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HEARING FROM GOD

A SERIES IN UNDERSTANDING

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OPEN HEAVEN GLOBAL MINISTRIES

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MINISTER UNTO GOD

Hearing God is one of the most precious things that every child of God can ever have. God spoke to Abraham as one speaks to a friend. God spoke to Moses face to face. God is no respecter of persons! The reason there is so much trouble and confusion in the church is because they can't hear the voice of God. God wants to speak to you more than you want to hear from him. Develop a hunger to have an intimate relationship with God. A relationship involves two people. Develop, cultivate, sow into a relationship with God! You can't take where you haven't deposited!

You are about to hear the voice of God! Amos 3:7 "Surely the Lord God does nothing unless he reveals his secret to his servants the prophets". This means that God has secrets. And, what qualifies a person to be a prophet is his willingness to serve. You are going to see that in 1 Samuel 3. People hear three voices: their own voice, the voice of God, and the voice of the enemy. Amos 3:8 "The lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken; who can but prophecy?". The voice of God is likened to a lion. When a lion roars everyone fears. The voice of God brings the fear of God. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. The roaring of the lion in this passage means two things. First, the voice of God scares you away from sin. Second, it scares the devil away from you. God said: "Touch not my anointed ones and do my prophets no harm"(Psalm 105:15). When God speaks, it is over. Every other negative word is cancelled. When God says it is finished, it is!

John 10 :27 " My sheep hear my voice..." It is very important that you hear the voice of God. When God speaks, every part of your being will know you are hearing from God. The Holy Spirit will bear witness. Confusion comes from being disconnected from God. If you hear the voice of the devil more, that means that you are closer to him. Confess you are going to hear the voice of God! Confess you are going to know his voice! Close the door to every wrong voice!

When God speak you will sense his presence because his presence is unique only to him.

The first key in hearing the voice of God is to learn to minister to the Lord. 1 Samuel 3:1 "Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord..." Whatever service you do, do as unto the Lord. Don't do it for any other reason because it is a waste of time and energy .You only get rewarded for the things you do as unto the Lord. If you want to keep hearing the voice of God, do what he wants you to do. Keep doing his will. And, don't get to familiar with God because it will cause you to take him for granted.

From 1 Kings 19:11-13, we know that the first thing that came to Elijah was a strong wind. But God was not in it. The second thing that came was an earthquake. But God was not in it. The third thing that came was the fire. But God was not in it. The fourth thing that came to Elijah was the still small voice of God. The still small voice is the voice of God, Is the voice of intimacy and relationship with God. That voice comes out of love. The Lord revealed to Apostle Thomas that he chose the still small voice because he wanted Elijah to know how much God loved him. God is looking for relationship. He is looking for those who will seek his face; those who are hungry for him.

Minister onto the Lord. Are you doing things for people to notice you? God spoke to the ravens, to a donkey and a whale. If God can speak to a whale, and the whale obeyed him and made itself available to God, you better make yourself available to God! And minister onto him and not people! Tell him that you want to minister to him! Tell him that you want to be an available vessel that He can use! Minister onto the Lord. Be led by the Holy Spirit. Confess that you hear the voice of God. And do whatever he tells you to do.

CHERISH HIS WORD

The Father wants to speak to you more than you want to hear from him. And with that, we continue the series on "Hearing God" with 1 Samuel 3:1 "The word of the Lord was rare in those days...". The word rare here means precious. It was so precious every part of their being shook when they heard it. Nowadays, people are not placing the same value on it. The Lord has spoken, and whatever he has said settles everything in your life because his word is forever settled.

