

## Tuning In To God: 1

### The More Sure Word of Prophecy

#### Proverbs 4.20

All this year we have been studying around the subject of Wisdom.

- Walking In Wisdom
- The Blessedness of Rest
- Humility In Wisdom

To close this year we are going to look at a new subject related to wisdom – that of hearing from God, or ‘Tuning In to God’ as I have titled it.

A few weeks ago I was scrolling through social media and saw a couple of posts about staying tuned into God and this set me thinking.

As a young boy I used to live very near to Heathrow Airport and our home was under one of the approach flight paths. So when the wind was blowing in a certain direction, normally accompanied by rain, the planes would fly over the top of our house. I was a keen ‘plane spotter’ and enjoyed watching them arrive from all over the world. I used to spend many hours over at the airport too, watching the aircraft come and go. I would record in a book all the registration numbers of the planes I saw. That was my hobby for many years but it became much more interesting when, for Christmas one year, I was bought a shortwave radio with which I could tune in to the conversations between the cockpit and control tower. This radio featured a dial tuner and tuning in was a precise art, if it wasn’t exact then all you heard was static noise and crackly broken voices, but when it was spot on the voices became very clear and understandable.

Also I recall my grandfather telling me of the days when they used to tune in the old radiogram to listen to the broadcasts, or making and tuning in an old crystal set – again these needed to be precise in order to pick up the signal.

If we want to hear from God we too have to be tuned in to him, slightly off and we won’t hear him but rather all the ‘static noise’ of the world. It is this thought that the wise king wrote about in Proverbs

“[My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.](#)” - Proverbs 4.20

twice in this verse he says similar things as if to underline and emphasise the importance of the theme.

- **Attend** – listen, hear, pay attention, take note and mark well. A good definition of this word is ‘to prick up the ears’.
- **Incline** – stretch, spread, turn and bend towards .

In other words he is saying – BE TUNED IN

This was a problem that God’s people had – few heard what he was saying. In the generations after the Exodus, people like Moses and Joshua heard the voice of God and

a few others, but on the whole the people weren't hearing Him.

### **1 Samuel 3.1**

"the word of the Lord was rare in those days" – it wasn't that the word of God was not available – rather men weren't hearing what God was saying.

Many Christians are suspicious of those who say they hear from God – we should be careful about those who do not hear from God.

Jesus said that we can and should hear His voice. Three times in **John 10** we read "my sheep hear my voice" (John 10.3, 16, 27)

In Proverbs we read that we should "incline our ear" - tune our ears to his sayings so we can hear from Him.

### **How do we hear from God?**

This does not mean that we need to hear a clear audible voice coming from Heaven. Actually hearing a voice, or having God speak through angel visitations, visions or dreams are very rare. Be wary of those who hear from God this way on a regular basis. We are told to test or judge the spirits that they come from God - "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." 1 John 4.1

The first and the most basic way of us hearing from God is through the Word. This is the benchmark or standard by which we judge the spirits, dreams and audible voices we hear.

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10.17

### **Matthew 17.1-9**

- Jesus took Peter, James and John up a mountain
- He was transfigured (transformed) in front of them – His clothes became white like light and his face shone like the sun
- Moses and Elijah appear and talk with Jesus
- A cloud comes down on the mountain and God speaks from the cloud
- The disciples hear this voice

### **2 Peter 1.16-21**

Peter states:

- he was with Jesus on the mountain
- he heard the voice with his own ears
- we have something more certain and sure than the voice – the Scripture "We have also a more sure word of prophecy..." (vs19, AV)
- we will do very well if we listen to the word, it is like a light in a dark place to show us the way - "...which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place..." (vs19)

The Word of God, the prophecy of Scripture - This is the most sure way of hearing from God.

*The more you know of the book the less you can be deceived. The less you know the more opportunities you have of being deceived*

In times past God used various ways to speak to His people - angelic visitations, dreams, visions. He had to use these ways because they did not have the written word. We do not need the dreams or visitations because we have the word.