**The Hearing God Series Week 3**

Welcome to The Hearing God Series. This is a four-week mini-series designed to help you hear God.

In week 1 we learnt that God speaks!

Last week we looked at the 14 ways in which God speaks.

This week we are going to learn how to hear God speak. But first a review of the 14 ways in which God speaks that we learnt about last week…

1. God speaks through Scripture

2. God speaks through Jesus

3. God speaks through Thoughts

4. God speaks through Music

5. God speaks through Nature

6. God speaks through Prophecy

7. God speaks through People

8. God speaks through Prayer

9. God speaks through Peace

10. God speaks through Events

11. God speaks through Silence

12. God speaks through Dreams

13. God speaks through Wonders

14. God speaks through Speech

**Activity: How Does God Speak.** Write down as many ways in which God speaks as you can remember. The person or persons to remember the most ways will win a prize.

Today we are going to focus on two of the fourteen skills and learn how to hear God’s voice: Thoughts and Visions.

Today you are going to learn four keys to hearing God’s voice.

The four keys are found in the book of Habakuk 2:1-2: *“I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint. Then the Lord replied: “Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.”*

**Key #1: STOP**: **Quiet Yourself Down.** The First Step to hearing Gods voice is to go to a quiet place and still your thoughts and emotions. Find a place where you can be quiet. A bedroom or in your garden. A place where you will not be interrupted and where you can concentrate on your thoughts.

Psalm 46:10 encourages us to be still, let go, cease striving, and know that He is God.

Psalm 37:7 says we must "be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him.”

There is a deep inner knowing in our spirits that each of us can experience God when we quieten our minds. When I started this, years ago I would walk around Emmarentia Gardens and that’s where I found peace and quiet and I love nature so it was a perfect place to go to spend time with God.

**Key #2: LOOK: Look for Vision.** The Second Step to hearing Gods voice is to fix the eyes of your heart on Jesus to see visions in the Spirit from God.

God has always spoken through dreams and visions, and He specifically said that they would come to those upon whom the Holy Spirit is poured out: Acts 2:17. And when Gen’s Dad prayed for you and you were filled with The Holy Spirit now you most definitely don’t have an excuse not to see in the spirit.

I had never thought of opening the eyes of my heart and looking for vision. However, I have come to believe that this is exactly what God wants me to do. He gave me eyes in my heart to see in the spirit the vision and movement of God. There is an active spirit world all around us, full of angels and demons. The only reasons for me not to see this reality are unbelief or lack of knowledge.

Peter refers to King David's statement: "I saw the Lord always in my presence; for He is at my right hand, so that I will not be shaken." (Acts 2:25). "I have set the Lord continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken". (Psalm 16:8). Because David knew that the Lord was always with him, he determined in his spirit to see that truth with the eyes of his heart as he went through life, knowing that this would keep his faith strong. You can see Christ present with you because Christ *is* present with you.

Exercise: Close your eyes and imagine that Jesus is standing in the room. Where is he standing and what is he doing?

**Key #3: LISTEN: Tune To Spontaneity.** The Third Step to hearing Gods voice is recognizing that God's voice in your heart often sounds like a flow of spontaneous thoughts**.**

Example: I lost a gold bracelet which made me panic! I knew I couldn’t replace it! And as I prayed I remember feeling that I must go back along the side of the road I walked going to church that morning. As I walked, there is was on the path.

Elijah described God’s voice as a gentle whisper. (1 Kings 19:12-13) I had previously listened for an inner audible voice, and God does speak that way at times. However I have experienced God's voice more as a spontaneous flow of thoughts, visions, feelings, or impressions.

**Key #4: WRITE: Journal Your Thoughts.** The fourth step to hearing Gods voice. Journaling: two-way journaling or the writing out of your prayers and God's answers, brings great freedom in hearing God's voice.

The Bible was a form of Journaling! God told Habakkuk to record the vision Habakkuk 2:2. This was not an isolated command. The Scriptures record many examples of individual's prayers and God's replies, such as the Psalms, many of the prophets, and Revelation.

Writing down what I ask God and what I hear God saying back has boosted my confidence in my ability to hear God's voice so that I could live my life being guided and influenced by Him daily. So I wrote down what I believed He is saying. If it’s an important decision I may ask confirmation from someone else whose spiritual discernment I trusted. **Example:** I have been journaling for a while now. It has changed from me just writing down my own thoughts to asking God a question and writing those spontaneous flow of thoughts down! When I go back and read it I am always blown away by the truths and wisdom that comes out of this exercise.

The order of the keys is not important, just that you *use them all*. Embracing all four, by faith, can change your life. So Quiet Yourself Down, Tune To Spontaneity, Look For Vision, and Journal Your Thoughts. God is waiting to meet with you.

**Activation:** It is time to try it out for yourself: (1) Find a quiet place, quiet yourself, get comfortably, take out your pen and paper and smile. (2) You are asking to hear from God so believe He wants to speak to you! (3) Have faith that this is God who is spaking to you! (4) After you write your question to Him, become still, fixing your eyes of your heart on Jesus. You will suddenly have a very good thought. Don't doubt it; simply write it down. Later, as you read your journaling, you, too, will be blessed to discover that you are indeed dialoguing with God. If you wonder if it is really the Lord speaking to you, share it with a friend. Their input will encourage your faith and strengthen your commitment to spend time getting to know the Lover of your soul more intimately than you ever dreamed possible.

Here are some questions you can use when you are starting out to have a conversation with God: (1) Lord, how do you see my heart? (2) Lord, what about my walk with you most pleases you? (3) Lord, what is the greatest hindrance I have in serving you? (4) Lord, what idols are in my heart that I am not aware?

**Prayer**

Next week we are going to look at Part 2 of how we can hear God!