

Lesson 7

The Voice of God

Opening Verse: **Romans 10:17**

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word (Rhema) of God.

Introduction:

A very important skill that every child of God must learn, is to hear the voice of God. In this lesson, we will discuss the biblical foundation of hearing God's voice, as well as provide some practical steps that we can take to learn how to hear the voice of God.

The Lord communicates with us through **THOUGHTS** and **FEELINGS**:

- We call these thoughts as the **Voice of God**.
- The most important feeling or impression from God is the **Peace of God**.

Col. 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts ...

Psalms 34:14 ... Seek peace and pursue it.

- Peace can be a "decision maker" in our day to day walk with God but it does not "lead" us or direct our steps, as God leads us by the voice of His Spirit. (Rom. 8:1-14)
- Since we are not led by God's voice all the time, we need to learn God's peace, as we abide in it.
- His peace guides us on each "step of the walk" as we follow and obey the directions of the Rhema.

The LOGOS and the RHEMA:

The Logos is the **WRITTEN** Word of God (Bible) and the Rhema is the **SPOKEN** Word of God, as the Spirit of God speaks to us. (or the **Voice of God – thoughts** from God)

- The **Logos** was spoken and written down for us and is the forever settled Word. (Psalm 119:89)
- The Logos is the **FOUNDATION** for everything, including the Rhema.
- It is the written plan of God for my life. (Matt. 4:4)

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- like a "yes" when there is peace and a "no" when there is a lack or absence of God's peace.

-Peace also **confirms** the voice of God.

- The **Rhema** is the revelation of the **will of God** for me.
- It reveals how the Logos or plan of God **applies** to my life at any given time, on any given day.
- There are **many purposes** of hearing God's voice, such as to **direct our daily life** and His Rhema also **teaches** us. But the most significant purpose is for us to be His conduits in speaking His Word as a **witness to souls**.
- As sons of God, we need to be **led by His Spirit**, by hearing the voice of God.

Romans 8:14: *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

- And our **FAITH** is increased as we hear the RHEMA of God. (Romans 10:17)

The Operation of Faith with the Rhema

2 Corinthians 4:13

*We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken, **we also believe, and therefore speak;***

Romans 10:10

*For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth **confession** is made unto salvation.*

Confession is the way faith works = I hear what God says in my heart, my heart believes it and then I speak the same thing with my mouth what God's Spirit says to my heart.

The PROCESS: He SPEAKS ... I HEAR, I BELIEVE, and then I SPEAK in agreement with it.

- Faith is not faith until I believe what I have heard and I speak it in confession!
- For any type of ministry, with the same spirit of faith, we believe and then we speak.

Signs will Follow the Rhema

When we hear God's Word and believe it, and then speak (or confess) it, **God will confirm His Word with signs following** (Mark 16:17):

Mark 16:17 *And these signs shall follow them that believe ...*

God's SIGN could be just feeling a "witness in our spirit" or it could be something that we all could feel or see. God will choose the type of manifestation but He will confirm His Word ... so EXPECT it!

*John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.***

- **Life** is produced by the SPOKEN Word.
- When the Spirit is speaking Rhema = there is a QUICKENING (also called as ANOINTING)
- In the Rhema is FAITH, POWER & AUTHORITY!
- In the Rhema is the promise of God's BLESSING or confirmation of that Word.

So we HEAR the Rhema, we BELIEVE the Rhema, we SPEAK the Rhema AND you will have the RESULTS of the Rhema!

How the Voice of God Sounds

- God will establish a way on how He deals with you **PERSONALLY.**
- He will establish that pattern over and over again. His voice will be **constant** regardless of the situation.
- God uses a **STILL SMALL VOICE.** (1 Kings 19:12)

Steps to Learn How to Hear the Voice of God

1. Invest time alone in the presence of God to **LISTEN** to His voice.

Being in the **presence of God is the perfect atmosphere** to hear His voice. During our prayer times, we need to invest time to **intentionally listen to His voice**, wherein we do not ask Him for anything, nor intercede in tongues but your spirit waits quietly on the Lord. And as you do this a lot, you will become more acquainted with His voice.

And if you **do this ENOUGH every day**, His presence will stay with you for the rest of the day, no matter what you are doing (even at work), as long as you do not choose to do anything that would drive His presence away.

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Anointing = God's power in action

2. Study and Know the Scripture.

Aside from learning the voice of God by spending time in His presence, we need to know the GOD of the voice by spending time in His Word.

