

Knowing the Voice of GOD Clearly

5-7-17 Class 1

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

INTRODUCTION

This is not a study for curiosity's sake. It answers a need and an acknowledgement for those that have expressed, "*I wish that I truly knew the voice of God clearly!*"

There is no formula for obtaining that state; no knowledge of a set of facts that will make it happen. I can only hope to inspire you and as a sign, point you toward Jesus.

If you did indeed hear His *beckoning and have confessed your sins, accepting Jesus' sacrifice on the cross that paid for your sins, then you have already heard His voice clearly. [*John 6:44]

Our Father wants to converse with his children, as any loving parent does, with regularity and understanding.

Many believers have lost the *clarity of knowing of his voice*, or at least it is muddled, not as it was when the Father led them to His son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The lack of hearing clearly is our own fault, if fault is to be found. The Father wants to speak to us clearly. The problem is on the receiving end (us), not the transmitter's end (God).

May my own acknowledgement of my need, my search for understanding, and the Father' loving response to my own "*I wish that I knew the voice of God clearly*", inspire you and help you on your way.

(Revelation 2:29) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Attitude

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil." [Proverbs 3:5-7]

The following excerpt from Tozer and the subsequent song composed from it well express what a heart that is seeking the clear voice of God should sound like.

"He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what the Lord does require of you, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to **humble yourself to walk with your God?*" *Hebrew. [Micah 6:8]

From: THE PURSUIT OF GOD by A.W. Tozer

"O God, I have tasted Thy goodness, and it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more. I am painfully conscious of my need of further grace. I am ashamed of my lack of desire. O God, the Triune God, I want to want thee; I long to be filled with longing; I thirst to be made more thirsty still. Show me Thy glory, I pray Thee, that so I may know Thee indeed. Begin in mercy a new work of love within me. Say to my soul, "Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away." Then give me grace to rise and follow Thee up from this misty lowland where I have wandered so long. In Jesus' name. Amen."

I WANT TO WANT THEE {song}

I want to want Thee;
I long to be filled with longing;
I thirst to be made more thirsty,
That I might know Thee O God.

*Say to my soul rise up my love;
My fair one and come away;
And give me the grace Lord,
To rise up and follow Thee,*

From these lowlands where I have stayed.

Draw me, draw me;
And I will run after Thee.
Make me, make me;
That I might be like Thee.

*Then shalt Thou see the travail of my soul,
And be most satisfied.
A child shall come forth;
A bride, oh a wife;
A people Thy Spirit has born.*

Do you believe that Lord Jesus Christ desires that you, a common Christian, are to have routine personal conversations with Him, God?

[Just some of the ways God has communicated with mankind...](#)

[The voice of the Lord...](#)

(Genesis 3:8) "And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden."

By prophets and his Son...

(Hebrews 1:1-2) "God, who at various times and in many ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by *his* Son, whom he has appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;"

Creation makes it understood...

(Romans 1:20) "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"

Mazzaroth: God's zodiac...

The Biblical zodiac Mazzaroth was created (Genesis 1:14) by Jehovah as a sort of calendar, sign posts, telling all what God was going to do and in what order. The zodiacs of other cultures and false religions teach that the astronomical bodies influence and cause events. Mazzaroth only tells where God is in his time table; no horoscopes, no powers. The twelve signs of Mazzaroth were created before man and tells the complete story of Jesus, from the Messiah's virgin birth through to His victorious defeat of Satan.

{The idea for a Messiah was not God's Plan B. It was not a response to man's fall. There was to be a Messiah before man was even created! Genesis 1:14,26}

In Job 38:31-33; verse 32, God says to Job, "Can you bring forth *Mazzaroth in his season? or can you guide ^Arcturus with his sons?"

*Mazzaroth is *the signs of the Zodiac*.

^Arcturus is a star in the Mazzaroth Hebrew zodiacal sign of Virgo (The Seed Of The Woman; Christ the Incarnate Son); known as *the Bear with its children*; it means *a gathering together*.

The Pentateuch...

The Pentateuch (*five-scrolls*) is also called The Law, the Torah, and the Law Of Moses. It was the beginning of Jehovah's progressive revelation to mankind.

By all scripture...

(2Timothy 3:16) “All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”

The Urim and Thummim...

Urim (*lights*) and Thummim (*perfections*)

They are thought to have been two stones and were part of the high priest’s ephod, garments. They somehow communicated elementary answers, or directions; such as yes or no. How they did this, we do not know. [Exodus 28:30]

Fleeces...

