

Crown Her a King™

Restoring God's Glory to the Bride of Christ

© By Susan Dewbrew

SESSION 5: *The Groom's Voice*

CLASS NOTES

Does God speak? From Genesis to Revelation, God speaks!
Jesus is God, and He is the Word!!

- John 1:1-14, In the Beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.
- Hebrews 1:1-3, Through the Word Jesus, all things were created and all things are being held together by his powerful word [*Rhema*].

But as one of us, as a human, Jesus also had to hear and honor God's Voice:

- Jesus laid aside His divinity (Phil 2:6-7) -- human but still "Immanuel", God with us.
- **Important:** Jesus is our example. "Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the **Son can do nothing of Himself**, only what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner." (John 5:19)
- **Jesus is perfect theology.** He had to be in relationship, knowing the Father's voice, as well as His heart. Jesus could do nothing on His own power and initiative; neither can we!

Intimacy is the desire of God's heart! Wants to walk with you like He did in the Garden!

- **"My sheep hear my voice;** I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27)
- John 17:3 **"this is eternal life, that they may know You"** –
 "know" = *ginōskō* which means experiential knowledge, not intellectual
- Can't know without communication / Do you know the President of the US?
- **Hearing God's voice – it's all about RELATIONSHIP!!!**
 - Two-way communication is key to any good relationship. HONOR!!!
 - Our ability to hear often depends on our willingness to obey.

We hear God with our heart, with our spiritual ears!

- Most repeated phrase in New Testament: **“those who have ears to hear, let them hear”... 15 times!!**
- When God speaks, it is not our natural ears that hear. He communicates directly to our spirit. **1 Cor 2:12-14** says that the things of the Spirit are foolishness to the natural mind, for they are **spiritually discerned**.
- **Luke 8:4-21, Matt 13:1-23**: Parable of sower... be careful how you hear. Condition of your heart will determine the fruit from God's word.
- **We can all hear!!** The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us!

How does God speak? – Any way He wants to!! Some examples:

- The Written Word – scripture (verse leaps off the page and touches your heart) – *Rhema* --- Key!! It's important to know the word so that Holy Spirit can bring things to your remembrance. Whatever you hear must line up with the Word. It is your plumb line!
- Impressions – divinely inspired impulses.
- Series of “coincidences”
- A “knowing”
- Sanctified desires – desires of your heart, but have to submit them to the Lord
 - David wanted to build the temple, but the Lord said no.
 - “Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask/desire when you pray, believe that you receive [them], and you will have [them].” (Mark 11:24)
- **Audibly – SERIOUS. The clearer the message, the higher the accountability!**
- Riddles/Parables (truth is hidden FOR us, not from us!)
 - “[It is] **the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings [is] to search** out a matter.” (Prov 25:2)-- Parables hide truth– (Matthew 13:10-17)
- Natural things Jer. 1:11 “Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, “Jeremiah, what do you see?” And I said, “I see a branch of an almond tree.”
- **Dreams & Visions – MAIN FORM OF COMMUNICATION IN BIBLE**
 - Pictures that light upon your mind
 - Flashes – visual impressions --- Easy to miss
- **Still small voice**, Elijah – in cave : wind broke up rocks, earthquake, but neither was the Lord. Then the still, gentle wind. And a voice came (1 Kings 19)

What does God sound like? When God speaks to you with words, He sounds like you!!

- **When God wrote the book of John it sounds like John**, When He wrote Ephesians it sounds like Paul!! -- It was God partnering – not forcing!

- God's voice is a spontaneous flow of thoughts from His heart to yours. Holy Spirit flows like a river within your spirit.
- True prophecy (*naba*) means to bubble up (to just happen) as opposed to false prophecy where we conjure it up or force it to happen.
- Our own thoughts are analytical... meaning one thought leads to another which leads to another. He is spontaneous, encouraging, positive and creative. The enemy also plants spontaneous thoughts but they will be critical, negative, condemning, sinful.

FOUR KEYS from Christian Leadership University (www.cluonline.com)

Mark Virkler's study *How to Hear God's Voice* and his book *Dialogue with God*

HEARING GOD'S VOICE IS AS SIMPLE AS

- 1) BECOMING STILL
- 2) FIXING YOUR EYES ON JESUS (LOOKING FOR VISION)
- 3) RECOGNIZING SPONTANEOUS FLOW OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
- 4) JOURNALING OR EXPRESSING WHAT YOU SEE AND HEAR

Habakkuk 2:1-2

¹I will stand on my guard post
And station myself on the rampart; **(#1 HE'S STILL)**
And I will keep watch to see **(#2 LOOKING FOR VISION)**
what He will speak to me, **(#3 SPONTANEOUS COMMUNICATION)**
And how I may reply when I am reproved.
²Then the LORD answered me and said,
"Record the vision **(#4 WRITE IT DOWN – OR EXPRESS IT IN SOME WAY)**
And inscribe it on tablets,
That the one who reads it may run.

