

KNOWING the VOICE of GOD CLEARLY

8-20-17, Class 4, On-Line

INTRODUCTION

Please pre-read the On-Line notes for Classes 1, 2, + 3 to equip you for full understanding of this lesson.

Do you just want to know God's will, or do you want to know Him?

Do you just want the *acts* or *things* of God in your life like the children of Israel did, or do you want him?

Or, do you want to *know the ways* of God, to know him personally, as *face to face* and be called His friend?

{Please see Class 2 On-line Notes; section "How did it turn out for Moses?" and section "They could not have rest..."}

GINOSKO (continued from Class 3)

The Greek word *ginosko*, to *know*, indicates a depth of a familiarization most-similar to that of a husband and wife, but a *ginosko* relationship with Christ is unlike any found between mortals. Jesus uses the term as an inference to symbolize a depth of familiarization with another person.

(Matthew 1:24-25) "When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus."

Joseph and Marry had no sexual encounter until after Jesus was born. The Greek word *ginosko* is translated to English as the word knew, and means the sexual relations between a wife and husband; a godly man and godly woman married.

"*Knew her not*" is a euphemism. That is, an inoffensive or indirect expression that a culture exchanges for a concept that is considered distasteful or too coarse for public expression.

Ginosko is used throughout the New Testament to indicate the depth of familiarization that we are supposed to have with Jesus.

RELATIONSHIP

The Kingdom Realm...

Not all who consider themselves Christians have the same relationship with Jesus.

Most American churches and para-church organizations, and the Christians there-in, introduce converts into a relationship with the Savior Jesus Christ. Ministries declare the numbers of people who have accepted Jesus as Savior, not as Lord.

In the New Testament, people were introduced to the LORD Jesus Christ. People received Jesus as their LORD, not savior. Lord means *controller, supreme authority*. A lord has authority over other people's life and death, and everything that happens in between. They willingly gave the authority regarding decisions in their life over to somebody else; the Lord Jesus.

(Acts 16:31) "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

The Old Testament contains many prophecies of a coming savior. The New Testament declares Jesus as Savior. But Jesus becomes a person's savior only when that person has received Jesus as Lord, repents, and submits to him as controller of that person's life. Salvation is a benefit of his lordship.

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. That is greater than a 40:1 emphasis that the Holy Spirit, author of the New Testament, makes about Jesus.

The Salvation Realm, as I label it, is a non-Biblical unbalanced emphasis on salvation over lordship. In the Salvation Realm, "I have Jesus", or more specifically, "I have Jesus' stuff", "*the things of God*". Jesus died on the cross to pay for my sins. He promises me comfort and provision, divine healing and entry into Heaven. When it is presented to non-believers, absent the lordship of Christ, it proffers a carnal relationship with Jesus that is much easier to be accepted by a carnal person than the emphasis of lordship elevated by the apostles and the Holy Spirit.

In the Kingdom Realm, "Jesus has me". You get everything the Salvation Realm provides, but you submit to the Lord Jesus making the decisions for your life. The idea of giving absolute control to God is not the focus of the church today, even though it is God's focus in the Bible.

The idea of giving absolute control to someone else over their life was not acceptable. Carnality wants independence. Jesus as Savior is an easier package to sell, than Jesus as Controller. Carnal flesh wants the benefits of Savior Jesus, but without the control of Lord Jesus Christ.

I do not believe that Christians who promote Jesus as Savior are aware of the error that they have fallen into, but I do pray that they become aware.

THE RIGHT RELATIONSHIP MATTERS

The sons of Sceva...

The sons of Sceva demonstrate how important the correct relationship is.

{Read Acts 19:11-15}

“And God wrought special works of power by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought to the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

“Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon themselves to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?”

Let me rephrase the ending, *“Jesus I know, and Paul I am acquainted with, but who are you?”*

The demon said, *“I know Jesus.”* This is the same word *ginosko* that I have talked about already. How can this word be the same when the examples and scriptures that we have examined with *ginosko* were positive or even love relationships? *Ginosko* speaks to the depth of knowing, not the type of relationship. The demon had a deep *knowing* of Jesus.

Then he said, *“Paul I know.”* This is not *ginosko*, it is *epistamai* (ep-is'-tam-ahee). This Greek word means *to be acquainted with; to focus one's thoughts on; to understand*. The demon had already put great time and effort into investigating and knowing who Paul was. Paul was a significant threat because of his relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Quoting from the Chinese general, military strategist, and philosopher Sun Tzu's *“The Art Of War”*, 512 BC, *“Know your enemy and know yourself...”* Demons kept their eyes on Paul.

Then the demon said, *“but who are you?”* *“But”* means the sons were different. They did not have the needed relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, and thus had no authority over the demon.