A fleece is the woolly covering of a goat or sheep used in Gideon’s attempt to obtain confirmation from God for something God already told him. (Judges 6:36-40)

(Judges 6:36-40) “And Gideon said unto God, If you will save Israel by mine hand, as you have said, Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; *and* if the dew be only on the fleece, and *it be* dry upon all the earth, then shall I know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said. And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and ringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water. And Gideon said to God, Let your anger not be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray to you, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew. And God did so that night: for it was dry only upon the fleece, and there was dew on all the ground.”

In *Christianese, the term *to put out a fleece* indicates a means of obtaining direction or confirmation from God through a designated sign. In Gideon’s case, the confirmation was by miraculous sign. The modern use of a fleece no longer has the miraculous element. {*Christianese is a slang term indicating the terminology commonly used in the communication of Christians.}

Laying out a fleece was done once in scripture by someone who already knew God’s will. It was something God patiently tolerated, and does not instruct nor support fleeces as a means of communicating with Him. We are to hear his voice and respond.

Casting lots...

Casting lots was common in the Old Testament and used a few times in the New Testament.

In Acts 1:26, the Apostles casted lots to determine a replacement for Judas. You can chalk that up to their being used to casting lots and new to being led by the voice of the Spirit. It was part of Israelite and gentile cultures alike.

As with fleeces, God does not instruct nor support casting lots as a means of communicating with Him. The Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the New Testament do not teach us to cast lots in order to know nor confirm his will.

God is capable of prophesying through a donkey...

(Numbers 22:28) “And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said to Balaam, ‘What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?’ I am sure that God is able to put speech into the mouth of any creature he so desires, but it was only because the man was not listening.

The Holy Ghost will teach you...

(John 14:23-26) “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If a man loves me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come to him, and make our abode with him. He that does not love me does not keep my sayings: and the word which you hear is not mine, but the Fathers who sent me. These things have I spoken to you, while I am still present with you. But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach* you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said to you.’”

*Jesus was of the opinion that the Holy Spirit was required to teach us. If you are of the opinion that you do not need the Holy Spirit, then you are at odds with the Lord Jesus Christ. Knowing the voice of God clearly is essential to understand all the Scriptures correctly. “*He who undertakes to be his own teacher has a fool for a pupil.*”

It says in 2Cor.3:6, “Who also has made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter kills, but the ^Spirit gives life.”

Jesus said in John 10:10, “The thief comes not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life {^ *the Spirit gives life*}, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.” Do not let anyone keep the Holy Spirit out of your life in Christ.

The Holy Spirit...

(Romans 8:26-27) “Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groanings {in audible} which cannot be uttered. And he that searches the hearts knows what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he makes **intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*”

*{Find out more about intercession in the *Prophecy Lesson Series* at www.actinaction.org/prophecy-lesson-series.html}

Through the five-fold ministries...

(Ephesians 4:11-13) “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:”

Through the gifts of the Spirit; 1 Corinthians 12...

The Holy Spirit will direct the person through whom he wishes to minister. Also, the person who is being minister to learns from the Holy Spirit.

The gifts in 1Corinthians 12:8 are Word of Wisdom and Word of Knowledge.

The gifts in 1Corinthians 12:9 are Faith and the Gifts Of Healing.

The gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:10 are the working of miracles (the operating of power), prophecy, discerning (judicial estimation) of spirits, the generating of different languages (kinds of tongues), and the translation of the Holy Spirit generated languages (interpretation of tongues).

Spiritual gifts and wonders...

(Joel 2:28-31) “And it shall come to pass afterward, *that* I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.”

In addition to the gifts of the Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12, Joel 2 also declares that God can speak to us through dreams and visions.

A voice; a still small voice...

(1Ki 19:11-13) “And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD; *but* the LORD *was* not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; *but* the LORD *was* not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; *but* the LORD *was* not in the fire: and after the fire a still [*quiet, calm*] small voice. And it was *so*, when Elijah heard *it*, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, *there came* a voice to him, and said, What are you doing here, Elijah?”

Do you believe that God’s intent is that you, a common Christian, are to have routine personal conversations with Him?

Some people God spoke to in the Old Testament...

Adam and Eve	Abram (Abraham)	Sarah (Gen18:15)
Cain (Gen4:6)	Noah and his sons (Gen9:1-17)	Hagar (Gen16:8-12)
Eliphaz (Job's friend; Job 42:7)	Samuel (even as a boy)	Abimelech (Gen20:3-7)
Job and his friends (Job 38:1-42)	Abraham, Isaac, + Jacob	Moses
Joshua (Josh5:13-15; <i>captain, prince</i> of the hosts of the armies of Jehovah)		David
Gideon (an everyday guy before Jehovah made him a judge in Israel.)		Solomon
Samuel as a boy (1Sam3:4; Josephus claims he was 11 years old)		Multiple kings

The major and minor prophets

Jehovah says in Exodus 31:3, "And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship," {Reference Exodus 31:1-3}

In Exodus 31:1-11, Jehovah puts the wisdom, understanding, and knowledge necessary to construct the Tabernacle-In-The-Wilderness into the minds of the workmen. Since that was an implantation and not conversation, I would not include it in this list of verbal communication.

