

Tuning In To God: 3

Communion And Fellowship

Proverbs 4.20

“My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.” - Proverbs 4.20

This verse is telling us that we need to tune our ears in to hear the voice of God. We must give our attention to hearing God speak when we read His word.

A couple of weeks ago we said that the primary way God speaks to us is through His word – in order to hear Him speak to us we must be familiar with and read His word.

We do not need an angel to speak to us, nor do we need to hear a loud clear audible voice – these are quite rare occurrences. We see in 2 Peter 2.16 that the apostle said that we have a “more sure word of prophecy”. The word of God is more sure, more certain than the audible voice.

Last week we were studying that distractions will cause us to become unattentive and we will tune out and not hear Him. This means that when we come to the word of God, in order to hear from God, we must be focused and give our attention to it. That means no distractions – go into the secret place where it’s just you and God. Switch off the phone, radio, tv or anything else that could take your attention. Cast down any thoughts of work, chores or any pressing needs you have and allow God to speak to you.

“To hear the voice of God you must turn down the world’s volume”

How does God speak to us?

He will impress upon you what He wants you to know. While reading the word a verse or portion of a verse becomes alive, almost like it jumps off the page. We will suddenly see something in it – this is God speaking to us.

One of the first things the enemy will do is to distract you, to get you to divert your attention from praying or reading the word, so that you do not hear from God.

Remember that faith comes by hearing the word. If we are not hearing the word then faith cannot come and we can be easily swayed.

“.... the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” **John 10.3-5**

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” **John 10.27**

Jesus said that His sheep hear His voice, they know His voice, they follow Him because they know His voice – it is a familiar voice and they will not follow any other voice.

Knowing the difference between the voice of God and other voices comes from being familiar with the voice of God. We get familiar with God's voice by spending time with Him and reading His word.

Although I have spoken with thousands of people during the course of my life, some on several occasions, I'm not sure I would recognise their voice on their phone. However, whenever my daughters call I instantly recognise their voice, I don't have to ask who they are or what their name is. I know them, I know their voice – how? We are familiar with each other, we've spent time together, listening to each other, talking – it's called relationship.

John 14.22-26

Judas asks the question “How is it you are going to manifest yourself to us and not the world?” (vs22)

- Jesus told him that it would come through relationship – The Godhead indwelling in us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (vs23) “we will come to him and make our home with him.”
- If we love God then we will keep His word – that word comes through hearing Him, which is an overflow of fellowship.
 - If you have a relationship but no fellowship, you don't really have a relationship. There is fellowship in relationship, communion in relationship.
- The Holy Spirit is our teacher – how can one teach without discourse, without communication. God speaks to us through the Holy Spirit. Part of the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to teach us and bring to our remembrance (cause us to recall) everything we have heard.

John 16.12-14

- Again Jesus tells us that He will send the Holy Spirit, who will speak to us such things as God wants to say to us. He will take what is from Him and declare them to us.
- There is much more that God wants to say (vs12) and when we are ready to hear them, He will speak to us.

Romans 8.14

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God”

The children of God are led by the Holy Spirit. How does the Holy Spirit lead us – not with a rope around our necks, such as we would lead a donkey. We have just read it in John – He leads by guiding us with the word of God. He reveals it to us so that we walk in it, and follow Him.

A few weeks ago we were studying the lives of some of the Old Testament patriarchs – Enoch, Noah, David - they walked with God, they had fellowship and communion with Him and they heard His voice.

2 Corinthians 13.14

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.”

It is common for us to recite a benediction or a grace. Look at the words of this one, which is a very popular one.

It talks about the *communion of the Holy Spirit* - it is a prayer for the Holy Spirit to lead us and guide us through fellowship (two way communication, one of the meanings of this word is *participation*, there is a sharing in fellowship and communion)

1 Corinthians 1.9

“God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Lastly, we have been created to be in fellowship and relationship with God.

God is faithful – He is faithful to His word. He will fulfil and accomplish all He has spoken. He saved us to be in fellowship with Him. God didn't create robots – He created a people that He could love and that would love Him. He wanted a relationship and fellowship with His creation, like He had with Adam in the garden, where He walked with him and communed with him (Genesis 3.8).

2 Corinthians 6.16

“And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM. I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.” (quoting Ezekiel 37.23)

We must be careful who we are fellowshiping with – light and darkness do not mix (vs14-15).

God said 'He will be our God and we will be His people'

Hebrews 8.10-11

“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them” (quoting Jeremiah 31.33)

When we commune with the Lord we hear Him speak – He will teach us, He will guide us. We will hear His voice.

see also: Jeremiah 24.7; Jeremiah 32.38; Ezekiel 11.20