(Acts 19:16-17) “And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.”

I guess it is as we say here in the United States, *“It is not what you know, but who you know!”*

LORD IN FACT, NOT JUST TITLE

Lord, Lord,...

{Read Matthew 7:21-23}

Jesus spoke of others who thought they had the right relationship with him.

(Matthew 7:21) “Not everyone that says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven.”

A double declaration in the Scriptures' such as *“Lord-Lord”*, *“truly-truly”*, and *“verily-verily”*, indicate an emphasis that God is making. It points to something he considers crucial for us to know. The point that Jesus is emphasizing in this scripture is, *“only those that do the will of my Father, will enter heaven.”*; my rephrase. To regularly know the will of Jesus' Father, you will need to know His voice clearly.

{The Father is kind and gives grace to new-born Christians and the young, but like the fig tree there comes a time at which he expects more. Please see online notes for Class 3/Maturity level: spiritual babies...}

(Matthew 7:22) "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? and in your name have cast out devils? and in your name done many wonderful works?"

Jesus said that there will be people who prophesy, cast-out demons, and do works of power in his name. He does not deny that they have done these things, but things do not impress him.

(Matthew 7:23) "And then will I profess to them, I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity."

They have done great things in his name, and Jesus says that they work iniquity; a rebuke. What have they done wrong? Jesus says that they are lawless (iniquity). In what way are they lawless? They are lawless because they were operating without his lordship, oversight. They used their own reasoning to determine the when, the where, and the how of doing ministry. Like Adam and Eve, they decided to work independently from the Father. They are walking in man's Salvation Realm, not Jesus' Lordship Realm. They, unlike Jesus, failed the wilderness test. {Please see online notes for Class 3/FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT IS NOT THE SAME AS POWER.}

"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you!'" Jesus does not know them, because they do not know, *ginosko*, Jesus!

Back to verse 21, *"Not everyone that says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven."* Entering the kingdom of heaven is through obeying God's will, which you know by knowing his voice, which occurs through knowing (*ginosko*) Jesus!

(Matthew 7:24-27) "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

JESUS AND HIS OWN

Jesus' sheep..

(John 10:1-4) "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice."

Jesus is giving us a double-emphasis on something he considers very important for us to understand!!

(John 10:27) “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:”

Jesus says, “I know them”. Who are “them”? Jesus knows (*ginosko*) those who hear his voice; and those who hear, know and follow him.

Sons are led...

{Read Romans 8:14-18}

(Romans 8:14-16) *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:”*

“Bears witness” means that the Holy Spirit knows that your spirit knows, and your spirit knows that the Holy Spirit knows, *“that we are the children of God:”* This is a corroboration that can only occur if you know God’s voice.

(Romans 8:17-18) *“And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”*

“provided we suffer with him” (ESV) and “the sufferings of this present time” were not mentioned in the salvation message that was given to me, and hundreds of millions of others, in modern church times. The only suffering spoken of was Jesus’, not mine.

If a man loves me...

(John 14:23) *“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come to him, and make our abode with him.’”* We need to desire to hear his words so that we may keep them.

{Refer to Class 2 notes, “Knock, knock. Who is there?”}

In Revelation 3:20-22, Jesus is outside the door of the churches saying, *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 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.”*

{These scriptures have long been used by some Christians for presenting a salvation message. The sentiment that Jesus stands outside the heart of the non-believer, represented by a door, and is knocking to be allowed entry is fine, but taking scripture out of context and ignoring what it is truly saying, is sin. The book of Revelation is a prophecy to believers about the Last Days. Chapters 2 and 3 speak specifically to the spiritual condition of believers. The Holy Spirit is addressing people who call themselves Christian leaving the Lord Jesus outside.}

“He that has a Spiritual ear, let him understand what the Spirit says to the churches”; my rephrase. The Greek word translated church, *ekklesia*, means ‘out-called’. Christians are “called-out” from the world.

In these scriptures, Jesus is calling-out from the churches (the called-out); *“to those who understand, I am calling you out of the churches that have left me (Jesus) standing outside”*; my rephrase. If Jesus is standing outside of the door of the churches, then they relate to him only as their Savior, and not as their Lord. You would not leave whoever is in charge outside. Some Christians do not have Jesus in charge of their own life or their corporate lives, the churches. In theological terms, those who respond to Jesus’ call are the *ek-eklesia*, (the *out-out-called*). He is calling-out from those who are already called-out.

(John 14:24) “He that loves me not, keeps not my sayings: and the word which you hear is not mine, but the Father’s which sent me.”

The bond servant...

The ‘bond servant’ is another type of relationship that you may have with the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Exodus 21:5) “And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: Then his master shall bring him to the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or to the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.”

