constantly calling us to Him through the Holy Spirit. He guides people to truth, and as followers of Him, we can learn to know His voice, much like a sheep knows the voice of their shepherd. We are His sheep.
    - If He is still speaking, then we better listen, because the Creator of the universe is a whole lot smarter than any one of us, and if He has a purpose and plan for you, and it's greater than anything you can come up with on your own. And how much better is it to hear that directly from the source?
    - Here's a question: if God is still speaking, and He's always here, where lies the breakdown?
      - Jesus was never shy while on Earth. He said what needed to be said. Throughout Scripture, we see one of the characters of God is His boldness. I don't believe the issue is getting Him to talk. I think the problem is on our end. We need to learn to listen… something we've been told since we were kids!
    - So, how do we learn to listen? How do we separate our thoughts from the things God puts in our mind?How does the Lord speak to us?
      - This is what this series is going to attempt to answer.
    - Our first installment is really laying groundwork, and one of the easiest to discern:
      - Scripture is the Foundation. We need to get this down first.
- **The Bible is your Foundation.**
  - If you want to hear from God, then you need to listen to things He's already said.
    - The Lord has already given us instructions for life. **Psalms 119:89-90, 102-105**
    - Keith Moore, Pastor and Author, said he wanted to hear God more.
      - He prayed hundreds of times, "God, speak to me."
      - He wanted to hear God audibly, hear a voice, see a vision, etc.
      - "
      - Talk to me, talk to me, talk to me…"

        - Late one night/early morning, he's exhausted, he gets quiet, and in his spirit, he feels something.
        - The Lord spoke, "Son, I have said many, many things to you in the book already, and you don't know them. Find out what I've already said to you, and if I want to say anything else to you, I will."
    - This is the basics; we need to start with what we've already been shown, and the Bible is the Living Word of God. It speaks differently as we go through different situations, so reading it is a continual process with new revelation each time we engage in it!
        - Don't think you'll ever outgrow the Word of God!
    - And just in case you haven't heard it, the Bible did come from the Lord. **2 Timothy 3:14-17**
- The Bible is how you become familiar with God's voice.
    - When God speaks to you, it may actually have the tone of Scripture, or actually be Scripture, because it's one that He's already written in the Bible!
        - If you know the words of the author, when He speaks, you will recognize the voice. (Mark Batterson example)
        - However, let's say you go to hear someone speak, and they've written all these great books about a topic you're really interested in, but you've never read any of them. Q&A comes along, you raise your hand and get to ask what you think is the deepest question ever, and it was the most fundamental basis of the first book the author had written. He may just tell you to read the book; your question has already been answered in detail.
            - The Bible's full of answers; sometimes we need to look.
- Jesus quoted Scripture all the time throughout His earthly ministry. In fact, if you were to have a conversation with Him, odds are He would probably pull some Old Testament into the conversation! It's how He talked; it was part of Him. Even on the cross, He was quoting from Scripture. He spoke like that then; I think He's still speaking Scripture today.
    - When a Scripture or reference pops into your mind randomly, pay attention; that might be God trying to tell you something!
        - (Street team example)
    - When you read Scripture, eventually you will come across something you don't understand. Don't stumble when you don't understand something you read; it's a prime opportunity to pray and get clarity from God. It's an opportunity to hear Him!!!
        - Be open to how He speaks; it may end up being another verse!
    - When you learn Scripture, God can speak to you through His Word.
- The more Scripture you know, the harder it is for you to be deceived.
    - The Bible is how you vet something is from God.
        - When something comes to mind, and you think it's a word from God, how do you know?

    - Balance it against the Bible. If it goes against God's Word, you can bet it's not His voice you're hearing.
- **Matthew 4:1-11,** If the devil will try to confuse Jesus, he will try to confuse you as well.
  - The devil was trying to deceive Jesus, but Jesus was able to defend Himself with what? The Word of God!
  - **1 John 4:1-3**
    - You may have heard something, and it may have sounded spiritual; make sure it's from the right Spirit! Test it!!!
    - **Galatians 1:6-9** Just because someone has a louder voice doesn't mean they're worth listening to.
- **Nehemiah 6:1-8** Beware of deception.
  - It's important to get your information firsthand; otherwise, you may be pulled astray; they claimed that there were prophets saying things, but Nehemiah knew the truth and stayed calm, not buying into the lies that were being spread against him.
- Have you ever had someone quote scripture from the book of Michael? Knowing the true words of God will keep you from being deceived.
  - When you don't know your Bible, you can get thrown around theologically; deception will occur.

<u>Start Music / Communion</u>

- **Psalm 1:1-3; Joshua 1:8**

- Some homework…
  - Go read some Scripture this week, pray, and ask the Lord to speak to you. Pause for 30-40 seconds, dwell on it, and listen for revelation about what it means for you. Here's a starter verse… **Ephesians 3:14-21**

<u>Communion</u>

- If you feel like living boldly, text (or email) me your verses and what you received as revelation about it. I'd love to hear from you!!!

<u>prayer@goodhope.ag</u> Be blessed and be a blessing!

<u>One Minute Blessing;</u> <u>Unsaved Loved Ones</u>**. John 6:44**
Section Fellowship Meeting
5:30- Meal
7:00- Worship