

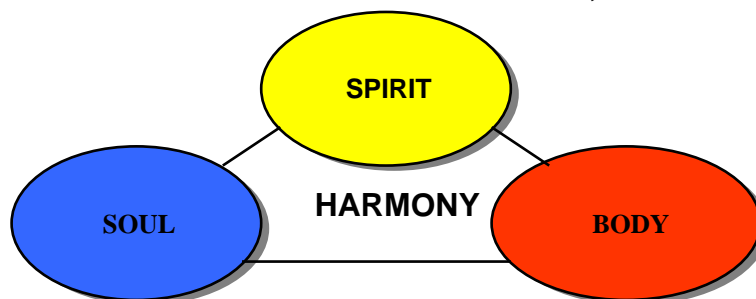
KNOWING GOD'S VOICE - PART XII



HOLY HARMONY

Now that we have clear insight as to the meaning of Holy Harmony and the fact that there must be total accord of the spirit, soul and body in order to be successful. Let's start our journey into making it a reality in our life.

"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him and the son of man, that thou visitest him? Psalm 8:3, 4



"What we have seen and heard, the apostle John says in his first letter, we proclaim to you also that you also may have fellowship with us and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ." (I John 1:3)

I took John seriously, when I first read those words, I believed he meant them for all of us. I have continuous fellowship with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. And to paraphrase the apostle John, I now write to you to let you know that I John 1:3 can be experienced in reality by anyone who is a child of God! And this means you!

The journey to Holy Harmony starts in the Scriptures. The Scriptures are letters to us from God through special secretaries like prophets, apostles and teachers-letters urging us to come to Him for fellowship.



In the Scriptures, we see word pictures of Jesus as He performs and acts out His role as Savior. We see Him also as Teacher-Friend-Counselor-Healer-Helper and many other roles according to our needs.

But along with these word pictures are the Lord's current address and phone number. Jesus is still saying to us, "come to me so that I can be to you now what I was in the past to others." If we do not come, we will miss the primary purpose of the Scriptures.

Repeatedly Jesus taught the importance, the necessity of hearing God speak to us. Jesus' most repeated statement (fifteen times in the New Testament) was, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear!"

We know that Jesus defined His followers as "those who hear my voice, and I know them and they follow me." (John 10) On one occasion, Jesus mother and brothers could not get near Him because of the crowd. So, they sent Him a message, saying they wished to see Him. He turned their request into a vivid demonstration of the importance of Godly fellowship, by

describing the members of His birth-family as those who "hear the Word of God and do it." (Luke 8:21)

The Lord told us we are to live as He lived and to minister as He ministered. Then He explained how He lived and ministered by declaring that He did nothing on His own initiative. "For I did not speak on my own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent me has given me commandment, what to say and what to speak." (John 12:49)

One of the strongest teachings of the New Testament is that God the Holy Spirit lives in the believer now to be to the believer all that Jesus was to the disciples. This was one of Jesus' greatest promises.

That God lives in the believer was the promise Jesus made to the disciples saddened by the announcement of His imminent departure. "I will ask the Father," He declared, "and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you as orphans." (John 14:16)

Later in the same message to His disciples, Jesus made an even stronger statement, "I tell you the truth, Jesus said, It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away the Helper shall not come to you, but if I go, I will send Him to you." (John 16:7) One of the functions of the Holy Spirit, Jesus explained, would be to teach them all they needed to know-what Jesus had not been able to teach because they were not ready for it. (verse 12)

Power of the Promises

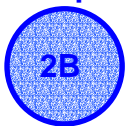
There is no way we can experience all of the promises in Word unless we know God and hear Him speaking to us.

Most of the everyday decisions you and I have to make are not specifically covered in the Bible. Whom should you marry? What kind of vacation should you take? When and where should you take it? Should you buy this house? Is this the job the Lord wants for you? We struggle with such questions and agonize over our decisions. But the way to get the answers from God is clearly written for us.

Perhaps the greatest promise of all to the believer is the one Jesus made to us before He returned to the Father—the privilege of knowing God and having a personal and an intimate relationship with Him. This is impossible if we cannot hear Him. We hear Him by following the **Meditation Process** and going directly to Step 2B of the process and following through to Steps 3 and 4.

Instead of going to Step 2A of the process (reasoning in your mind on the facts as they appear) you can move immediately from Step 1 to Step 2B. Below is a picture of how this part of the process should look:

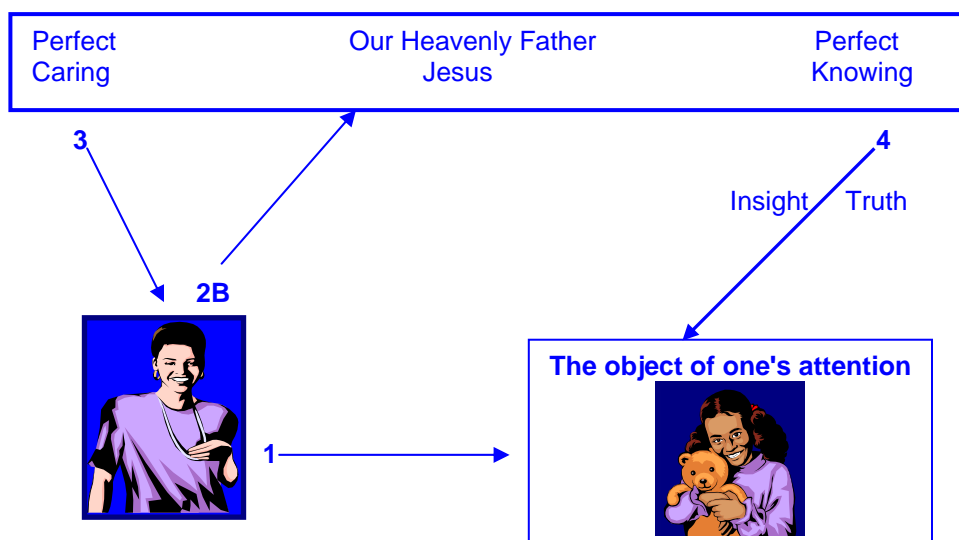
Step



You Turn to God and Seek His Truth and Direction

When you choose Step 2B, you have begun the **Meditation Process**. In this step, you get God's viewpoint, His truth, His love and care.