Psalm 119:11 *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

- His Word becomes hidden in our hearts when a specific revelation from His Word makes us to **TRUST GOD IN OUR HEART.**
- And we TEST these spirits or false voices that come to our mind by COMPARING their words with God's Word that we put in our heart.

We have the obligation to know and study the Word also because not knowing scripture leads to **ERROR!**

2 Timothy 2:15 *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.*

We also need to be submitted to God's Word and authority by being **OBEDIENT** to His Word.

James 1:22 *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*

3. Pray in the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:14 *For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.*

When I pray in tongues, my mind is not active or is unproductive (unfruitful) and is at rest. This process brings us closer and into focus to the voice of God or the voice of the Spirit, since it is God's Spirit praying through us. And that's how His voice sounds or feels.

Romans 8:26–27 *Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

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When we **understand** His Word – it becomes hidden in our heart.

And then His Word can **transform** us!

The Process:

From **Knowledge** (MIND) to **Understanding** (HEART) to **Wisdom** (SPIRIT)

(also see the *Basic English Version*)

WUEST: *And in like manner also the Spirit lends us a helping hand with reference to our weakness, for the particular thing that we should pray for according to what is necessary in the nature of the case, we do not know with an absolute knowledge; but the Spirit himself comes to our rescue by interceding with unutterable groanings.*

Jude 20: *But ye beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.*

So when the Holy Ghost is helping my spirit pray, **my mind is actually listening.** Thus, our mind is not blank but it is focused “on the Spirit.”

2 Cor. 3:17 *Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where Spirit of the Lord is, there is **liberty.***

Liberty = Deliverance from bondage, especially from self

As I have the liberty to pray in the Spirit:

- My flesh is brought unto subjection
- I am at liberty in hearing the voice of God in my mind
- and I am learning how to recognize the voice of God.

With the many benefits of speaking in tongues, we need to speak in tongues more often, as Paul did in 1Cor. 14:18: *I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:*

4. **Hear and Recognize God’s Voice through HUMAN AGENCIES.**

For most of us, before we can proficiently recognize the voice of God when He speaks to us directly, He teaches us through human agencies, such as our Pastor and Teachers.

We first hear the Rhema spoken from these agencies and then we receive it and claim it as our **own** Rhema.

God also uses human agencies to **CONFIRM** the thoughts that He has been speaking to us.

The flow of God’s Rhema is a wonderful **cycle**, as it is continually imparted “to” and “from” His conduits, for His voice to be heard.

5. **Our Flesh Needs to be CRUCIFIED.**

Our flesh needs to be crucified in order to be able to:

- 1) **Walk in the Spirit** and (2) **Have the Faith of the Son of God FLOWING through us.**

Galatians 5:16–17 ¹⁶ *This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit**, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that you cannot do the things*

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And we don’t need to mentally understand it.

} This is good TRAINING for our spiritual HEARING ...

which the Apostle Paul highly recommends!

that ye would.

Walking in the Spirit is the same as **LISTENING to God.**

- Every day we have a responsibility to CHOOSE our spiritual atmosphere, whether to live in the Spirit or in the flesh.
- Because of our sinful nature, we need to make a choice to DIE DAILY for our flesh to be crucified.
- **If we fail to choose to walk in the Spirit – our flesh will tear us apart and we will become the battleground between our flesh and spirit!**
- This makes us spiritually unstable and thus, unable to discern God's voice.
- But if we walk in the Spirit, we fellowship with the Spirit and we come into the atmosphere wherein we can **RECOGNIZE** the voice of God.

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

- **To be crucified** (to die to self) = surrender our will and give up our control in everything
- When I die and give up all my control = **I WILL LIVE ... by Christ LIVING in me!**
- This allows the Faith of Christ to **OPERATE** in me!

RESULTS of Crucifying our Flesh:

When I **DIE**, by the grace of God empowering me to do so, the scripture says that **I WILL LIVE!**

But it's not "me" living but **CHRIST living in me!**

And now Christ flows out in me by ministry through **HIS FAITH OPERATING** in me!

6. I Need to Silence the Other VOICES that are Competing with God's.

When I silence the other voices by the grace of God, then my **SENSITIVITY** to God's voice will increase since I cannot force God to speak louder.

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To be Crucified means:

I need to die to myself and give up my control/will.

I need to allow circumstances that God has ordained to be in my life to bring me to the place that I say, not my will but Thine will be done.

I DIE to me and Christ is now LIVING in me ... and now I am a conduit with Christ's FAITH living in me!

