

KNOWING GOD'S VOICE - PART I



KNOWING GOD'S VOICE BY HIS RELEVANCE

God's voice always has relevance, meaning that it has to do with the matter at hand. It is pertinent and applicable. Our God is a God of the here and now! His voice is relevant in regard to time, resources, circumstance and comprehension.

Knowing God's Voice by His Relevance to Time

Do you live in the "here and now?" Jesus emphasized today, "So do not be anxious for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6:34).

Our Lord Jesus indicates here that his communications are always timely. He, who commands you not to be concerned about tomorrow, will not burden your mind with concerns about the future. When your thoughts are filled with worries and cares about what tomorrow may bring, you can be sure you're not hearing His voice. Jesus commands you to focus on today and His assurance of guiding you through it.

God knows that the most important period of time is always, "the now." He knows that your "nows" will soon become your yesterdays and that if you live each "now" well, you will have no regrets. He also knows that your "nows" determine your future and that when the future becomes "now," it will be good because you have lived each past moment well.

In contrast, the **enemy** tries to divert your attention to the past or the future. He knows that anyone who looks back on the path of life will trip and stumble. He also knows that a person who is preoccupied with tomorrow prevents himself from living fully now.

Don't misunderstand me, God does give goals and promises for the future, but His primary focus is on the present! Remember, when He described Himself to Moses, He said, "I AM that I AM." Glory!

Knowing God's Voice by His Relevance to Resources

God's voice is always relevant in regard to resources, both His and ours. God's communication with us is always conditioned on His knowledge of the resources that are available to us, from His viewpoint and not from ours. Wow! Have I learned that lesson recently.

He will not have you worry about seemingly inadequate resources, even those as fundamental as your basic needs for food and clothing. For those walking with Him, God promises to supply all our needs..."Do not be anxious for your life, as to what you shall eat or what you shall drink; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?" (Matthew 6:25).

Let me remind you of an episode in the life of Jesus when He wanted to get away by himself after the murder of his cousin John the Baptist. He took a boat to escape to a lonely place. But the people heard about it and followed him by land and were waiting for Him when He landed.

It was a long day for Jesus, healing the sick and teaching. As the day drew to a close, the disciples began wondering what to do with the large crowd. They tried to solve the problem. "Let's give the responsibility to another agency. We don't have the budget or the manpower for this new demand." That's what they meant when they asked Jesus to send the people away and let them fend for themselves.

But Jesus had other plans and said, "They do not need to go away. You give

them something to eat." (Matthew 14:16). The disciples, as they looked at their meager supplies, gave Jesus a reasonable assessment of the limitations of their resources. "We've been able to get together only five loaves and two fish." (Matthew 14:17). The disciples forgot that the God who leads also feeds. He supplies the resources.

When you're faced with a need you cannot meet in the natural; that challenge should be the stimulus that turns your attention to the Supplier. The supply from God's perspective is always there before the need is created. He has promised never to fail you nor forsake you and to supply all your needs according to His riches in Glory!

What about your time? That's one of your most important resources. Maybe you feel like the disciples-facing shortage, with no reserves. Our Lord's communication with you in regard to your time is the same as it was then. He deals with what resources you have, not with what you do not have.

Jesus does not ask you to give time you do not have. He asks for whatever time you do have. Just like He broke the five loaves and two fish, He can do more with the ten minutes you do have than with the ten hours you do not have. Sometimes He chooses to have you use those ten minutes in ministry to another person on the phone, in a letter, or a conversation across the fence.

Jesus knows all your resources (time and money) before He asks for them. And when you give them to Him, then our Lord uses them for His glory! That is God's way. He wants us to trust Him to use what we already have in order to provide whatever is needed to do His work.

In contrast, the enemy will focus on such things as the meagerness of our resources. He whispers, "You have so little to give, Why bother?" Satan stresses our imagined lacks and anticipated needs. He reinforces our fear of not having enough in the future.

Knowing God's Voice by His Relevance to Circumstances

What are your circumstances? Do you have small children at home? Are you trying to be both mother and father to your children? Do you have an ungodly husband or wife? Are you living in a bad neighborhood?

God knows these things and He will speak to you about what is happening

now. He will tell you how you can let your light shine and change your circumstances.

The **enemy** will try to get you to focus on the wrong interpretation of your situation. Satan wants you to see the limitation of your circumstance, rather than the opportunities.

Knowing God's Voice by His Relevance to Your Comprehension

Your comprehension is so important to God that He made a covenant about it! "I will put my law within them and on their heart I will write it and I will be their God and they shall be my people." (Jeremiah 31:33)

A first-grader learns his alphabet, then advances to simple words and soon is reading books. So you must learn God's truths step by step.

God will communicate with you on a level you can grasp and understand. He will speak to you plainly about that which is clear and understandable to you.

We can know it is God's voice speaking to us because His voice is relevant. Relevant in regard to time. Relevant in regard to resources. Relevant in regard to circumstances. And relevant in regard to comprehension.