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PROPHETIC TRAINING



LESSON TWO

THE VOICE OF MANY WATERS

THE DIFFERENT WAYS GOD SPEAKS

God is always speaking and He has created us as sons and daughters to live from a place of intimate relationship and communication. Individually every believer is prophetic and together we are a prophetic generation. Yet many people do not recognize when He is speaking to them. God speaks in many different and unusual ways. Some of the ways that He speaks are quite dramatic and earth shaking. Other times His voice is very soft and subtle.

As we begin to learn how He speaks we will look at our past events of life and realize that He has always been speaking to us. When we realize this we will be like Jacob and say, "*Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.*"

The purpose of this lesson is to show some of the many different ways that God communicates and to inspire openness to hearing His voice.

Visions

A very common way the Lord communicates is through visions.

*It will come about after this. That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see **visions**. [Joel 2:28]*

1. Visions of the Mind, Internal Visions or Closed Visions – These are moving visions projected upon the screen of your mind or imagination. These visions can happen when your eyes are closed or open.

Daniel had this type of vision when he saw an angel;
*I was looking in the **visions in my mind** as I lay on my bed, and behold, an angelic watcher, a holy one, descended from heaven. [Dan 4:13]*

2. Open or External Visions – This is a type of vision that we can see with our natural or open eye. These appear more real, more vivid, and more distinct and are impacting. They appear as a movie screen. You feel that you can reach out and touch the vision. The visions are received when your eyes are open and can continue when involved in other activities, such as driving a car.

3. Pictorial Vision – This is what most people see when they get a vision. A single image or snapshot is seen within the mind that becomes an entire revelation. Most people, prophetic or not see images in their imagination as they process information. An example would be if a friend was talking about a red fire truck, we could “see” the picture of that red fire truck in our mind. The Lord will project images within our mind and as our minds are renewed and we have “the mind of Christ” our imagination becomes “sanctified” we can more easily discern the images that are from the Lord. These visions can happen when your eyes are closed or open. Many prophets, when they prophesy are simply describing and interpreting an image or picture they are seeing within their “sanctified imagination”.

Dreams

Dreams are a common way of communication from the Lord. In the book of Deuteronomy Prophets are also referred to as “Dreamer of Dreams”. While dreaming, the Lord is able to by-pass the reasoning of our natural mind. We are not dealing with the questions in our mind, “Is this God or is this just me thinking this” while we are sleeping.

Most people have dreams but not all dreams are from the Lord. Even powerful dreams which we remember when we wake may not be from the Lord. Dreams can come from the flesh or soulish realm and there are spirits in the evil realm which will speak to us even in our dreams.

Dreams from the Lord are important and have many purposes. They can even keep us from hell:

Indeed God speaks once, Or twice, yet no one notices it. "In a dream, a vision of the night, When sound sleep falls on men, While they slumber in their beds, Then He opens the ears of men, And seals their instruction, That He may turn man aside from his conduct, And keep man from pride; He keeps back his soul from the pit, And his life from passing over into Sheol.
[Job 33:14-18]

It does not necessarily mean you are prophetic if you have dreams. Interpreting dreams is what makes us prophetic. Understanding symbols, numbers and colors are very important to the interpretation of dreams. This is discussed in more detail in a later lesson.

Trances

Trances are like visions, except you completely lose consciousness of your surroundings. Trances take us of our natural mind as we are overcome by the Spirit of God. They are like a

dream-like state while we are awake. Trances are a vehicle that the Lord uses to take us into an encounter, such as a doctor will put you “under” before the operation.

The Greek word for trance is ekstasis which means a displacement of the mind, i.e. bewilderment, or "ecstasy". Trances can last any length of time, from a few seconds to several hours.

Trances seem to happen to underscore the importance of the message the Lord is communicating. The Lord took Peter into a trance for the purpose of changing the doctrine of the early church that the Gospel should be preached to the Gentiles:

*I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a **trance** I saw a vision, an object coming down like a great sheet lowered by four corners from the sky; and it came right down to me, and when I had fixed my gaze on it and was observing it I saw the four-footed animals of the earth and the wild beasts and the crawling creatures and the birds of the air." I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' "But I said, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' "But a voice from heaven answered a second time, 'What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.' **(Acts 11:5-9)***

Angels

Angels are messengers of God. Throughout scripture angels would bring messages from the heavenly realm to men and women. They also minister to us, protect us, go before us, strengthen us, bring prophetic words for us to speak, bring spiritual gifts and release the glory of God.

We can see Angels with our outward natural eyes or we can see them in our mind with the “eyes of our understanding”.

*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it. **(Heb 13:2-3)***

An angel appeared to Phillip to tell him to get up to speak to the Ethiopian eunuch:

*But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, "Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch..."**(Acts 8:26-27)***

An angel appeared to Paul concerning going to Rome:

*For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; **(Acts 27:23-24)***

The sight of angels to the early church but have been so common that when Peter was released from prison and knocked on the door of the room where the apostles were they were more able to believe it was his angel than Peter!