Meditation involves going to our heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ to receive their input, their outlook, and their guidance on the matter at hand. Our confidence in asking God for His truth is based on Scripture. The Word is an open invitation to us. He invites us to come to Him for guidance, for help and encouragement. He has given us exhortations, commands, promises and examples throughout His Word



Meditate and continue to listen to everything God has to say. The Holy Spirit lives inside of us and guides us into all truths. We learn to stop our train of thought, our way of thinking, and find out from God what we are supposed to do to rectify or remedy any situation. Eventually listening to what He says becomes habitual.

The Holy Spirit makes the Scriptures objective revelation. Without the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures become subjective revelation. That is, they mean only what each individual thinks they mean. A look at all the contradictory ideas held by different believers using the same Bible and even the same passage of Scripture is enough to convince us that we need the Spirit of God to illuminate the truth. And we can get that illumination through the [Meditation Process](#).

Let me share with you an example of what it means to meditate on the Scriptures. For years, it has been my practice to read through the book of Psalms quarterly. Inevitably, when I came to Psalm 60, I would skip verse 8. "Moab is my washpot." Since the same words also appear in Psalms 108:9, I skipped that passage as well.

I had never heard a sermon on it. Never seen it on a bumper sticker. Never learned it in any Scripture memory system. But it was important enough for God to include it twice in the Psalms.

One day while I was reading and meditating on chapter 60, I came to verse 8 and as usual, started to skip over it. The Holy Spirit said, "Stop Melva! Get your Bible dictionary and look up Moab." There I discovered that the Moabites were Israel's wicked relatives and acquaintances, who lived right next door!

Then He said to me, "The meaning of this Scripture is this, "When my people Israel got dirty, I used their wicked relatives and acquaintances as a 'washpot' to clean them up."

It was interesting to discover the meaning of the verse, but it seemed totally irrelevant to my own life. "Lord," I asked, "what does a 2,700-year-old Scripture about Israel and Moab have to do with me?"

[Then the Holy Spirit said, "Now here is the interpretation for you Melva. You have been praying for me to change others around you. Now you need to see them from my perspective. You need to](#)

understand what I want and what I am doing. I am using the behavior of many of your acquaintances to speak to you, to get your attention. I want to clean you up."

Well immediately, the focus of prayer changed after hearing God's words on this Scripture. I began to ask God to do His work in me, to clean me up-instead of asking to change others.

You see how vastly different meditating on Scripture is from just reading Scripture! Both are important and the sincere, earnest believer cannot afford to neglect either. The written Word of God is called the "Logos." The spoken Word is called the "Rhema." Through the Holy Spirit, it is the Rhema that will reveal how the Scriptures apply to your life.

In outlining the coming of the Holy Spirit, Jesus said He would live in us for many reasons. Among these-and, possibly one of the most important-is that the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth. (John 16:13) He will take the Scriptures and tell us what they mean, what they mean for us individually and what they mean to us now.

The Bible will never be a living book to us until we are convinced that God is speaking to us. We must begin to believe the promises in the book are for us! When we really start to appropriate the Word through the Holy Spirit, a 'dead' religion becomes a 'live' Christianity. We should approach the Bible, not as promises that were 'once spoken', but one that is 'now speaking.' The prophets habitually said, "Thus saith the Lord." **They meant that God is speaking in the continuous present.**

Scripture not only reveals God Himself but also records His relationship to man in the past. It shows how God interacts with people. It tells what He did and why He did it and explains why people succeeded and why they failed. We learn through the Bible how others experienced the power, provision, protection and punishment of God.

The Bible also contains prospects for the future. It tells what the future will be if we walk with God and if we don't walk with Him.

What we often fail to consider is that both the records of the past and the promises for the future are for motivation in the present.

They are to demonstrate how you and I can experience God in the 'here and now.' What the Bible tells about God and His desire for man can be experienced right now!

The challenge for us is to take the Word seriously. To personally experience the God it proclaims. To know, in the reality of daily living, His protection, provision guidance and all His other functions **now. To be able to sing in truth, "You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart."**

Inspired by the records of the past, encouraged by the promises of the future, let us live and walk with Him now-"For in him we live and move and have our being.**" (Acts 17:28)**

Through this message I have shared with you what "Thus saith the Lord to me." Now I want you to take out your copy of the **Meditation Process and discover what thus saith the Lord to you.**

I ended last month's message with the following statements and I think it is appropriate to end this message with the same plea:

- ◆ Practice the **Meditation Process** by submitting every thought and decision to God's perfect insight. Go straight to Step 2B. When you need to make a decision-get God's guidance and direction first! Go to Him first!**
- ◆ Spend quality time in prayer and the Word. Start with the Scriptures in this message.**
- ◆ Set your goal on the perfect Will of God. Submit everything in your life to His Will.**
- ◆ Then you'll know what the psalmist meant when he penned these words, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him and the son of man, that thou visitest him? Psalm 8:3, 4**

**The entire Meditation Process can be found in Part IX of
"Knowing God's Voice"**