Example: Einstein, theory of relativity ☺

KEY #1 - Becoming Still

Being still is not a new age or religious activity.... it's about relationship.

"Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10) -- Contemporary English, "calm down" -
- NASB, "cease striving" **Let go, relax, be at peace** (NASV marginal reference)

- Graham Cooke : "**Faith and anxiety** cannot exist in them same space at the same time. One of them has to go, and you have the power to choose which."
- Phil 4:6-7, "Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks. And God's peace, which is so great we cannot understand it, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

The stillness is in your mind. You can be doing a mundane task, with your hands or body moving, and still be still in your mind.

SOME STEPS FOR BEING STILL

- 1) Get away from noisy distractions (kids, tv, radio, phone, etc.)
- 2) Remove physical tension (**be comfortable**), David sat before the Lord
- 3) Be calm – be anxious for nothing // let go control – know that He is God
- 4) **Focus attention on God not self or circumstances** – fix eyes of heart on Jesus (Worship!)
- 5) Make notes/write down your thoughts, so they don't keep distracting you
- 6) **Be present** in the moment (not dwelling on past or future) – He's 'I AM'
- 7) Be receptive rather than active; **you can't drink and talk at same time**
- 8) Key emotion is **LOVE**. Faith works by love. Express it / Receive it
- 9) Tune to spontaneous flow of the Holy Spirit
 - a. He is in you, closer than your skin
 - b. He is communicating and wants this intimacy even more than you do!
 - c. Don't dismiss everything you think, feel, etc. – Rather, "Is that you Lord?"
- 10) **It cannot be forced or hurried**. Wait upon the Lord. In your stillness, God takes over. Be patient, relax.
 - a. Psalm 37:7 Rest in the **LORD** and **wait** patiently for Him;
 - b. Just like you can't hurry yourself to sleep...you allow it, but you don't make it happen.
 - c. Slowly repeat His name, JESUS, JESUS (It's amazing how that penetrates.)
 - d. Do deep breathing, in with the Holy Spirit – out with everything else

- e. Tongues works great for quieting the flesh and awakening your spirit
- 11) If you are totally blocked:
 - a. Check your heart. Is there any sin, offense, unforgiveness, anxiety?
 - b. **Holy Spirit's river tends to be more intuitive** – right side of brain
 - i. Do something creative (draw, play music, sculpt, etc.)
 - * Elisha – minstrel played, then word came to Him. 2 Kings 3:15
 - * David – psalms – prayers sung to God
 - * Tongues – reasoning unfruitful but spirit speaking to God, 1 Cor 12:2
 - ii. Use imagination – Psalm 23 Picturing, visualizing, dreaming

This is Biblical Meditation, contemplative prayer...

New Age is only counterfeiting God's plan for us (Jesus prayed: Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16)

JOHN 17, Jesus' high priestly prayer – that we be ONE. He is in me, and I am in Him. He is always communicating. He wants to commune with us!

Wait for the LORD: Psalm 27:13-14 --// read Psalm 9:9-10 in the Message ☺

He Hears YOU!! Psalm 40:1 I waited patiently for the LORD; And **He inclined to me** and heard my cry.

Key #2

Fixing Eyes on Jesus (Looking for Vision)

Yielding the eyes of your heart to the Holy Spirit

- Using your God-given imagination
- In the Bible, God's main form of speaking is dreams and visions.
 - o At least 1/3 bible – 100s of verses – are from dreams and visions.
- God wants to communicate with us through the eyes of our heart.
(Eph. 1:17 the eyes of your heart may be enlightened)
- He will make himself known to us, His modern-day prophets, in dreams and visions. Num. 12:6b **"I, the LORD, shall make Myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream."**
- Jesus spoke the things He had seen in the Father's presence. John 8:38

- Look for vision as you pray ... or better yet, **always be alert to Him, especially for those pictures that just light upon your mind – very subtle and easily missed.**

There are at least four kinds of visions (first two are rare, rest are common).

1. Open visions like a moving playing – A vision outside of yourself (2 Kings 6:17) – rather rare
2. Visions during a trance (Acts 10:10-23) – rather rare
3. Dreams and visions in the night – tons of verses like Paul (Acts 16:9-10) – much more common
4. **Spontaneous picture pops in mind** – sometimes while praying or sometimes while doing nothing 'spiritual' whatsoever. (Dan 7:1, 13-14) – very very common (black and white or in color)

Why would God use vision instead of just using words?

- Pictures are worth a thousand words
- Layers of truth
- Invites us to enter in... engage with Him for the meaning

FIX EYES ON JESUS (Actually yield all five spiritual senses to the Lord!)

