**Keeping in Step with the Holy Spirit (God)**

## Introduction

Naturally Supernatural – 2 realm perspective (heaven and earth)

To live as God intended as both natural and spiritual beings requires us to ‘keep in step with the Holy Spirit’ by listening to his voice.

*This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.*

Deuteronomy 30 v 19 – 20

‘*’I only speak what I hear the Father saying, I only do what I see the Father doing’’*

John 5: 19

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a person remains in me and I in them, they will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*  John 15.5

To walk with God 3 things are essential

* To love Him
* **To hear His voice**
* To obey Him

1. **Learning to hear God’s Voice**

Hearing Gods voice is not an optional extra for the ‘elite’ Christians, but bread and butter for very believer. The goal of hearing His voice is closer relationship with Him;

All of us have an expectation of how much God will speak, based on our experience and the culture of the church we’re in. God might want to challenge your normal & encourage you to expect to hear His voice more!

[Place a mark on the line of how you’d describe your personal experience of hearing God]

 **Regularity**

 0 10

 **Jesus**

A constant stream of revelation.*“I only speak what I hear the Father*  *saying, I only do what I see the Father doing.”* John 5:19

 **Specific Revelation**

 0 10

 **Jesus**

He discerned specifically what was taking place, especially where things were natural and where things were supernatural (demonic).

**Kingdom living involves us living through relationship not principles. This results in a significant shift in the priority we place on hearing God speak.**

1. **In Christ we can all hear God’s voice through the Holy Spirit.**

*The watchman opens the gate for him and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.*

John 10:3-4

*I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.*

John 16:12-13

*`In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on* ***all*** *people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.*

Acts 2.17-18

1. **Hearing God through all the different parts of our person**
2. In the mind
	* Reading scripture
	* God planted thoughts
	* Words from God. – e.g. *freedom prayer – ‘rejection’*

1. In the imagination [*The imagination is the cinema of the heart. It embraces symbolic truth that nourishes the heart’s ability to feed on truth, beauty and goodness]*
	* Dreams
	* Pictures/ inner visions
	* Prayerful meditation on scripture – letting the Spirit guide our imagination

1. In the intuitive / heart
	* *Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts,* Mark 2:8
2. In the Body
	* Physical sensations e.g. tightening chest, tingling down the spine,
	* ‘words of knowledge’ which highlight a particular part of our body.

1. With the physical eyes. (Open visions)
	* Seeing angels or demons manifested with our physical eyes.
	* E.g. Peter’s vision in Acts 10
	* Daniel’s encounter with an angel in Daniel 10
	* Elisha praying for his servant to see the heavenly hosts – 2 Kings 6v17

1. With the ears.
	* The audible voice of God e.g. Jesus’ Baptism, Peter in Acts 10…

 Which is the most regular to you?

## 3. UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS OF DISCERNMENT

There are 3 key stages to understanding revelation from God.

1. **Revelation**

What you see, hear, receive e.g. *a picture of a waterfall*

1. **Interpretation**

What does it mean?

e.g. *I believe the waterfall means that God wants to pour out his grace and*

*kindness on you and refresh you. – Alternatively it could mean that God wants to heal a past memory of a white water rafting accident!*

What is God saying?

*At this point beware assumptions or moving into the natural mind. When praying for someone and asking for revelation for them, its helpful to include them in the process of interpretation.*

1. **Application**

How to put the word into practice *e.g. If the waterfall is about God pouring out his grace abundantly, to apply that would mean choosing to spend time worshipping and enjoying God’s grace*

**Beware**

* Pride: ‘I need to know all three levels.’
* Rushing: stay waiting on the Lord for clarity.
* Independence: God likes using people to discern together.

1. **Testing**

Some Key Principles for testing what we hear.

### **a. In line with Scripture**

Jesus is ‘perfect theology’ – anything which is inconsistent with the character and

teaching of Jesus is not from God. (Hebrews 1v1-3)

There are many things of God which are not in the scriptures but it must not be against the scriptures.

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,* 2 Tim 3.16

*But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening,*

*encouragement and comfort.* 1 Corinthians 14.3

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious*

*thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way*

*everlasting*. Psalm 139:23

### **b. The principle of Resonance**

When a bell or instrument resonates at a certain frequency, other bells/

instruments with the same frequency resonate with it. When revelation is shared,

it often resonate with people’s hearts/spirits.

### **c. Submission**

Revelation from God is to be submitted to others to test.

• Leaders and authority • Individuals and dignity.

## Opening up to hear God more clearly

For many people the experience of listening to God has become a painful, frustrating or disappointing one. Leaving us asking questions like;

*Why can’t I hear God?*  Or *How can I hear Him more clearly?*

**3 SIMPLE KEYS TO START CLEARING THE AIRWAVES.**

(NB. This is a long term process for us all, not a quick-fix)

1. **Repentance.**

Clearing the satellite dish to get a better signal.

*But if you harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But 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 3:14-17

As we turn to face God and live in right relationship with him, we will hear his voice to a greater extent. – This doesn’t mean we need to be perfect to hear God speak. (Relevant personally as well as corporately)

1. **Faith** (personally and corporately)

If we believe we can’t hear God, then this becomes self perpetuating. Faith is being sure of God’s promises and expectant of Him working, this includes the expectation that He’ll speak to us.

1. **‘Waking Up’**

For a number people who find it hard to hear God, there is a degree of ‘emotional shut-down’. The internal choice to suppress the heart, emotions, intuition, imagination has occurred earlier in life and now these faculties are harder to access. Causes of this may include. (but there are other causes too); fear, shame, trauma, rejection, fear of failure etc ***see below***

1. **Timing / Purpose**

Another reason we don’t hear God is because of timing.

* We are not yet ready for the revelation
* There are spiritual opposition going on which we’re unaware of.

(e.g. Daniel 10)

* We don’t need to know the revelation.

The only legitimate access we have to the heavenly realms is through submissive relationship with our Father, by His Spirit. To attempt to gain revelation for personal gain is occult not prophesy.

1. **God wants to speak specifically**

*So they enquired further of the Lord, ‘has the man come here yet?’ And the Lord said, ‘Yes, he has hidden himself among the baggage.’*  1 Samuel 10:22

*When David was told, ‘Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are looting the threshing floors,’ he enquired of the Lord, saying, ‘Shall I go and attack these Philistines?’ The Lord answered him, ‘Go, attack the Philistines and save Keilah.’ But David’s men said to him, ‘Here in Judah we are afraid. How much more, then, if we go to Keilah against the Philistine forces!’ Once again David enquired of the Lord, and the Lord answered him, ‘Go down to Keilah, for I am going to give the Philistines into your hand.’ So David and his men went to Keilah, fought the Philistines and carried off their livestock. He inflicted heavy losses on the Philistines and saved the people of Keilah*

 1 Samuel 23:1-6

*Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Go south to the road – the desert road – that*

*goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza’* Acts 8:26

*In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, ‘Ananias!’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ he answered. The Lord told him, ‘Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.’*  Acts 9:10-12

### Need to ask good questions ……avoid yes/ no questions

*God’s will is established, most of the time, in collaboration with the will and agreement of his people. How can we be obedient or intimate if we do not seek for and believe for his specific revelation and direction?*

**KEY TRUTHS**

* The purpose of freedom, is to enable us to obey God and bring in His kingdom
* Hearing God’s voice is a normal and essential part of living in obedient relationship with Him.