When he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant-girl named Rhoda came to answer. When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her joy she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate. They said to her, "You are out of your mind!" But she kept insisting that it was so. They kept saying, "It is his angel. (Acts 12:13-15)

Visitations and the Audible Voice of the Lord

Visitations are supernatural encounters between the heavenly realm and man. They are usually life changing events. Visitations by Jesus are biblical, even in the Old Testament;

When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it; and behold, standing before me was one who looked like a man. (Dan 8:15)

The Lord sometimes speaks in an audible outward voice as if someone is in the room speaking. Paul experienced this on the road to Damascus;

...suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, (Acts 9:3-5)

Translations and Transportation

This is when your spirit is taken or caught away to another place to deliver a message or word. This occurred to Philip when he was done witnessing to the Ethiopian eunuch and was caught us to preach in another city:

When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, (Acts 8:39-40)

Caught Up in the Spirit

Paul was caught up in the Spirit to the Third Heaven. He was not sure if his spirit had left his body.

*I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago — whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows — such a man was caught up to the third heaven. **(2 Cor 12:2-3)***

Out of body experiences are biblical! God still uses these types of experiences to speak today. While we cannot make these types of experiences happen, we can position ourselves and make ourselves available by removing doubt and unbelief. If we would only believe then all things are possible.

Mind Reading

Many think of the New Age when they hear mind reading, but mind reading is a prophetic gift that Jesus demonstrated many times. Did you ever know what a person is thinking? How did you know that? You were operating in your prophetic gift!

*The scribes and the Pharisees were watching Him closely to see if He healed on the Sabbath, so that they might find reason to accuse Him. But **He knew what they were thinking, (Luke 6:7-8)***

*But **Jesus, knowing what they were thinking in their heart,** took a child and stood him by His side, **(Luke 9:47)***

*But **He knew their thoughts** and said to them, "Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and a house divided against itself falls. **(Luke 11:17)***

Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues

The gift of tongues is a language that is unknown to the speaker given by the Holy Spirit. It is the words of the Holy Spirit spoken by a believer. We are not talking about the believer's prayer language but a message to a person or congregation that requires interpretation.

*For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, **to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. (1 Cor 12:8-11)***

The gift of interpretation of tongues is a supernatural understanding given by the Holy Spirit. Notice the scripture says the gift is an interpretation, not a translation. Have you ever heard someone give a long message in tongues and when the interpretation came it seemed much shorter. A translation would be a word by word meaning of what was spoken. The word

interprets means to paraphrase the meaning. That is why a message in tongues can be long while the interpretation can be much shorter or vice versa.

Scripture

The Lord will speak to us daily as we read the Bible. As we read the Bible we can experience both the Logos and the Rhema word.

1. Logos – the entire written 31,173 verses of the Bible inspired by God given to man.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (2 Tim 3:16-17)

2. Rhema – is a specific word, a creative word, a single promise or phrase that has a special anointing for you for a specific time. A verse that the Holy Spirit has breathe upon just for you. The verse or phrase seems to become highlighted and jumps off the page to you.

When the Holy Spirit quickens a verse, stop and mediate on it, even speaking the verse aloud until it is made alive in you. Deposit this scripture in your heart so the Holy Spirit can use it in your life. He is speaking it directly to you.

Creation

Creation has a voice that declares the Glory of God. God uses creation to speak of himself:

Let the rivers clap their hands, Let the mountains sing together for joy (Ps 98:8)

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (Romans 1:20)

God can speak to us by using nature in prophetic acts. In the book of Numbers God spoke through his creation, Balaam's donkey:

And the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" (Num 22:28)

Prophetic Arts

More churches are including prophetic arts as part of their worship. Prophetic songs can flow forth in services. A spontaneous dance is actually a prophetic act that the Lord is using to speak. We encourage painting and drawings in the Glory. The artist will receive an image or picture in their mind and paint it as the Lord is revealing his word through art.

Then the virgin will rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old, together, for I will turn their mourning into joy. And will comfort them and give them joy for their sorrow. (Jer 31:13)

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Col 3:16-17)

Verbal Communication

The Lord can speak to us through others without that person realizing they are giving a prophetic word. Watch for the anointing on a word or the "bubbling up" of the prophetic word.

Flashbacks

The Lord speaks to us in ways we can understand. In scripture Jesus often told parables and use examples that related to the people he was speaking to. When Jesus told a parable about sheep, they could relate to that.

The Lord can use past events from our life to speak to us or to give us understanding when delivering a prophetic word. For example, you could be delivering a prophetic word to someone and suddenly a memory of a past event may spring forth in your mind. Stop and ask the Lord for understanding. If that event created a sense of fear in you, the Lord could be showing what the person is experiencing.

Impressions

Impressions are an inward witness of the Holy Spirit. An impression is not a voice but a “knowing” or a “feeling” about something. Impressions are a common way that the Lord communicates.