A bondservant is a slave that that has been motivated by its love for its master, who is its Lord, to willingly place itself in permanent slavery to its Lord. Many versions and translations use the word bondservant instead of servant. The Greek word for servant, *doulos*, can mean either servant (slave) or bondservant (love-slave). The heart relationship of the slave for the lord master determines which word would provide the correct understanding, servant or bondservant. The term love-slave is now rarely used because of the sexual connotations in the combination of the two words today.

In Romans 1:1, and Philippians 1:1, and James 1:1, and 2 Peter 1:1, and Jude 1:1, each author introduces himself as a slave, in the Greek, of Jesus Christ. The New Testament clearly indicates a love relationship between these authors and their Lord Jesus.

HOW VALUABLE IS IT TO KNOW GOD’S VOICE?

How important was it to Jesus?

How important is it to know God’s voice? How important did Jesus consider it?

(John 5:19) “Then answered Jesus and said to them, Verily, verily, I say to you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father do: for whatever the Father does, that the son does likewise.”

Again, Jesus gives a double-emphasis on the importance for us to understand what he is saying!!

Let us look at a different verse, 1Corinthians 2:12, *“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.”*

Without God's direction through his voice, you have your own reasoning to provide personal guidance in your life. Without the Holy Spirit speaking to you, you do not positively know what is acceptable to God. The Lord may speak to you through a third party, via prophecy, but prophecies are not a long term replacement for the two of you speaking face-to-face.

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 was not able to use a verse in the Bible to instruct 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 through multiple non-associate believers.

On another point, Jesus was full of the Spirit, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness and returned in the power of the Spirit. Jesus started into ministry only after he was walking in the power of the Spirit. And this was able to happen because he knew and responded to the Holy Spirit's voice.

Paul walked with the Spirit.

Paul said in 1Corinthians 2:4, *"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:"*

There are times when talk is not enough, and Paul's ability with speech was distinguished! God was able to manifest himself through Paul, as Paul heard and obeyed God's voice.

Important to divine healing...

Some Christians believe in a pattern or formula that they use for guaranteed successful divine healing. The only pattern regarding divine healing, in the New Testament, is that every person that the Holy Spirit worked through, to bring healing to someone else, was a person that heard the voice of God and obeyed him.

Discerning of spirits...

The discerning, or judicial judging, of spirits both good and evil, written of in 1Corinthians 12:10, I have found to be mighty valuable. And, without knowing the voice of God, this gift cannot function.

Much of the bad reputation for the gifts-of-the-Spirit is attributed to believers using their reason instead of direct communication from God. Remember Jesus saying, *"I never knew you."*

Without the voice...

1 Samuel 3 told us about the high priest Eli and his sons, and their disobediences. Their sin caused the spiritual light to go out in the Temple.

{See Class 2 On-Line notes; the segment called, “No open vision...”}

You might get somebody killed.

(2Corinthians 3:6) “Who also has made us able ministers of the new covenant; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter kills, but the spirit gives life.”

Do you want to kill people or bring them life? Without knowing God’s voice, you can only teach people the words of the Bible. The Bible, without the personal teaching of the Holy Spirit, without the lordship of Jesus Christ, will spiritually kill people. That is according to God himself.

I want Jesus to know me!

We also need to remember Matthew 7:21-23, when Jesus said to those who did great works and called him Lord, *“And then will I profess to them, I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity”; from verse 23.*

Good or even great works are not enough. Do not fool yourself. {Reference Matthew 25:31-46}

Then go for it!

If you truly value what these lessons have been about, the importance of Knowing The Voice Of God Clearly, then do something about it. Not just something, but do everything you possibly can!

{Read Luke 14:25-35}

*(Luke 14:25-26) “And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said to them, If any man come to me, and *hates not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.”*

*hate = to detest, love less, and even to hate. Jesus is saying that in comparison to all of your family, Jesus is to be more important to you than absolutely everyone else. If necessary, family is to be sacrificed. Nothing and no one is to be between you and Jesus. Do not let your family stand in the way.

(Luke 14:27-30) “And whosoever does not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first, and counts the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.”

Before you invest yourself into a major-major project, you must predetermine that you are fully invested; nothing will sway you from it. Are you fully invested to know God’s voice clearly?

(Luke 14:31-33) “Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first, and consults whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends an ambassador with a message, and

desires conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsakes not all that he has, he cannot be my disciple."

I appreciated this scenario because the commitment to be 'sold out' is a spiritual battle. We were also not told in the salvation messages that there would be a battle.

(Luke 14:34-35) "Salt is good: but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be restored? It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that has ears to hear, let him hear."

We are to be the *salt of the earth*, but when we do not carry through our commitment, we have lost our flavor. We are not fit to be used for landfill, metaphorically speaking. We do not even have the value of manure. *Cast it out* means to violently throw it away! This expresses Jesus' emotions on the matter. Just how committed to hearing and obeying the voice of God are you? You need to answer this question.