Whatever you **fix your eyes** upon grows within you. (sin, problems, Jesus, love)

- Hebrews 12:1-2 "Fix your eyes on Jesus"
 - Fix = *aphorao* "**to view with undivided attention** by looking away from every other object; to regard fixedly and earnestly, to see distinctly"
- How big is your problem or desired in comparison with how big God is... how big His will is... in your heart/mind?
- **Do not pray with an IDOL in your heart.**
 - Ezek. 14:3-4 "Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts and have put right before their faces the stumbling block of their iniquity Should I be consulted by them at all? "Therefore speak to them and tell them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Any man of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, puts right before his face the stumbling block of his iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, **I the LORD will be brought to give him an answer in the matter in view of the multitude of his idols,**"
- **FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS! When you make a mistake in hearing, chances are your eyes weren't on Jesus.** – Immanuel=God with us.
- **ENGAGE WITH HIM.** Allow Him to drive, but you prime with the pump with imagination. **Like tongues, you start in the natural then He partners with you.**
- **BE CHILDLIKE:** Put yourself in the Bible stories and imagine what's happening.

- Acts 2:17 – in the last days, He will pour out His Spirit on all mankind – old men dream, young men see visions

We must participate!! -- If there is no honor, then there is no communication!

- Exodus 3:4 When the LORD **saw that he turned aside**, then God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."
 - Daniel looked and participated in his visions: Dan 7:1-8" **Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed**; then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it. ² Daniel said, "**I was looking in my vision** by night, ⁴ I kept looking until its wings were plucked.... ⁶ After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard... ⁷ After this I kept looking in the night visions... ⁸ While I was contemplating the horn, behold, another horn,
 - John looked first, then he was caught up in the Spirit!! It was a continual interaction... He was already in the spirit, Rev. 1:10, then in Chapter 4 he says, I looked
 - Rev3:20 to 4:4: ^{3:20} Behold, I stand at the door and knock; **if anyone hears My voice** and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹ ... ²² **He who has an ear, let him hear** what the Spirit says to the churches.'" ^{4:1} After these things **I looked**, and behold, a door ...
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Key #3

Tuning to Spontaneity / the Holy Spirit River

STILL SMALL VOICE – His Words to you – HIS VOICE IN YOU

Matthew 4:4 ⁴But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT **PROCEEDS** OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" [not preceded!!!!]

Psalm 95:7, For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand. Today, if you would **hear His voice**, ⁸ **Do not harden your hearts**...

John 10:2-4, But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and **the sheep hear his voice**, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and **the sheep follow him because they know his voice**.

When He communicates... it comes with His presence, His power, His wisdom..
IT COMES WITH HIM... KINGDOM MESSAGE IS ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF THE KING

'Be healed' ... 'be free' ... 'sin no more' (Word came with power to accomplish)
Word with productivity: Luke 5:5, at your word, let down nets again

His words are spirit – they are life: John 6:63, It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

Our quest is to hear and to HONOR God's voice

- "God's voice often comes as spontaneous thoughts." -- Mark Virkler
- We need to tune into the River of the Holy Spirit inside us.
- God speaking through a person is prophecy.
- *Naba* = Hebrew word for 'true prophesy' – "to bubble up" – let it just come up,
- Don't force it or make it up – don't conjure it up – can't hurry it up!

Jesus is perfect theology. He came as a man not just to pay for our sins, but to show us what one man in right relationship with God could do!!

- John 5:19-20a-, "...the Son can do nothing of Himself,..."
- John 5:30 "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.
- **John 14:10-12 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you **I do not speak on My own initiative**, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. ¹¹ Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and **greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.**

How can we do greater works???? Rom 10:17, So faith comes from hearing (*akoe*) and hearing by the word (*rhema*) of God" - *Akoe* means to have an audience with, to come to the ears. Mark Virkler's translation: "**So faith comes by having an audience with God through the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, and hearing His voice in my heart.**"

- *Rhema* = 70 times in NT, 67 mean spoken word
- Logos not just written – it's about the content of the message
Rhema is more about HOW it was SPOKEN or ILLUMINATED
- **We must get directions from HIM – like Jesus did- directly!!**

We can easily dismiss the voice because like everything else in His Kingdom... HE IS NOT FORCING IT ON US!!!!

Pay attention, heed and respond (obey). **Honor the Lord** and join with Him.

It's an invitation into intimacy!!!

LAW VS. VOICE -- RULES VS. RELATIONSHIP!!