1 Corinthians 2:9 "But as it is written, What no eye has seen, nor ear heard nor entered into the human heart, the things God has prepared for those who love him". If you love God, get ready to dance because he has things prepared for you! So he has some things prepared for those who love him, yet they don't know them. What are those things? In Jeremiah 29:11 God said: "I know the thoughts I have towards you"... So God is thinking about you right now. Good thoughts, wonderful thoughts! Learn to wait on the Lord and let him finish telling you what he wants to say to you. Learn to speak only what the Lord says. The Lord wants to speak to you. Again, do you want to know what the things God has for you are? It says in 1Cor. 2:9 that God has revealed those things to us through his Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, yea the deep things of God. This is why it is so important to have the Holy Spirit in your life. Cherish the presence of God in your life! You are about to experience the deep things of God! And these things are not for those who have a shallow walk with God.

From first Samuel 3:1, we learned that the first key on hearing God is to minister onto the Lord. Do things onto the Lord and leave them there. Samuel minister onto the Lord; the church doesn't know how to minister onto the Lord. How can I hear the voice of God so clear? Is it possible for God to call my name so clearly? Yes!! God speaks through many channels and every channel, including the devil to speak to you. God can use your enemy to speak to you! God used Saul to confirm the destiny of David. God used a donkey to speak to Balaam. God can use anything.

1 Samuel 3:1, note that it says that the word of God was rare in those days. Note this, how you cherish God and his word, determines how God is going to cherish speaking to you. This is key number two in hearing God, cherish the word of God. The word of God was rare in those days, so they didn't play with it. They knew that once God spoke, and they knew it was God, it was done. They knew it will surely come to pass. And today because there are so many false prophets we take the words of God for granted. When God speaks, the Holy Spirit will bear witness to you. Develop an intimate relationship with God. Remember, God spoke to Elijah in the still small voice; the language of love and intimacy. In other words, what God is whispering into your ear is meant for you to hear alone. It means intimacy with daddy.

Read the word of God. Let it become your vitamin. The words of God are spirit and they are life. It energizes the Holy Spirit to move in your life. Is the word of God precious to you? The word of God is forever settled. The entrance of the word of God brings light and understanding to the simple (Psalm 119:130). Cherish the word of God! Because of the word of God, you can hear his voice every minute and every second. Don't play with the things that pull heaven down into your life. Cherish him. Obey him. Ask him questions. Don't just come to him once a week, month, or year. God wants to talk to you

every day! He wants to cross you over into your destiny! If God sends you somewhere he will open the door for you. Get the Lord's seal of approval. When God has something for you, he positions the people. He orchestrates everything. Whenever God wants to do something in your life, he brings somebody into your life. God opens the eyes of your mentor to see the finished product. Remind yourself that he formed you and knew you from your mother's womb. Let the relationship you have with God become to you so precious and so real that nothing else matters! Say to the Lord: "I want that kind of relationship." Lord, I want to hear your voice, no other voices, only your voice". Pride destroys many. Stay humble before the Lord. The God that elevates you can also remove you. Become a friend of God! Let him become real in your life! Develop a relationship with God that the devil cannot deny. Become a carrier of His Glory! Let his word become alive in you!

BECOME HIS FRIEND

From the first two teaching sessions on hearing the voice of God, we learned that the first key in hearing God's voice is to minister onto the Lord. We must do everything without an agenda, without an ulterior motive. The Lord will reward you. Don't expect a reward from man. Key number two is to cherish his word. How do you know that the Lord is speaking? His presence will come upon you. The Holy Spirit will bear witness that the Lord is speaking. It ushers the presence of God and the peace of God. The devil has no peace. Therefore, when he speaks there's no peace! "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give onto you", Jesus said in John 14:27. Receive that! There's nothing like the shalom of the Almighty God! The bible says that peace surpasses all understanding! (Philippians 4:7).

