

HEARING THE VOICE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

As followers of Jesus Christ we have received the Holy Spirit - He is our Helper, our Comforter and our Teacher. The Holy Spirit abides with us and is in us (John 14:17), and He provides supernatural power so that we can live a victorious life and produce the fruits and the gifts of the Spirit. His aim is to equip all of us to carry on the ministry of Jesus here on earth. ***“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father”*** (John 14:12). Jesus also said that the Spirit will teach us all things and bring to our remembrance everything that He has spoken to us (John 14:26), and that the Holy Spirit will take of what is His and declare it to us (John 16:15).

“When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you” (John 16:13-15). This passage says the Holy Spirit will; (a) speak, (b) inform us of things to come, and (c) declare what is of the Lord. But how does the Holy Spirit speak to us? What channel does He use to inform us of things to come? And how does He declare the truth? I have found four primary methods:

- (1) A still, small (but strong) notion or impression in your spirit.
- (2) A spontaneous thought or idea (coming from nowhere).
- (3) An inner witness (you just know that you know).
- (4) Visions and dreams.

*Always remember, it's up to Him to choose the method of communication.

What are the characteristics of the Holy Spirit's voice? Here are seven:

- **Stability** - no confusing or encrypted messages.
- **Peace** - no fear, bewilderment or uncertainty in our emotions.
- **Strength** - an inner strength to confront problems.
- **Urgency** - An unexplained notion producing an imperativeness (quickening of power) in our spirit man.
- **Truth** - He only speaks that which is in agreement with the Bible.
- **Gentleness** - He does not demand or force us to do things.
- **Directness** - He does not speak constantly, only when needed.

Note, the Holy Spirit will always glorify Jesus Christ in whatever He says and does, and He will often use His **Gifts** to do this: *Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracles, Prophecy, Discerning of Spirits, Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues*. However, His **Fruits** are a noticeable measurement of how much He is operating and interacting with our spirit. The fruit we are producing is a sure way of determining how spiritually connected we are to Jesus Christ. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness*. The amount of fruit in our emotions, will and behaviour is a measurement and a proof that we are following the Holy Spirit and not a counterfeit.

As mentioned in my previous sermon, the Holy Spirit is our connection to the kingdom of heaven. He exercises and brings about the rule of that kingdom. Therefore, the Holy Spirit can draw you into a word or prophecy at any time. So be sure to sanctify and protect your spiritual senses. Ask the Holy Spirit exactly what He desires to tell you through the method He is using to communicate. Listen for thoughts and be aware of images that will come into your mind. Ask Him if what you have received or seen is complete. The communication is usually complete when you do not sense any more impressions or thoughts coming from the Holy Spirit.

After that, write down exactly what you remember - immediately! Then, once written down, double check everything that has been communicated by the Spirit. Your words, impressions, dreams and visions should always reflect God's love, mercy and freedom, and be consistent with His Word (the scriptures). And never try to manipulate anything to satisfy your own sense of spirituality. It is "as He wills" and not as you will!

Note, the more time you spend listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit, the more confident you will be when responding to His promptings and the inner conversation He is having with your spirit man. Throughout the day, make room for Him, and He will never disappoint you!