

# KNOWING the VOICE of GOD CLEARLY

9-17-17, Class 5, On-Line

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## INTRODUCTION

Please pre-read the On-Line notes for Classes 1, 2, 3, + 4 to equip you for full understanding of this lesson.

*“...Expect not to understand or profit by your Bible knowledge without seeking continually the teaching of the Holy Spirit. Beware lest your earnest Bible study, your excellent books, or your beloved teachers take the place of the Holy Spirit! Pray daily, and perseveringly, and believingly for His teaching. He will write the Word in your heart.”* Andrew Murray, ‘The Two Covenants’ 1898

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## HIS PRESENCE

“I haven’t heard from God for a while.”

I have many times heard Christians say, “I think that God is mad at me. I have not felt his *presence* for a long time!”

The *presence* and the *manifestation of the presence* are not the same. There can be the one without the other. God is with you whether you are aware of him or not; he is omnipresent after all. He chooses when to speak and reveal himself to you, or not. Because He has not spoken, does not mean that He is not present. But if the Spirit has been speaking to you and you have been continually disobedient to instruction, then He will stop speaking until you are obedient.

Hebrews 3:18 says, “And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient?”

The Spirit manifests the presence of God [*Jehovah, the Holy Spirit, the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ)*] as He chooses. There is no prayer formula that will guarantee a response from him; He will not perform for us. He is sovereign, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word *manifestation* is from the Greek word for *demonstration*, and it would not be a demonstration if the people cannot see it! Manifestations are works of the Spirit that are detectable by our natural senses. The Spirit makes his manifestations discernable to taste, touch, smell, hearing, or sight.

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## A Mature Relationship

A Christian married couple that is emotionally and spiritually mature is not in need of constant talking, in order to be at peace with one another. [Please realize that I am speaking of Christ-like believers, not

world-like church goes.] They are comfortable with each other, without the need for constant interchange. Our God is not verbose, a Chatty Kathy doll.

When you mature in the Spirit and learn to know the voice of God clearly, you have learned to be at rest with Christ. You recognize His presence, whether He speaks or not, whether the Spirit manifests or not. These things are no longer necessary in order to be comfortable with Him. Without my wife speaking, sometimes my other senses let me know that she is nearby; taste, touch, smell, and sight. So it is also, in the realm of the Spirit. You will know the Spirit's presence without him needing to indicate it by a manifestation.

1Kings 19:11-12 says, "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 the rocks into pieces 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 small voice. "

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## GROWING IN MATURITY

### Getting, receiving, wanting counsel...

King Rehoboam wanted some counsel after being approached with complaints by the assembly of Israel.

1Kings 12:6-8 says, "And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do you advise that I may answer this people? And they spoke to him, saying, If you will be a servant to this people this day, and will serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever. But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, *and* which stood before him." ESV

Those who are naturally young, and the spiritually immature, tend to go to their peers for counsel. A new young mother, with an infant that has a difficult diaper rash, would be wise to get advice from a first-time pregnant mother or a mother who has raised six children? Strength, power, and wisdom in a thing are obtained through experience. A lot of Christians have information about God, but wisdom is granted by walking in the Spirit of God.

Your peers are tempted to want your favor and tell you what you want to hear. The spiritually mature want favor with God and will tell you what you need to hear.

Proverbs 11:14 reads, "Where no counsel *is*, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors *there is* safety." [KJV] It is a popular translation rendering for the Hebrew word *rob* to be given in English as *multitude*, but it means *abundance* as in the greatness of a counselor, not the abundance as in the quantity of counsellors.

I therefore agree with Jay Green's translation in The Interlinear Hebrew/Greek English Bible, "In the absence of (wise) counsel the people fall; but safety (is) in a great counselor." The Hebrew puts the emphasis on the counsel being wise, not how many do the counselling. I am not against having more

than one source of counsel, but a group of counsellors in agreement does not make it wise. “For though you have ten thousand tutors in Christ, yet not many fathers;...” (1Corinthians 4:15a) As parents say to their children in my country, “If your friends jumped off a cliff, would jump also?” Majority doesn’t rule, and God’s kingdom isn’t a democracy.