This list is just a sampling of those that Jehovah spoke to, recorded in the Old Testament. Of course he spoke to the priests and the prophets, as we would expect. You could also throw in the kings and the fathers of the faith, but there were also servants and children and non-believers.

So the Old Testament testifies that God spoke to anyone He wished; not just kings, priests, and prophets.

Do you believe that God's intent is that you, a common Christian, are to have routine personal conversations with Him, God?

Some people God spoke to in the New Testament...

Acts 9:4-7 tells us what Saul experienced on the Damascus Road. From verse 9 it says, "And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, *hearing a voice, but seeing no man." *{without understanding}

Paul, formerly known as Saul, tells us in Acts 22:9, "And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they ^heard not the voice of him that spoke to me." ^{did not understand}

The Lord speaks to Ananias (Acts 9:10-16) and tells him to heal Saul's blindness.

Of course He spoke to the Apostles (after His death).

The Lord also spoke to the gentile Cornelius the centurion; Acts 10:1-7.

Do you believe that God's intent is that you, a common Christian, are to have routine personal conversations with Him, God?

You have heard the Voice of God already, if you truly are a Christian.

(Joh 14:6) "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes to the Father, but by me.'"

If you truly are a born-again Christian, then that could only have happened because you heard the voice of God speaking to you, and you responded positively. (Jesus gave his life as a perfect sacrifice {perfect because he is God} dying on the cross to pay a price for our sins that only God had the ability to pay off. The Lord Jesus Christ redeemed us. A person needs to confess he or she is a sinner, and accept that sacrificial gift, and turn from the ways of sin. This only will gain you acceptance before God the Father.)

"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the *word of God." (Rm.10:17)

*Word (ie. *rhema*) is a quickened word (live, given now); an *utterance*; that which is or has been uttered by a living voice. {a rough definition}

Word (ie. *logos*) is the written word, the Bible. {a rough definition}

So, this *hearing by the word of God* is verbal. When Jesus sent his disciples and apostles forth to inspire faith/salvation, they were not passing out the Christian nor Hebrew Bibles. Faith was inspired by what they heard. Bibles are of course more readily available today and some people do get saved after reading the Bible. But those people get saved not because of reading the print, but by responding to the Lord speaking, *rhema*, to them personally (present tense) about what they are reading or have read.

(Eph 6:11-17) "Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the *word of God:" (**rhema*; This is the only offensive piece of armor.)

The sword of God is not the Bible (*logos*), it is the live/now word that the Spirit tells you to verbalize. It may even be a scripture quote from the Bible; something God has previously said. But the sword of God is the words that the Holy Spirit tells you to speak forth. The declaration while holding the Bible above the head and declaring that it (the printed word) is the sword of the Lord is in error. The impression is

given that the printed word alone is the power, is mistaken; *read again 2Cor.3:6*. Words directed by the Holy Spirit to be spoken through a person, whether they are God's previous words which have already been written down (The Bible), or ^different words, they are power, the *sword of God*. (^never contradictory to the Bible, because he would not contradict his own Word)

Jesus did not send the disciples forth with a Bible in their hands, but he did send them forth with the sword of the Spirit. We should be thankful that he has now provided us with the printed word (Bible) also, but we are not to substitute it for the Holy Spirit's present-tense spoken words.

Let Us Review...

We have demonstrated that God has used many means of communicating to mankind, and to His believers in particular.

We have also shown that Jehovah, in both the Old and New Covenants, can and does speak to anyone He so chooses, and that includes people without title, rank, or callings.

And I have also established that if you are a true Christian, then you have heard the voice of Spirit of God clearly, at least once.

Can you hear me now?

How positive are you that a person is speaking to you, when they are with you face to face? You are positive!

Are you as positive when God is speaking to you, not communicating by other means, but speaking directly to you?

How my search to hear His voice, clearly, began...

I was in Bow, New Hampshire about the year 1976. I was a young Christian at the time; maybe two years born-again. A handful of Christian friends and I were sharing what we believed the Lord Jesus had been telling each of us.