The third golden key to hear God, will cause you to become the delight of God. Become a friend of God. God discussed his plans for Sodom and Gomorrah with Abraham because he was God's friend. God wants to release to you a special grace to become the delight and a friend of God! In John 15:15, Jesus told his disciples: " No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I call you friends,..." Only friends share secrets. God wants to call you friend! Abraham interceded and bargained with God on behalf of the people in Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham was an intercessor. Ezekiel 22:30 " And I sought me a man to make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none." Thank God he has found you now! Be an intercessor! Stand in the gap on behalf of others! As you do that, God will take care of your problems. Cherish the word of God. The Holy Spirit does! Sometimes in our meetings, the Holy Spirit doesn't even move until the word of God goes forth; though he is Almighty. When you speak the word of life, the rhema word, that word goes forth and the Holy Spirit makes it happen, I call him the Maker. He is behind the scenes making things happen.

Cherish the word of God. If God is not speaking to you, don't make a fool of yourself! People are not going to believe God in your life. Wait on a word to come to you from the glory that will turn the nation upside down for Jesus. I'm believing God that you are going to hear from the glory realm. Because when you hear from the glory, it happens quickly. In the glory everything accelerates. That's why Jesus expected the fig tree to bring forth fruit even though it wasn't the season.

Key number three is found in 1 Samuel 3. Samuel was a young boy. He didn't know much. He didn't have knowledge of God. He didn't know God can call one by name. Pay attention to third key. Two people were lying down, the priest Eli and the little boy Samuel. One was close to the Ark of the Covenant the other, Eli, somewhere close by. And the Lord called Samuel. There is something about God calling you because when he does, he prepares you. But in between God calling Samuel, we find another key, obedience. Here is Eli, who is more prepared to be called. Samuel's mother dedicated him onto the Lord. Samuel was there by the choice of his mother. He doesn't know this God he was ministering to. He doesn't know this God he was serving. If God was going to call somebody, or talk to somebody, Eli would be the qualified one. He was the priest. He was the oracle of God. He was the mouthpiece of God. He had a connection with heaven. But, the same way you are connected to heaven you can be disconnected. That is why you have to pray and humble yourself. God bypassed the old priest era and began to call the little boy that did not know him. What was it that God didn't find in Eli that he found in Samuel? Samuel has never done anything. He was too young! The answer, obedience.

God did it because he saw Samuel's end before his beginning. Because Eli, lost his ability to obey God. Obedience is better than sacrifice. Learn to wait on the Lord. Every time God speaks to you, there's always a waiting, a tarrying. This process can be a second, a minute, that yields or births obedience. It is not enough for you to hear God, as good and wonderful as that is; but are you going to do what he tells you? Learn to surrender to his will.

God bypassed Eli because he stopped obeying God. God will stop speaking to you when you stop doing what he says. And vice versa, God will continue to speak to you when you do what he tells you. Why do you want him to keep talking to you if what he told you last night or what he told you last year is still waiting to be done? Saul was told to go to Gilgal and wait until Samuel got there to perform the sacrifice before engaging into battle with the enemy. Saul couldn't wait seven days. He disobeyed the instruction of the Lord. His disobedience cost him the kingdom. Mary said to the attendants at the wedding in Cana to do whatever Jesus told them to do. Every time you ask God for a miracle he gives you an instruction. Follow the instruction. Be obedient to his voice if you want to be the delight of God; if you want to hear him clearly. Be obedient to his voice. Is not enough to just listen. You better do what he says. Are you going to trust what he says? Are you going to believe what he says? Obey, trust and believe. "Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away" Mark 13:31. Obedience is always linked with trust, belief, and a servant's attitude. The king wanted to know who Elisha was. A woman said: "I remember him, he is the one that poured water in the hands of the prophet Elijah. She then said: "it was said that the word of the Lord was with him". How did he gain the confidence of God and the trust of God, that God would share his secret with him? It is because he was a servant! He ministered unto the Lord! Seek God. Seek his face. Stay close to the ark like the little boy Samuel did.

SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION

We continue the "Hearing the Voice of God" series reading from 1John 4 and 1Samuel 3. 1John 4:1 "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world". Samuel was going to encounter hearing the voice of God. That is one of the most precious thing that can happen to you; hearing the voice of your Father.

