

# Knowing the Voice of GOD Clearly

6-4-17, Class 2

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## LET'S START WITH SCRIPTURE

### Keep My words...

*(John 14:23-26) "Jesus answered and said to him, If someone 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 will not keep my sayings: and the word which you hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. These things have I spoken to you, while I am still 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, whatever I have said to you."*

May I make a presumption? You are studying "Knowing The Voice Of God Clearly" because you love the Lord Jesus Christ. You want to keep (obey) the written words that he has spoken, the Holy Bible, and you want to obey words he speaks to you personally. You have to be able to distinguish his voice from all others, and you need to know it well.

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## DOES THIS DESCRIBE YOU?

### Signs following...

*(Mark 16:17-18) "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."*

Now, I am not suggesting that I have or that all of us have to experience surviving a serpent bite as proof of relationship with Christ. I am saying that if your relationship with Jesus is in his lordship over you (absolute ruler by your choice), then you can expect that your obedience to him may lead you to experience the manifestations of the Spirit of God through you as his willing vessel.

This scripture, plus others that speak of the manifestations of the Spirit, chastise me and convict me of walking in the lowlands when he has called me higher.

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## WHAT WENT WRONG?

## Adam and Eve...

In the beginning was Adam and Eve; humanity's beginning that is, not Jehovah's (God).

*(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."*

Why did they hide themselves from the Lord God?

*(Genesis 2:16-17) "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.'"*

*(Genesis 3:6-7) "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths."*

Adam knew they were in disobedience to God, because God had spoken to Adam. Eve also knew because Adam had told her what God had said to him. Even though Eve bit of the fruit first, the blame goes to Adam for the fall of mankind, because God spoke directly to Adam.

*(Romans 5:14) "Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come."*

*(1Corinthians 15:22) "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive."*

## Independence...

Satan did not tempt Adam and Eve to steal, or to kill and lie, nor to commit adultery. Satan tempted them to live independent of God!

If your mindset and relationship is of Jesus as your savior and not LORD, then you are not saved. If your mindset and relationship is of Jesus as your Lord, then you are saved.

Two-thirds of the New Testament books and only two of the Gospels speak of Jesus as savior. New Testament scripture tell us of new believer's receiving Jesus as Lord. The title of Lord is given to Jesus 618 times, in the New Testament, but as Savior only 15 times.

So, the apostles and the Holy Spirit emphasized lordship. If he is your Lord, then he is your Savior. Lordship means 'absolute ruler', not 'respected counselor when I need one'.

Further exploration of 'Lord versus Savior' will have to await a specific study on the subject. Our interest in it now is for its significance in the study of 'Knowing The Voice Of God Clearly'.

Jehovah began his relationship with mankind knowing and obeying his voice clearly. It was not Jehovah's will for man not to know God's voice, nor to disobey what his voice told them. We are to know God's voice, and we are to obey what he tells us.

### God was to provide the knowledge...

*(Genesis 2:9) "And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."*

*(Genesis 2:16-17) "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, 'You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the \*knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

\*knowledge, knowing, knowing Me (God), the knowledge of God. Also, intelligence, understanding, and wisdom.

One of the names of God is Yehovah-jireh (the Lord will provide). Not 'the Savior will provide', but 'the Lord will provide'.

It is the Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit, God The Father who is to provide us knowledge, wisdom, and understanding, both general and specific, through his written word and by knowing his voice clearly. The Bible provides us general foundational knowledge, wisdom, and understanding, but it is not specific. Jesus could not use a verse in the Bible to instruct Steward (me) to move from the state of New Hampshire to the state of Ohio. He spoke to me directly, and afterwards had prophecies spoken to me from multiple unknowing believers, who also knew his voice clearly.

(I could not find New Hampshire nor Ohio in all of the Bible concordances I checked.)

### But Satan said that you do not need Jehovah to provide anymore...

Satan told Adam and Eve that they did not need God to provide the knowledge anymore; they could have it themselves! They would no longer need God for knowledge. "You can make your own decisions. 'As gods' you would no longer have to listen to the LORD God's voice, you can be your own Lords!"

*(Genesis 3:5) "For God does know that in the day you eat of it, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."*

### So Eve reasoned...

*(Genesis 3:6) "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit and ate, and she also gave to her husband with her; and he ate." Sensual, fleshly, carnal...*

Eve reasoned and did not seek any more input from God. She and Adam did not want to hear what the voice of God would say. They decided to be their own Lords.

*(Isaiah 55:8-9) "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

They/we/you gained independence from God. As a Christian, you need to continually examine yourself. Are you living independent, do you make your own decisions, or do you seek his voice for guidance? Who is your Lord? Whose voice are you listening to; yours or his? Are you dependent on him or "...every man did that which was right in his own eyes." (Judges 17:6b)

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### NOW, BACK TO US

#### Famine of hearing...

*(Amos 8:11-12) "Behold, the days come, says the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it."*

*(Daniel 12:4) "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."*

Today, over much of the world, the Bible and teachings about the Bible and Christianity are in abundance through multiple mediums. Those who actually \*hear God's voice clearly are rare by comparison. Knowledge about God is not the same as personally knowing his voice.