In turn, I expressed what God had been telling me, but as a moment out of time, I questioned myself "do I truly know when God is speaking to me?" I confessed to myself that I did not. Not that I had never

heard His voice, but that I rarely knew with assurance or absolute knowledge that He was speaking to me and what He was saying. This was not something you confessed to another person; pride. It is a problem in the Body of Christ; an attitude of, "I know God's voice as well, if not better, than you do!"

The next moment that I was alone, I prayed:

I prayed to know clearly to know when my Lord God was speaking to me.

"If you cannot change me until after you take me to heaven, then I will not survive till then."

"If there is not more victory through Christ here and now, I will not make it. Then I will just sell my Bible and buy some dope."

Not that I was aware of a big market for used Bibles; I was only saying it as an expression of, "What else can I do?"

You must first admit it...

In order for Alcoholics Anonymous to help an alcoholic, the alcoholic must first admit that he or she is an alcoholic.

It is the same with any problem; until you admit there is a problem, the problem cannot be fixed. AAA also works the same way as AA. Until you admit that your car will not start, you are going to stay in that broken down car of yours on the side of the highway.

Some Christians teach a type of hyper-faith. They teach that a person is not to say, i.e. verbalize, that they have a disease. If your arm is rotting off from leprosy, then you are not to 'speak' it. You are to 'speak' that you are well in Christ.

(Mark 1:40-41) "And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying to him, If you will, you can make me clean. And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth *his* hand, and touched him, and said to him, "I do will it; be clean."

It is hard to be healed of something that you will not verbally or mentally admit to having. (Good thing the leper got to Jesus before the hyper-faith doctrine got to him!)

You cannot learn to know the voice of God clearly, if you do not admit that you do not know His voice clearly, or know it at all.

[Back to my prayer...](#)

And a voice in my head said...

"I will begin to teach you in the small things, picking-up pieces of paper and opening and closing doors." Now how was I to know if that was me, or was that God, or the Devil? I just admitted that I did not know God's voice well or clearly! My carnal man was saying, "That's not helping!" When you were still a heathen, before you were saved, you didn't say, "Was that me, or was that God, or was that the Devil?" You knew that God was speaking to you! It was not until after we were Christians and had heard God's voice clearly that we started questioning, "Was that the Devil?"

About eleven months before my prayer, I traveled to upper New York state, to a Christian college for their Easter Conference. I had been to a conference there once before, having learned about it in a periodical.

On my 235 mile trip to the school, the Lord reminded me of an occurrence from my first visit. I had been sitting in the back of a big service. I kept my back against the wall thinking that I would keep a spiritual eye on all of them, not having been there before.

During the service, prior to the main speaker, an individual in the crowd gave a word in tongues followed by interpretation. He prophesied four separate times. I thought that it was odd that a message in tongues would come so frequently through the same person, but what did I know, I was **snot-nosed wet-behind-the-ears*. [*spiritual child]

After the beginning portion of the service was over, the master of ceremonies went to the pulpit. The first thing he did was to turn to that person in the congregation and rebuke him publicly. (The sin was public, so the rebuke had to be public.) The rebuke was for becoming carnal. The brother had been led by the Spirit to speak in tongues and to interpret, but by number four he was out of the Spirit and being led by the flesh for self-glorification. The brother who sinned, publicly repented.

Back to the trip.....during the travel, the Lord reminded me of that incident and asked me if that brother, who had sinned, came to me and said that he had a prophetic word for me from the Lord, would I listen? It was time to judge my heart.

I did not have a stellar spiritual past either. I knew that if the Lord sent me to give a prophecy to someone and I was turned away because "Stew has screwed up before", then they would be wrong for judging me, the vessel, instead of judging the given word for the anointing of the Spirit.

[Rom 3:23-24) "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,"]

I told the Lord, "Yes", I would listen if that same brother came to me with a prophecy. I had never met that brother, nor had I even seen him during the service for he was seated the whole time.

I arrived at the conference. After evening services, I went to the cafeteria where you could order-up the usual hamburger, hotdogs, fries, etcetera. I waited at my table for my order number to be called. Suddenly, all light was blocked out! There eclipsing all the florescent lighting was a mountain, 6 foot six inches, four-hundred pounds of presence! I looked up and a deeeep (maybe even reverbing) male voice with a British West Indies accent said, "You have asked to hear My voice. I will begin to teach you in the small things, picking-up pieces of paper and opening and closing doors." That's right! Guess who?!

The prophecy continued on to include that the Lord was going to have me move to somewhere else in the country, complete with description. That also was a confirmation to a prophecy that was previously given to me in another state, and no one else knew.

See you at next class June 4th.