Two people were in the sanctuary. One was an old priest. He was mature in age, mature in understanding, mature in experience, and mature in the knowledge of God. But he was disconnected from heaven. The other, was a little boy dedicated to serve The Lord. God lamented: "my ways are not your ways" in Isaiah 55:8-9. "I wish my ways and my thoughts will become your thoughts".

The bible says that God began to call the little boy who knew nothing about God. Who has never heard the God who call you by name and whispers into your ears. He had never heard the still small voice. God appeared to Elijah in the form of a strong wind. But we know that God didn't speak to him at that time through the wind, though we know that he can. God was not in the earthquake either. But there is such a thing as the earthquake anointing in the Glory. It happened in Acts 16:25 when the foundation of the prison where Paul and Silas were shook. As it happened in the natural it mirrored what was in the Glory.

The Lord bypassed the old priest. If the Lord was going to speak to somebody, you would think that he would be calling the name of Eli. Instead, he was calling the little boy. What's important here? Not loosing your connection with God. From the moment you are disconnected from God, you are in danger with the enemy. He can do whatever he wants with you.

Samuel didn't know God was calling him. Because of that, he kept going to Eli the priest. How many times has God called you and you keep going to the wrong person like Samuel did? Samuel went to the person he was familiar with. Which brings up the following question. How can God's children confuse the voice of God with the voice of the devil? Because they are more familiar with the devil's voice than with God's. It was easy for Samuel to go to Eli because that was the voice he was acquainted with. If you are going to get acquainted with the voice of God, you must familiarize yourself with God. This means that you must become his friend. You must get close to him. Become a dweller of the secret place of the Most High. You must be rooted and grounded in his word. It is that simple to know his voice. Jesus said that his sheep hear his voice, and they follow him (John 10:27).

1Samuel 3:4-8 , Samuel kept running to Eli every time God called his name. And Eli told him that he had not called him. God called Samuel 3 times. And each time he went to the wrong person, God called him back. That's the grace and mercy of God. God was waiting for a response. After the third time, Eli perceived that the Lord had called the boy.

Here is where we find the fourth key. The bible says Eli perceived. Not at the first or second call, but at the third. That's how disconnected from God Eli was. He could not discern or perceive the voice of God. He was that far away from God. God's voice is unique to God alone. Don't wait to be that far away from God. Don't run away from him. Run to him.

Key number is spiritual perception. From I John 4:1 we know how important it is in these days to be able to test the spirits. To discern and make sure the spirit that is speaking to you is the voice of God. Spiritual perception can only come when you have the Holy Spirit in you. The Holy Spirit can perceive the things of the spirit himself. The bible says that the things of the spirit are foolishness to the natural man (1Cor. 2:14).

Spiritual perception is discerning of spirits. It is the ability to discern the season, the timing, and the moment of visitation in your life, like the tribe of Issachar. So you don't miss the opportunity set before you. It helps to discern the real from the counterfeit; what it is from God and that which is not. In other words, you are not going to be deceived in this last hour. You will have the perception of the Lord. But that can only happen by allowing the Holy Spirit to dwell in you. Allow the Holy Spirit to take over.

Eli perceived it was God at the third time. He missed it because he was that far away from God. Don't get to that point; deep in sin and darkness before crying out to God. Be like Peter. Cry out to the Master for help. The bible says Jesus immediately reached out to help him. He is your very present help in time of need!

RESPOND TO GOD

If you can hear the voice of God, your problems are ninety nine percent solved. God says that if you draw near to him, He will draw near to you (James 4:8). That's what it also says in Jeremiah 33:2-3, "Thus says the Lord...: 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'" God said you can call onto him and God himself will answer you! Believe what God says! But call onto him first. He will show you unbelievable, undeniable things. Things that go beyond human comprehension. He will reveal his glory (Isaiah 40:5). The revealed glory of the Lord it's a glory that is manifested in a way that even the devil cannot deny. God is about to show you the great and the mighty things of God!