(Please read 2Chronicles 18)

Kings Ahab and Jehoshaphat received counsel from four-hundred prophets that said that Jehovah would give them success in battle over the king of Syria. But the word of the Lord was in the mouth of only one man, the prophet Micaiah; “Now therefore behold, the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of these your prophets. The LORD has declared disaster concerning you.” [Verse 22; ESV]

If you still believe in “the more counsellors, the better”, then you can contact The American Counseling Association (ACA), the largest non-profit counseling association in the world, and see how that works out!

“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

And with final words from J.R.R. Tolkien on the subject of counsel, “*Go not to the Elves for counsel, for they will say both no and yes.*”

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### Self hindrances...

Disobedience...

You will not mature in the Lord if you are willing to obey only when you know what the outcome will be, or only when the people you are to minister to already know you and accept you, or only when what the Lord wishes you to tell someone will sound positive and be welcomed. You cannot have conditional obedience to Christ. Hear and obey, now.

Prejudices...

Maturing in Christ can also be suspended because of prejudices. I will cover just a few; if you are not willing to receive ministry from someone who is not from your spiritual background, or denomination, or church, and if you are not open to ministry from a woman or child. Do not be closed to someone who is spiritually or physically younger than you, or an “old person”. Some people sin by rejecting a person’s ministry because of race, ethnicity, or nationality.

Do you have a deaf ear to someone who is handicapped or not good looking? Think about it, how many evangelists and pastors are (pardon me) ugly? We are carnal if our receptivity to someone is influenced by looks, wealth, or stasis. Many believers automatically accept everything that is taught by famous Christian authors, TV evangelists, and mega-church pastors, as gospel. Jesus was himself someone of whom most people would not listen to. “For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.” (Isaiah 53:2-3; ESV)

Your continuing to mature in Christ can be hindered by incorrectly judging yourself. Romans 12:3 says, "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think *soberly*, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

This scripture is often quoted to support the admonition for us to be humble, but there is more. The Greek word *sophroneo*, translated as 'soberly', means 'sane'. You are not to be in-sane when judging yourself. Figuratively, it means to take a balanced approach when examining yourself; not to be in-sane and think *more highly than you ought of yourself*, nor to be in-sane thinking *more lowly of yourself than you ought*. Thinking more highly or more lowly can occur when you do not know the voice of God clearly.

To have a deflated opinion of you is just as sinful as having an inflated view of yourself. Maturity is not only correctly accepting your faults and sins, but also accepting your giftings and strengths that the Lord says that you have. Only the Holy Spirit can divide these things clearly for each person. To not see and accept the good that the Lord declares about you, hinders you from being used by Him. Maturity is excepting everything that the Lord says about you.

A person can over-humble themselves into uselessness. "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] There are two paths to humility, you can humble yourself or God can do it for you.

I will not go into depth in this study to cover the many myriad ways in which Satan can hinder. But it is important for me to say, Satan has a heightened interest in stopping any Christian who is very serious about pressing into Christ and knowing God's voice clearly.

Spiritual hunger is not satisfied by information. Going back to the marriage scenario, all the information that you can gather about your spouse will not give you a satisfying relationship. Theology is the study of God, information about God, not a relationship with him.

Daniel 12:4 "But you, 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." We live in a time like none other, with a great abundance of information about the Holy Bible and God. But it was prophesied in Amos 8:11, "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:"

Jehovah said that in the last days, there would not be a shortage of knowledge about Him, but a shortage of people with the ability to hear what He says. Your spiritual hunger will not be satisfied by mere knowledge. As in a marriage, constant communion and communication will mature a relationship. Learning knowledge about God sweetens it.

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[Reasoning....](#)

(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.” \*Words is translated from the Greek word *logos*. It can also be translated as *reasonings*. Jesus’ *reasonings* are always good and our *reasonings* without the Spirit’s counsel are carnal.

John 14:24 states, “He that does not love me does not keep my sayings {*reasonings*}: and the word which you hear is not mine, but the Father’s who sent me.” The reverse inferred is that the person who loves Jesus keeps his words.

Eve’s reasoning led her to eating of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Adam’s reasoning led him to partake also.

Sarah and Abraham suffered consequences for using reasoning to fulfill God’s plans; Hagar and Ishmael, in Genesis 21. Islam is one of the effects.

Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness with reasonings and failed. Jesus’ responses were, “It is written.”

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*My apologies, for at this time I am unable to finish the notes on this subject. I will provide a more thorough and completed work in the future. Thank you for your interest and prayers...*

*Steward E. Murphy, Rev.*