(Matthew 13:45-46) Jesus said, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."

What are you willing to pay? Is knowing his voice clearly, the Kingdom Realm, worth everything to you?

If you have not already, receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and determine to fully commit yourself to a walk of obeying his voice.

GOD'S VOICE IS PARAMOUNT TO THE CROSS

How important did Jesus consider knowing the voice of God?

{Read Matthew 16:13-25}

(Matthew 16:13) "When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?"

{Only Jesus refers to himself as "*the son of man*". He does this to identify himself with mankind. It is an expression of his humility.}

(Matthew 16:14-17) "And they said, Some say that you are John the Baptist: some, Elias [Elijah]; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He said to them, But whom do you say that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ [anointed one, Messiah], the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said to him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood has not revealed it to you, but my Father which is in heaven."

As it said in 1 Corinthians 2:10, "*But God has revealed them to us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.*"

God had disclosed, uncovered, to Peter who Jesus is. Peter did not determine this by what others said about Jesus. The signs and works of power did not convince Peter of who Jesus is. Peter, just a fisherman, knows who Jesus is because he heard God the Father tell him!

(Matthew 16:18) "And I also say to you, 'That you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'"

The Catholic Church has long purported, using this scripture, that Peter is the rock upon which Jesus said that he will build his church. They state that 'Peter' means rock.

Peter in Greek, *petros*, means a small rock, and even a piece of a rock. The word 'rock' in Greek, *petra*, is a large rock, a mass of rock. Peter is a pebble and whatever Jesus is building upon is bigger than the pebble Peter, it is a boulder!

Many Protestants have advanced the theory that Jesus is saying that he is building the church upon himself. They use scriptures such as Romans 9:33 and 1 Corinthians 10:4 to buttress their view.

(Romans 9:33) "As it is written, Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offence: and whosoever believes on him shall not be ashamed."

(1Corinthians 10:4) "And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

The Greek word for rock in each verse is *petra*.

If God was to build his church upon a man, it would not be a sinner, Peter, it would have been upon the sinless man Jesus. Jesus said, *"upon this rock I will build my church."* He did not say 'upon whom' or 'upon Peter', but *"upon this rock"*. What is this rock?

(Matthew 16:19-21) "And I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Then charged Jesus his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ. From that time forth began Jesus to shew to his disciples, how that he must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day."

What just happened? What was so pivotal as to convince Jesus that it was now time to end his earthly ministry and go die on the cross? He had been waiting for something to occur that would mark the time to change his focus to dying on the cross for our sins. What was it? God's voice was heard!

Verse 17 read, *"And Jesus answered and said to him, Blessed are you, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood has not revealed it to you, but my Father which is in heaven." "...upon this...I will build my church..."*, said Jesus, *"and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*

Not a high-priest, not a prophet, but a common fisherman had understanding, because he personally heard the voice of God directly. The church would be built upon God speaking directly to everyone, and their obedience, not just a chosen few. And *"the gates of hell shall not prevail against"* a church made of millions of Christians with the ability to know God's voice, instead of a mere handful at one time.

The New Testament churches had no priests. Prior to Jesus dying on the cross for our sins, priests were intermediaries between God and the people. They would hear from God and tell the people what he said. Pastors instead take the role of a mature guide and teacher for the 'sheep' in their care. Pastors and their sheep often place the pastor back into the unscriptural role of a priest. That is against the Word of God.

(1Timothy 2:5) "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"

(Hebrews 8:6) "But now he has obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises."

Now, how important it is to know the voice of God clearly? *"...And the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* Jesus' death and resurrection hinged upon a common man hearing God. Peter was to be one of millions, just a disciple of Christ knowing the voice of the Father clearly!

Reason strikes again!

(Matthew 16:22-23) "Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from you, Lord: this shall not happen to you. But he turned, and said to Peter, Get behind me Satan: you are an offence to me: for you savor not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."

Satan was tempting Peter, and he was failing, into using reason to determine what would be the best path for the Lord. Satan also tempted Jesus with reason in the wilderness. Eve was tempted by Satan with reason in the Garden of Eden, and failed the test. Jesus passed.

(Matthew 16:24-25) "Then said Jesus to his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."

"Losing my life" was also not in the Salvation Message brochure.

Sobering thoughts...

(1Timothy 4:1) "Now the Spirit speaks distinctly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;"

*(Matthew 7:13-14) "You enter in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many there are which go in there in: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leads to life, and *few there be that find it."*

*The Greek word for few, *oligos*, means puny.

Knowing God's voice clearly takes time. Get started now.

See you at the last class, September 17th!