\*Hearing, as used here, is not the detection of sound waves by the physical ear, though God is capable of such, it is not a normal means by which he communicates. It is knowing what God has said to you as if he had spoken with physical vocal cords and you heard them with your own physical ears.

There is a famine today of hearing the words, God's words, as Amos prophesied of the Last Days. Few speak of truly knowing God's voice, aside from the gift of prophecy.

#### No open vision...

*(1Samuel 3:1) "And the child Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no open vision."*

The people were no longer seeing manifestations of the Spirit. No God generated prophecies were spoken to the people. The spiritual leaders and the children of Israel were living independent of the Lord. Few there were who still heard God's voice. The Lord stopped speaking to those who no longer sought his voice, nor obeyed what he said. The spiritual fathers still taught, and the prophets still prophesied, and the leaders still ruled, but few wanted to know God's voice.

*(Lamentations 3:25) "The LORD is good to them that wait for him, to the soul that seeks him."*

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### DID THE ISRAELITES AND MOSES HAVE THE SAME RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

#### This is what Moses wanted...

*(Exodus 33:13) "Now therefore, I pray to you, if I have found grace in your sight, show me now your ways, that I may know you, that I may find grace in your sight: and consider that this nation is your people."*

#### This is what the children of Israel wanted...

*(Exodus 20:19) "And they said to Moses, 'You speak with us, and we will hear: but do not let God speak with us, lest we die.'"*

The scripture did not say that the Israelites wanted to hear God's voice. From the context of scripture, we learn that they were afraid of dying, but expressed no desire to hear him personally.

They wanted someone else to hear from God on their behalf. This is seen in the Body of Christ today. The five-fold ministers of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher, are supposed to hear from God personally themselves and then speak into our lives what the Lord has told them. But, teaching every believer to know the voice of God themselves is rare indeed.

*(1Samuel 3:1) "And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious (rare) in those days; there was no open vision."*

#### Moses and the Israelites each got what they wanted...

*(Psalms 103:7) "He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the children of Israel."*

Moses wanted the up-close and personal relationship with Jehovah, and the children of Israel wanted everything that God could do for them.

### There were consequences...

*(Psalms 106:6-7) "We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly. Our fathers did not understand your wonders in Egypt; they did not remember the multitude of your mercies; but provoked God at the sea, even at the Red sea."*

*(8-9) "Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known. He rebuked the Red sea also, and it was dried up: so he led them through the depths, as through the wilderness."*

The Israelites believed that Jehovah provided for them because he was pleased with them. He wanted to be pleased with them, but was not. Jehovah was taking care of them for other reasons.

*(10-11) "And he saved them from the hand of him that hated them, and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy. And the waters covered their enemies: there was not one of them left."*

*(12-13) "Then they believed his words; they sang his praise. They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel:"*

They were not content. They could not be content because they were carnal, fleshly, sensual. They did not seek God's voice. They were independent thinkers following their own reasoning.

*(14-15) "But \*lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. And he gave them their request; but sent ^leanness into their soul."*

{\*to desire, wish for, pleasure, good or wicked longing.} Remember *Genesis 3:6*? "*And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit and ate, and she also gave to her husband with her; and he ate."* The children of God wanted the things of God.

{^ leanness means to emaciate (cause to grow thin or weak), famished} They were spiritually empty without the voice of God, even though they experienced the provisions of God.

*(16) They were envious (jealous) of Moses also in the camp, and Aaron the saint of the LORD.*

### As it was in the garden...

So, just like in the Garden of Eden, something that was God's was desired more than himself. Christians like you and I can want the things of God, like the children of Israel did, but want to keep God himself at a distance lest our self-will die.

*(Genesis 3:24) "So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."*

### How did it turn out for Moses?

*(Exodus 33:11) "And the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle."*

*(Exo 33:12) "And Moses said to the LORD, See, you say to me, Bring up this people: and you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, I know you by name, and you have also found grace in my sight."*

*(Exo 33:13) "Now therefore, I pray you, if I have found grace in your sight, show me now your way, that I may know you, that I may find grace in your sight: and consider that this nation is your people."*

*(Exo 33:14) "And he said, My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest."*

\*Both of these words face and presence are the same Hebrew word paniyim; a paraphrased meaning would be 'up close and personal'. It indicates a one-on-one relationship.

*(Exo 33:15) "And he said to him, If your presence does not go with me, do not bring us up from here."*

Moses said that he did not want to go anywhere without the personal presence of God; "the Lord spoke to Moses face-to-face"!

Does that describe the relationship you want with the Lord Jesus?

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### Borrowing from Class 1: "Can you hear me now?"

