

Hearing the Voice of God

By: Darin Slack

Week 1

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." 2 Cor. 13:14

Overview of our sessions will be:

Week 1 – SEEK – Discussing our intentional pursuit of God, the wonderful discovery we will make of His greater pursuit of us, and how we can work through the barriers to our seeking.

Week 2 – SENSE – A look at how He speaks and guides us practically in our experience by His Spirit founded in Scripture, flowing from Scripture, and framed by Scripture.

Week 3 – SUBMIT – A look at how we can biblically protect our hearts and minds from error, wandering, and being puffed up in our experiences with the Spirit

Week 4 – SHARE – A look at the overflow of our experience with God's voice leading us to share with others and utilize the gifts of the Spirit He manifests.

Week 1 – Seek

God's intention from the foundation of the world has been for us to know Him and be known by Him.

In terms of "hearing" His voice, practically speaking...

His voice is not something we hear with our external ears, it's something we perceive. When the Holy Spirit came and dwelt in us, He gave us "ears to hear" what was being said by Him.

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." - John 10:27

I describe His "voice" as...anything He does to reveal, manifest, or communicate something of His presence, His thoughts, or His will. These are just a few of the ways His Spirit manifests His "voice" personally within us:

His presence - 1 John 1:14 (His word became flesh)

His conviction – John 16:8

His warning – Acts 20:23

His pleasure – Phil 2:13

His prompting – Acts 9:11, 20:22

His peace – Phil. 4:7

His discipline – Heb. 12:11

His direction – Acts 13:2

His wisdom – James 3:17

There are other ways he speaks to us that we will cover next week, but I want to focus on our awareness of His voice internally in its many forms. We must cultivate 'ears to hear'

***"The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and sincere"* James 3:17**

Here are many fruits of the Spirit's wisdom that He will provide externally and internally:

- **Pure** – It will be clear, clean, devoid of confusion, and precise.
- **Peace-loving** - It will be a thought or impression promoting peace, reconciliation, and forgiveness.
- **Considerate** - The manner of its coming. It's perfectly timed for us, and others, in the moment.
- **Submissive** – It will be suggested, or offered as an option. He does not insist, He invites.

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- **Full of mercy and good fruit** - wisdom from God is merciful beyond description and will produce good fruit.
- **Impartial** – It will not show favoritism to you or another's "rightness" of argument. It will be "win-win" wisdom.
- **Sincere** - Sincerity means "free from pretense, deceit, or hypocrisy." (Google)

Who is seeking whom?

We are called to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, but for us to grow in our understanding of hearing God's voice, we cannot begin with how we seek God, but rather how God seeks us.

The breakdown in our Seeking of God usually occurs because of 3 barriers

1) **Not understanding the power of the Gospel** – *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ -1 Cor. 1:18*

Ways to preach the gospel to ourselves everyday...

A) God is bigger than my heart that condemns me, So I tell Him I love Him -1 John 3:19-22

B) Agree with the enemy's assessment of our character - Matt. 5:25 NKJV

C) "It is finished." What God says is finished, is finished. – Jn.19:30

2) **Not Knowing the Father's Love** – *The love of God - John 14:8-9*

Exodus 20:18-19 An Old Testament perspective

Isaiah 55:8 – His ways and thoughts are not like ours, especially towards us.

To understand the love of God the Father...we must know His ways...the ways He revealed to Moses.

Exodus 34:6 – How God wants to be known

Psalms 103:7-14 – His way toward us

Mal. 3:6 "I the Lord, do not change."

John 17:26 – His Love for Jesus is the same for us

"The King, full of mercy and goodness, very far from chastising me, embraces me with love, makes me eat at His table, serves me with His own hands, gives me the key of His treasures; He converses and delights Himself with me incessantly, in a thousand and a thousand ways, and treats me in all respects as His favorite. It is thus I consider myself from time to time in His holy presence."

— Brother Lawrence, *The Practice of the Presence of God*

3) **Not being able to quiet our hearts before the Lord** – *The fellowship of the Holy Spirit*

Galatians 5:25 – Keep in step with the Spirit

Matthew 18:2-3 – As little Children

Psalms 131:1-2 – As weaned Children

Be a weaned child that has given up fretting, crying, worrying, and leaves its mother to do just what seems good in her sight. When we are thoroughly weaned, it is well with us— pride is gone, and ambition is gone, too. We shall need much nursing by one who is wiser and gentler than the best mother before we shall be quite weaned of these two dearly beloved sins....The weaned babe has given up what it loved. By nature, we hang on the breasts of this world, and only sovereign grace can wean us from it. But when we give up self...righteousness, self-confidence, the love of the world, the desire of self-aggrandizement, when we give up trusting in man, trusting in ceremonies, trusting in anything but God, then has our soul become like a weaned child. It has given up what nature feeds upon that it may feed upon the bread of heaven....Not to have and to be as happy in not having as if one had all he desired is well. Oh, blessed state to be in! Not merely taken away from the breasts of earth, but taught no longer to wish for them.

- Charles Spurgeon