In 1 Samuel 3, God is calling Samuel. And God is saying to you that you will also hear his voice. How does that happen? By being one of his sheep. You have to belong to him. Allow the Lord to become all that you need, all that you want, all that you have. When you have the Lord, you have everything. Let God be your meditation day and night. If you know the voice of God, the enemy can't deceive you. When God speaks, there's a witness in your spirit and you experience peace. Not being able to hear or accurately discern the voice of God has messed up the church.

The fifth key to hear the voice of God is what got my attention about this chapter. God called Samuel three times and he went to the wrong person until Eli perceived that it was the Lord. God has a principle and a protocol. Your response to God is the fifth key. God wants you to answer him. The way you answer God determines if God is going to reveal what is cooking to you or not . The way you answer God is very important. "A son honors his father and a servant honors his master. If I'm a father, where is my honor?" (Malachi 1:6). Again, the way you respond to God is very important. And it determines whether he will unload his treasures into your life.

Eli perceived it was the Lord. Eli knew God was waiting for Samuel to say something. In the same manner, until you respond to God, he will not reveal his plan and his will. Respond reverently. That's lacking in many people's lives. There is no reverence and no respect for God. God wants to be honored. Eli knew that's what God was waiting for. God speaks in many ways. The most important thing is to be able to know the voice of God. In the Old Testament when people heard the "Thus says the Lord" they knew something was cooking. Nowadays, it isn't like that. People have a wait and see attitude. That's why nothing happens. They don't celebrate God. Give back to God the reverence, honor and dignity that belongs to him. When you honor God, revere God, appreciate God, God will honor you.

In 1 Samuel 3:9, Eli shows Samuel how to respond to the Lord: "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Eli knew he had lost his connection with God. He knew God had bypassed him. Learn to give God your undivided attention. God used the burning bush to get Moses' attention. God is trying to get your attention!

Your response should be giving the Lord your undivided attention. You should not be talking to God and somebody else at the same time. Disconnect your phone and whatever else distracts you. Give to God the reverence, honor and praise that belongs to him. Don't put God on hold. Tell people to wait but don't make God wait. Do as we read in Jeremiah 33:3. Don't take God for granted! When you put God first place in your life, he will put you in the first place. In your response, honor God! Set time apart for him and keep it sacred. Never be too busy for him. If you respond appropriately to God, you will become his delight. He will show you great and mighty things!

INTIMACY WITH GOD

Key number 6 to hear the voice of God is intimacy with God. From 1 Samuel 3:2-3, we know that two people were in the sanctuary. Eli was in his room but Samuel was found beside the ark of God. The bible tells us that the ark of God was everything to them in those days.

There are two significant things that you need that are inside the ark. The Ten Commandments and Aaron's rod. The Ten Commandments represent the word of God. The rod is a symbol of the person and the power of the Holy Spirit. You need the word of God and the Holy Spirit on the inside of you. You are the box. You are his temple and dwelling place. From chapters 4,5 and 6 we know that the ark of God was dangerous. If the Spirit of God dwells in you and the word of God dwells in you that makes you a dangerous person! God wants you close to him. Enoch walked with God. To do that it means that he was close to God. Don't let anyone distract you. Refuse to be distracted by the enemy. Walk in intimacy with God.

The bible says that Eli's daughter in law was pregnant when the ark was taken by the Philistines. She named her child Ichabod which means the glory has departed from Israel. This means that the ark of God is the glory. Which makes you the carrier of the glory of God! So you have the glory. 1Corinthians 3:16 " Know you not that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" Get serious! Seek God with everything you have and you will find him. Understand that you are the glory of God. You are the beauty of God and the expression of His glory. Understand that the word of God dwells in you and the word of God is God himself. Understand that the Spirit of God dwells also in you with power and authority