How confident are you, when sitting face to face with a person, that you are being spoken too? (You are alone with them and they are not on their mobile phone.) You know when you are being spoken to!

Do you know when God is speaking to you personally, directly to you; not communicating by other means?

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## IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD LIKE THE ISRAELITES' OR MOSES'?

### The dream of the "Twins"...

Many years ago I interpreted a woman's prophetic dream. In the dream, she had given birth to twin boy babies. The first twin looked robust and was expressive. The other twin looked frail and was quiet. Friends came to see the babies. The people were drawn to the well-favored twin and gave it close and careful attention, never leaving it to engage with its twin. The other lay silent, alone. The woman herself was caught-up, like the others, giving attention and coos to the robust twin. Even as she did this, she glanced over her shoulder with sadness and guilt, neglecting the other twin.

The twins represent the Lord Jesus and the things or provisions of God. The robust and expressive twin portrays the things of God, and the frail looking and quiet twin symbolized the Lord Jesus.

The things of God are the benefits of being the children of God: food, shelter, the gifts-of-the-Spirit, the fellowship of believers, Christian music and books, worship and praise, the Bible and teachings, ministry, etcetera. But just like the children of Israel, the things of God are where non-Spirit led Christians focus their attention, and the person of the Lord Jesus Christ is ignored. And just like the children of Israel, experiencing the things of God is not an indication that he is pleased with us.

*(Isaiah 53:2-3) "For he went up like a shoot before him, and like a root from dry ground. He had no form and no majesty that we should see him, and no appearance that we should take pleasure in him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of suffering, and acquainted with sickness, and like one from whom others hide their faces, he was despised, and we did not hold him in high regard." [Lexham English Bible]*

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### They could not have rest...

*(Hebrews 3:7-11) "Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost says, Today if you will hear his voice, Do not harden your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)"*

{Re-read Psalms 106:6-16}

God made his ways known to Moses, because Moses wanted God himself, not his things.

*"He made known his ways to Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel." (Psalms 103:7)*

Just as the children of Israel, you and I cannot enter into Jesus' rest without knowing his ways; experiencing the things of God is not a substitute for knowing God's voice "face to face".

*“And he said, My presence” (speaking face to face) “shall go with you, and I will give you rest.” (Exodus 33:14)*

### Knock knock, who is there?

*(Revelation 3:14-15) “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things says the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot: I would that you were cold or hot.”*

*(Rev 3:16-17) “So then because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spew you out of my mouth. Because you say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and know not that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:”*

The Laodiceans, like the children of Israel and Christians today, had the things of God (*they knew the acts of God*). But, leanness was in their souls because they did not know God’s voice (*his ways, face to face*).

They responded to the things of God in their lives in a sensual, fleshly, carnal manor. Though, they considered themselves quite spiritually mature.

*(Rev 3:18) “I counsel you to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou may be rich; and white raiment, that you may be clothed, and that the shame of your nakedness does not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that you may see.”*

Many believers are afraid to seek to know the voice of God.

Some say, “How do you know that it is not Satan speaking to you instead of God?” (They must believe that God is powerless to stop Satan from taking over any conversation that God is having with a believer.)

Others are afraid to know what God has to say to them, because he may require something of them.

Leaders teach that gifts-of-the-Spirit and other Godly manifestations are not done today. To them it cannot be Biblical, because they are uncomfortable with the thought of things out of their control, like the children of Israel. (No casting out of demons necessary because the demons just gave up after Jesus rose from the dead?)

Some are afraid of antagonizing Satan. (They attribute more power to Satan than God!)

*(2Ti 3:4-5) “Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away”*

They have their own plans and believe that the LORD Jesus’ plans for them would be different. And some of them are as in the words of the Lord Jesus, “I never knew you”.

The wicked quote, “It is better to beg for permission than to ask for permission.”

*(Rev 3:19-20) "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any person hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."*

This was written to the church, to believers. The Lord is saying that he has been left outside. Christians are busy with the things of God, and the churches, and ministry, and the Bible, and the gifts-of-the-Spirit, and other believers. Jesus has been left outside the door.

*(Rev 3:21-22) "To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

Overcomes what? In verse 17 it said, "and know not that you are wretched". This word wretched, in the Greek language, means *enduring trial*. All the things of God, the robust twin, are a trial or test.

Which twin is getting your attention? Be thankful for the things of God. The Bible is not to be a substitute for Jesus. The Holy Spirit is not to be a substitute for Jesus. All his gifts are good, but do not let them be a substitute for a face to face relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ himself.

### [Standing at the door...](#)

*(Revelation 3:20) "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any person hears my voice, and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."*

The entry doors at that time period had no outside handle. The occupant had to let the person (Jesus) in. This was not a scripture written for believers to quote to non-believers. These scriptures were a statement of the church's condition and a warning to repent, and finally a beckoning.

*(John 14:23) "Jesus answered and said to him, If someone 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."*

**"hear what the Spirit says"**

*See you at the next class!*