Too often we want a checklist or some rules rather than relationship:

- Israelites chose rules over relationship. – Check your own heart too.
- Duet 5:22-31 ... they saw that they could hear and live, but they chose not to believe it... they didn't want the PURIFYING FIRE that comes with His Voice
 - **They didn't trust His love for them nor His goodness (like at the fall)**
 - Rules = God speaks to someone else, and we do what God told them. End up being a legalist or Pharisee
 - Relationship = God tells us either directly or through illuminating what was previously communicated through someone else (a scripture jumps out at you, your heart leaps during a sermon or conversation).
 - Abide in Him. Choose to be His lover rather than a Pharisee

Israelites were offered the same relationship as Moses, but they were afraid (Heb. 3 & 4)

- Exodus 19: 5-6, "Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall **be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**
- But they were afraid -- you go speak to Him and we'll do what He says. [Exodus 20, no you go and we will listen to you... afraid to talk directly with God]
- **Law never brings life, only rules. Relationship brings life.**
- Hebrews 12:18-26 -- V. 25, SEE TO IT THAT YOU **DO NOT REFUSE HIM [GOD] WHO IS SPEAKING!!** -- Let's see what's happening in Heaven and bring it to earth.

GREATER WORKS BECAUSE WE ARE TO BE A WHOLE KINGDOM FILLED WITH ROYAL PRIESTS... kings in relationship with THE KING ... a holy, set apart nation... like the Garden

Key # 4

Journaling/Expressing God's thoughts

Most of the Bible is prophetic writing: Majority of Moses' writings, book of Revelation, most of the prophets, and 150 Psalms.

Write out the flow of thoughts and visions **without analyzing it**. Don't stop the flow while you're in it. Trust for just a few moments that it's Him, and know you can always test it later. Don't doubt! BE CHILDLIKE. Journaling lets you stay in faith knowing you can test it later.

- **Journaling also allows God to do most of the talking so you get Heaven's perspective.** (Ecc 5:1-2 "Guard your steps as you go to the house of God and draw near to listen ... let your words be few.)
- **The flow of God can be arrested by doubt...** so just stay in faith. You can always check it after. We must come in faith – Heb 11:6

Lots of techniques or ways to go about it:

- Typing allows you to close eyes and let the words flow out. Plus, you can easily copy and email someone later for confirmation and/or accountability.
- Can use a recorder in the car – ☺ Record feelings and pictures as well as words
- You can draw pictures. Prophetic Art – spirit anointed imagination

KNOW the word of God! Know the Bible so you can always use that as your plumb line. Remember *rhema* often flows out of *logos*.

Sample Journaling Exercise

Be still – quiet your mind and body. Focus on attention on Jesus. Picture a biblical scene... maybe sitting down at a well. Interact with the Lord in your imagination. Then write out your question. Let Him take over the scene in your mind. Write out His answer back in CHILDLIKE faith!!

Some sample questions: Lord, do you love me? Lord, how do you see me? Lord, what would you like to say to me? Lord, are there any people I need to forgive and release to a greater extent than I have? Lord, in what areas of my life am I being complacent? Lord, in what areas am I letting fear have more control of my life than faith?

SAFEGUARDS AND WARNINGS!!!

PLEASE HEED – OR THIS TEACHING COULD DO YOU MORE HARM THAN GOOD!!!

- Don't ask traumatic questions. Don't ask for predictive guidance or dates!
- **Don't pray with an idol in your heart.** This is majorly important!! If the problem is bigger in your mind than Jesus, then:
 - Your answer will be distorted, like **Balam**, Numb 22:15-35 (2 Peter 2:15 says idol was money),
 - God may give you what He doesn't want to give you (**King for Israel, quail in the desert**).
 - Ezek. 14:3-4 – God answers us according to the idols in our heart
- **FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS! When you make a mistake in hearing, chances are your eyes weren't on Jesus.**
 - **Submit what you hear to people you trust who also hear God**
 - Proverbs 15:22, Proverbs 11:14
- All personal prophecy is conditional upon your response to it.
 - Kris Vallotton's testimony of Jesus communicating to him about his destiny, but then said sternly, **"HISTORY WILL PROVE WHETHER OR NOT YOU BELIEVED ME!"** – We must partner with Him to bring personal prophesy to fruition.
- Be patient!! Joseph waited a dozen years for the dreams to come true.
- **Keep an open ear. Abraham rose early the next morning to obey, BUT he had to keep listening or Isaac would have died!**
- Knowing God means knowing His heart and His character. You do not need to pray about whether or not to sin!

Have you given your life to the Lord? Are you a born-again Christian with your sins washed away by the cleansing blood of Jesus?

- If yes, then you know that God is in you and speaks all the time.
- If not, then simply ask Jesus to forgive you and be the Lord of your life. Doesn't matter if you have spent your whole life in church or if this is your first visit. It's not based on who you are; it's based on who He is and what He did for you on the cross.
- It is all about Him wanting an intimate relationship with you every day, and it's about establishing His Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven!

Live with an awareness of the Dove on your shoulder.

- He wants that intimate relationship with us like He designed for the Garden.
- He wants to establish His Kingdom on earth through a love relationship.
- We change the world when we partner with the Lord who works through us.