

KNOWING GOD'S VOICE - PART III



KNOWING GOD'S VOICE DEPENDS ON QUALITY RECEPTION

The third message in this series is entitled: **Checking Out Your Reception!**

Are You Searching For Success?

The key to real success is to hear God's promises and acting as though they were already done. In order do this you will need to be in command of your mind. This is how I see it:

Controlling your mind is an act of the will, a decision only you can make and in which you must back up with all the mental and emotional strength you can muster. Pretend that your mind is a TV set, and when a program comes on that you have decided not to watch, just flip the channel.

There are three steps to this process:

(1) Make a deliberate choice and effort to set your mind on God. Ask his help if you think you have an undisciplined mind. Specifics relative to the 'undisciplined mind' are covered in Part VII of this series.

(2) Make a deliberate choice to exercise your mind in focusing on God. The best way is to set a regular time to pursue this intensely. Like any other form of exercise, begin at a low level and increase gradually.

(3) Carry this exercise program, of setting your mind on God, into every area of your life. Do it by determining to consciously bring every thought captive to God and immediately turning to God in all circumstances. After a while, it will become a spontaneous action to refer all things, and I do mean all things, to Him. It will become a natural reflex developed through habit.

Recently I saw a large acrostic sign on the wall of a health spa that read:

F-Frequency
I-Intensity
T-Time

That acronym for 'FIT' is a principle for the development of any desired ability-in this case, hearing God 's voice. This principle is also essential for the maintenance of that capacity.

Paul tells us in Romans 8 that God's children are led by His Spirit. We must hear God if we are to live as a successful child of God (v.9).

Hearing God is essential for a good Father/Child relationship. Paul says. "Walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh." (Galatians 5:16).

The taproot of spiritual maturity is a personal, continuous, vital, loving relationship with Jesus Christ. Believers who truly understand scriptural concepts realize that hearing God is the one thing that they cannot do without if they are going to live a successful Christian life.

Let's say you become an adopted member of a family in another country and moved there to spend the rest of your life. It would be necessary for you to learn the language of that new country. Otherwise, your inability to communicate would mean your life would be severely limited.

We have been made citizens of heaven, members of the family of God. Nothing is more important than learning to communicate with the Triune God, who is our Father, Savior and Helper.

Because hearing Him speak is so vital. God has built into us a system that helps us concentrate upon things we deem as important and allows us to ignore those things that have little or no place in our value system.

God built into a portion of our brain a function that filters out unimportant information and focuses on what is meaningful to us. We call it the **Reticular Activating System (RAS)** and this is the way it works.

- (1) **Positive focusing:** A new mother is so tuned in to her baby's needs that she can hear and respond to its every sound. In order to rest, she has to move the baby out of her room. Otherwise, every time the baby moves or sighs, the mother wakes up.
- (2) **Negative focusing:** People who live next to airports after a while are no longer bothered by the noise of planes roaring pass.
- (3) **Individual perception:** If five people see an accident or look at the same scene, they will come up with completely difference impressions.

Once your mind has decided something is important-like the crying of a baby - the RAS will bring it to your attention every time it happens.

Let me explain further. The "Reticular Activating System," filters out the unimportant issues and focuses on what is important at the moment. Once you have the distinction that a certain thought, idea, sound, picture or feeling is significant to you, your reticular activating system is alerted. It immediately transmits any information it receives regarding this significant item into your consciousness.

When you decide that hearing God's voice is vital, your RAS starts putting God through whenever He speaks. You hear Him with the same intensity as a mother hears her newborn baby and with the same prompting to respond.

Two-way communication is essential to all relationships. Since hearing is your half of communication, you must learn to hear. The Lord created you and saved you for fellowship; you were called through God's faithfulness into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ the Anointed One.

But fellowship is impossible without communion and communication!

God's voice must speak from within to bring enlightenment and revelation.

Until your value system, your set of priorities is so alerted that hearing God becomes your number-one priority, you are not going to hear Him very clearly. Having you hear Him is so important to God that He equipped you with the RAS to become attentive and tuned in to His voice. But if you are to develop your God given system, hearing God must be "vital" to you. Hearing Him must have top priority in your life.