

## Hearing God (overview to teaching series) May 1st 2022

### Are we listening?

Hearing God starts with relationship and knowing who we are- it's the essence of the trinity. God desires communion - seen all the way through scripture starting in Genesis.

We start from knowing we are children: Beloved, now we are children of God...1  
John 3:2

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, they follow me.  
John 10:27 NLT

Imagine a young child with a parent. So much of that early communication is not understood, but it builds the foundation for what is to come. Much of the communication we have with each other is non-verbal. Children have the capacity to learn any language, but the brain tunes in to what is heard most often. New-borns are fascinated by faces and look at those talking to them. As new-borns in the kingdom we have to learn the language of heaven and spend time gazing at God (soaking prayer). The Holy Spirit is the one who makes this language acquisition possible as he come to dwell within us giving us a direct internal link with the language of heaven and is part of his role to lead us into truth  
John 14:7

### Ways God speaks

- Scripture (Luke 4:20-21) – can be practiced e.g. Lectio Divina /Ignation prayer
- Audible voice (1 Samuel 3)
- Still small voice/internal dialogue/impressions
- silence
- Pictures and visions (everyday objects Jer 1:11-12 and supernatural events Acts 10)
- Creation
- Dreams (night parables of God - Joseph /Wise men)
- Angels – God's messengers (Luke 1)
- Other people – prayer/prophesy/conversation
- Circumstances /events

### What does God primarily speak about?

#### 1) Who He is

"When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then he said, "I am the God of your father,[a] the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God ( EX 3 4-6)-

Can you think of other examples from the scriptures that illustrate this ?

## 2) Who we are

At Jesus baptism "This is my beloved son" Matt 3:14

At his transfiguration Matt 17:5 . "While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

## Principles about how God speaks

God shows us who he is

He tells us what he thinks about us

Everything else is a conditional word and only every part of the picture

1 Corinthians 13:9 for we know in part and we prophesy in part

There are built in safeguards for hearing God. His voice will not contradict his word. Devotion to scripture is essential.

1 Cor 14

Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. <sup>2</sup> For anyone who speaks in a tongue<sup>[a]</sup> does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. <sup>3</sup> But the one who prophesies speaks to people **for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.**

## All of God's words require a response from us:-

faith

weigh and judge (1 Cor 14:29)

test the spirits ( 1John 4:1-3)

do not despise ( 1 thess 5:19-21)

involve others