Voice of my Flesh

- The voice of our flesh always wants **comfort, convenience or pleasure.**
- It sounds like this: *Oh you're tired or you're busy, you don't need to pray ...*
- This could also be the convincing voice of your family, spouse or friends – with their own flesh talking to you!
- But as you hide God's Word in your heart, and allow His peace to rule, you will know which voice to follow.

Voice of the Human Will

- There are things that we **WANT**, things that we'd like to see happen, things that we'd like to do.
- These things may not necessarily be “immoral” but it's like **coveting** that things that God is not giving to us.
- Our WILL could even quote scripture for us in order to justify what we want.
- When we fail to seek the will of God and just do what we WANT or what we are naturally prone to do – then we are being led by the voice of our human will.
- We never want to follow the voice of our will since there are **consequences when we receive things that are not according to His will:** As they become spiritual **WEIGHTS** to us in our walk with God! (**Hebrews 12:1**)
- The weights of the human will can only slow us down or make things harder for us.

This is how we subdue the voice of our will ...

Matthew 16:24 *Then said Jesus unto his **disciples**, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

- **DENY** – Disavow or disclaim ownership of yourself
- **TAKE up your CROSS** – this where the WILL is involved, where I GIVE UP CONTROL of me. I stop focusing on my circumstances and trust that God has allowed me to walk in these circumstances in order to GROW in my discipleship.
- **FOLLOW God** – as I submit to His will

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Hebrews 12:1 *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight**, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*

Voice of this World

- These are the ungodly **VALUE SYSTEMS** in our world that compete for our attention.
- The source of this voice is the adversary and it takes many forms – the voices of PUBLIC OPINION, FASHION, POPULARITY, WEALTH, PLEASURE, etc.
- We need to **RESIST** these voices ...

DO NOT LOVE the world's value system and the things of this world. *1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

DO NOT BE A FRIEND OF those who are an image of the world's value system.

James 4:4 ... know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

DO NOT CONFORM TO the value systems of this world.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Voice of the Adversary (the master of all of these voices)

- He uses **SUBTLETY!** Makes you believe in something that is not true by making it sound convincing and logical to you because he has studied your flesh and knows HOW you think.
- We **RECOGNIZE** these thoughts by comparing them with God's Word, by choosing not to "defend" our rights, and by not yielding to the desires of our flesh. And then we **RESIST** these thoughts.
- And as we strive to do all these by the grace of God, His **PEACE** will **confirm** His will!

We need to SILENCE ALL these voices that compete with God's voice – the subtle voice of the enemy, the voice of the human will, the voice of the flesh, and the voice of the world, in order to increase our sensitivity to God's voice.

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[See Lesson 5 \(Tactics of the Enemy\) for additional reference.](#)

7. Fasting

Primary purpose of Fasting = to know the voice of God **better** by the voices of my flesh and will being **SILENCED**.

- Fasting helps to quiet down the voice of flesh and human will, **enabling us to hear the voice of God more clearly.**

Mark 9:29 *And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.*

- This means that **my faith can't work if there are too many voices that are hindering my ABILITY TO HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD.**
- **Even if I hear the voice of God, if my mind is DIVIDED, my faith is not going to work.**

Fasting does NOT change God! Nor does it make us earn an answer from God or make us more "spiritual."

Fasting CHANGES ME!

- By quieting those voices in me, by the grace of God, that are competing with the voice of God in my life.
- By allowing me to discern His will more clearly.
- By getting us spiritually **FOCUSED** on His spiritual kingdom and not on earthly things.
- By strengthening my ability to resist certain voices or temptations (when we have fallen or become less capable to resist these).
- By revealing my sins so that I can repent (Isa. 58:9).
- By **increasing my FAITH**: The less voices I hear, the clearer the voice of the Lord comes, and the more confidence that I am hearing the voice of the Lord, and then the greater my FAITH is because faith comes by hearing the Rhema.

God's Acceptable MOTIVE of Fasting:

TO BE HIS CONDUITS TO SET THE CAPTIVES FREE FROM EVERYTHING THAT IS BINDING AND HINDERING THEM.

Isaiah 58:6 *Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, And to let the oppressed go free, And that ye break every yoke?*

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Since the strongest APPETITE of our flesh = **EATING**

Reasons to go on an Extended (3 days or more) Fast:

1. To find out God's will regarding a situation.
2. To be delivered from a temptation or addiction.
3. To draw closer to God and to grow!
4. To receive physical or emotional healing.
5. To intercede for another person's soul or special need.

Recommended **Maintenance** Fast:

To fast one day a week for your flesh to know that the Spirit is in control.