*For it **seemed good** to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials: (Acts 15:28-29)*

The importance of knowing the Holy Spirit in fellowship and as your best friend becomes clear as we begin to interpret our impressions. Our desires can be so strong they can be confused with our “inner witness”. When we become so intimate with the Lord that we know His heartbeat, our heart begins to beat in unison with His. As we become established in His presence we will experience a much greater understanding and revelation.

Physical Impressions In the Body

We can receive words of knowledge about pain and sickness by causing the prophetic person to experience a pain or sensation within their body which correlates to the sicknesses of others'. We learn to distinguish this by performing a “body check” and becoming aware of pains that are not ours.

Still Small Voice

I would like to give credit to parts of this section to “How to Hear God’s Voice”, by Mark and Patti Virkler. I highly recommend that study to anyone wanting a greater understanding of how to hear the voice of God.

*Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a **still small voice**. (1 Kings 19:11-12)*

With all the ways God can speak to man, He often speaks in the still small voice from within our spirit. This can start as a passing thought, word or impression. Often we dismiss or skip over His voice by not understanding this is the Lord speaking. We must train ourselves to recognize His still small voice, stop and capture His voice when He speaks.

Imagine the scene of two lovers whispering sweet things into each other's ears. There is no need to yell at each other because they are so close. This is a perfect picture of the Lord's still small voice. When we discover a love relationship with the King of Kings we will be awakened to direct encounters with Him and His still small voice will become a daily part of our life.

Below are truths that will help you recognize His still small voice:

1. There is someone living inside of you!

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price:

(1 Cor 6:19-20)

But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. (1 Cor 6:17)

The spirit of man is the lamp of the Lord, (Prov 20:27)

Abide in Me, and I in you. (John 15:4)

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; (Gal 2:20)

2. All thoughts are not our thoughts.

We must come to terms that since the Holy Spirit are living inside of us and there is going to be evidence of His presence. This is an incredible revelation! While some thoughts are completely ours, there are some that are supernatural. Some come from our mind; others come from the spirit world.

Remember that God is always speaking. Unless we learn to distinguish His thoughts from ours we will just group all thoughts together thinking they are our thoughts. Let's look at the three sources of thoughts or voices and learn how to distinguish the source.

- 1. Our thoughts** – these are *analytical and cognitive*. An example would be when we wake up in the morning we mentally plan our day, making mental notes of appointments, work schedules, house cleaning, seeing friends, etc. We live this way out of our reasoning process. The thoughts are limited by our own knowledge, wisdom, understanding and abilities.
- 2. Holy Spirit thoughts** – since these are not our thoughts, they are *spontaneous*. They flow from the river of the Holy Spirit who lives inside of us. Jesus said that out of our heart will flow rivers of living water. These spontaneous thoughts come from that river. All believers have these thoughts. As we grow in the prophetic we simply learn to “tune” into this flow. Have you ever wondered by a random thought that is not related to anything you are thinking of at the time springs forth to the top of your mind? These thoughts are often gentle and “light” upon our mind. They speak of His character; Edifier, Comforter, Teacher, Counselor, Healer and Giver of Life.
- 3. Thoughts from the enemy** – since these are not our thoughts, they are *spontaneous*. They are destructive, evil and perverted. You can recognize these thoughts because

they line up with the character of Satan. He is a Liar, Destroyer, Thief, Murderer, and Accuser. Do not accept guilt for evil thoughts, they are only temptations from the enemy. Sin becomes a reality when we open the door of our heart to those thoughts.

Fours Keys to Hearing God's Still Small Voice

1. Recognize God's voice as spontaneous thoughts which light upon your mind.
2. Quiet yourself so you can hear God's Voice.
3. Look for vision as you pray
4. Journal or write your prayers and God's answers

Activation

We are going to practice positioning ourselves to hear the "still small voice" of God. Remember God is always speaking and we are going to learn to tune into the flow of living water within us. Pair up with someone you are not familiar with.

1. Quiet yourself
2. Pray and ask God to give you a prophetic word or picture for that person
3. Quiet yourself again
4. Look for vision. Believe that the next spontaneous thought or image will be from the Lord
5. Now deliver the mail!

Homework

1. Prophecy to someone during the week using the steps described in the activation process. This can be done to anyone from your family, work, school, etc. If you know you are going to meet a specific person ask the Lord before the meeting. Write the word down. You do not have to be "preachy"; in fact you do not even have to tell the person that this is prophetic word. You can work the prophetic word into your general conversation and watch the expression on the person's face.
2. Begin journaling your prophetic encounters, thoughts and words from the Lord. Begin by quieting yourself and getting still. Play soft worship music if you like. Ask Jesus to speak to you, and then tune to the flowing thoughts and pictures. Ask Jesus questions,

such as “What he thinks of you?”, “Does he love you?”, “What is blocking you from having a deeper relationship with him?” Begin journaling.

NOTES