

POWER ACADEMY

Switching On Your Faith

Module 2: The Power Within
Lesson 3: Hearing God's Voice

Power Academy Module 2

Lesson 3 – Hearing God’s Voice

1. The Still Small Voice of God
 - a. This often sounds like you! 1 Corinthians 6:17 – *“But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.”*
 - It’s impossible to tell where God’s spirit ends and your spirit begins. You are ONE with Him.
 - ◆ 2 Corinthians 5:17 says that when you are born again, your spirit becomes brand new, comes alive, and becomes identical to Jesus!
 - ◆ This is why when God speaks to us, Spirit to spirit, we can sometimes miss it because we think it is simply our own thoughts we are making up.
 - b. This can also feel like a gut feeling, a hunch, intuition, an inner witness.
 - This is when you “know in your knower”, even when outward circumstances might seem to show evidence to the contrary.
 - Perhaps everything on the outside looks perfect, but you have a “check in your spirit”, a gut feeling that something isn’t right.
 - Or, it could be that on the outside what you are feeling on the inside seems “crazy”, but you know it’s what God is telling you to do in faith, and you have peace to move forward.
 - 1 John 2:20 – *“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.”* You have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16).
 - c. The still small voice can be a picture or an impression.
 - This could just be an image or a picture that pops into your mind/imagination.
 - Dreams and visions (dreams are when asleep, visions are when awake).
 - ◆ Dreams from God often have a different quality than your normal dreams, maybe more vivid.
 - ◆ Dreams cannot always be trusted, just like circumstances or other people. They must be confirmed by the Word of God.
 - Example: Ashley praying for a woman and God gave him a picture in his mind of her playing on a playground as a child.
 - Your imagination is powerful. This helps in the area of conquering sin and also walking in faith.
 - ◆ If you cannot imagine yourself sinning in a certain area first, you will never go there (James 1:14-15).

- ◆ On the other side is the positive area of faith. If you are believing God for something, you have to see yourself receiving it, give thanks for it, and then you will walk in it.
- d. This can also be an unsettling, a “check in your spirit”, an absence of peace.
 - Colossians 3:15 (AMPC) – *“And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts [deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds, in that peaceful state] to which as [members of Christ’s] one body you were also called [to live]. And be thankful (appreciative), [giving praise to God always].”*
 - Hearing God’s direction for you isn’t always a negative emotion, but it could just be the absence of that peace of God in your heart. It’s as though peace just left.

2. How to Know If It’s God Speaking – Questions to Ask Yourself

- a. Does it line up with Scripture?
 - God will never contradict His Word!
 - Example: People might say, “God has told me to stop reading the Word,” or, “God has told me to divorce my wife.” These things are easily dismissed as either the enemy or the flesh because they obviously contradict the Word of God!
 - ◆ Psalm 89:34 – *“My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.”*
 - Many times it is our flesh—our feelings—that is the predominant driving force behind our actions. Then, we will try to find a scripture to back up our emotions, rather than allowing the Word to direct our emotions.
 - Hebrews 1:3 – *“...and upholding all things by the word of His power...”*
 - ◆ God created the universe with His Word, and it is still held together by His Word! If God were to break His Word, the universe would fall apart.
 - Psalm 138:2 – *“...You have magnified Your word above all Your name.”*
 - ◆ God’s Word and Jesus are the same (John 1:14; Rev. 19:13).
 - ◆ This verse is essentially saying that God’s Word is His final authority—He will not change it!
 - ◆ If it is something that contradicts His Word, it is not God. It is either your flesh or the enemy, but it is not Him.
 - There are some things that are outside of His Word that are unique situations to you, like which house you should buy, or which school to attend, etc. In those cases, this question may not apply to you.
 - As a side note, if anyone is more focused on the spiritual gifts than on the Word of God, they are more likely to get off balance. The spiritual gifts are powerful

and important, but they cannot be placed in higher importance than the Word of God.

- ◆ The Word of God is our benchmark for the things of the spirit. Things can happen in the spirit realm with the Holy Spirit, but also with the enemy, so the Word of God is how we determine which spirit is in operation.

b. Do I have spiritual peace?

- This is not talking about flesh peace! Sometimes your flesh can freak out when God tells you to do something. Example: Ashley’s flesh freaked out the first time God told him to give \$1000, etc.
- Colossians 3:15 (NKJV) – *“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.”*
- Amplified says to act as an umpire: the peace of God makes the call!
- When considering a decision, sit still and think about taking that action. See yourself making that decision and what it looks like for you to do it. Pray in the Spirit and ask yourself, “Do I have spiritual peace about this?”
- That word “umpire” or “rule” means to settle with finality all questions. So, if you have questions, doubt, or struggling with unbelief, the peace of God will settle with finality all of those questions and will cause faith to arise on the inside of you. So, fight for spiritual peace.
- **If you do not have spiritual peace, don’t feel pressured or pushed by anyone into making that decision.**
- Another wise thing is just to sleep on it. Don’t make snap decisions. It is better to wait and sleep on big decisions. There will always be other opportunities.

c. Is this just something my flesh wants to do?

- Our internal thoughts can usually be traced back to a source thought. Is what you are thinking easily traceable? Or did it just pop into your head out of nowhere?
- God thoughts will always lead to life and fruit. They lead to progress and moving forward. Thoughts of the flesh or the enemy will get you going in circles, leading in indecision. There is no life or fruit in the destination of those thoughts.
 - ◆ James 1:6-8 – *“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”*
 - Any pattern of thinking that causes instability is not of God, and it comes from us not being grounded in the Word.
 - When the Word of God is our anchor, it will keep us from these kinds of back and forth, indecisive, distracted patterns of thinking.

d. Is this a life-altering decision?

- Pray about it; ask God for confirmation. “Lord, this is a big decision! Can you confirm that this direction is from You?”
 - ◆ After this, someone may give you a prophetic word to confirm it.
 - ◆ Pray in the spirit, and ask Him to confirm it in His Word; a scripture may jump out at you, as though the Lord wrote it specifically to you to confirm His direction.
- Seek godly counsel.
 - ◆ Proverbs 11:13 – *“But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.”*
 - ◆ Don’t just tell everyone about it and take a poll! Take what you think the Lord has told you, and ask the advice of one or two people who are more spiritually mature than you are, who have your best interests at heart, and who can have a neutral response (i.e. it doesn’t personally affect them positively or negatively).
 - ◆ Make sure those you are seeking counsel from have experience in that area and have fruit of it in their lives. For example, if it’s parenting advice, seek counsel from someone who has older, healthy, happy and successful children.
 - ◆ In the context of marriage, wait until you are in unity with your spouse before you make a decision. It is better to delay than to make a decision without unity. God is bigger than your mistakes, so it’s worth it to value that unity in your relationship.
 - ◆ Keep your priorities right: God first, family second, ministry third. Being a child of God always comes before anything else, even in the context of “serving God”.

3. Acting On God’s Voice

- a. It takes faith to hear God’s voice and be obedient and act on His voice. It won’t be something that is so simple that it doesn’t require faith. In fact, it normally won’t make logical sense when the Lord speaks.
- I can say, “God told me to immigrate to America. God told me to launch our own ministry, etc.,” with 100% certainty... AFTER the fact. But leading up to the decision, I was never 100% sure.
 - Example: One night the Lord told Ashley to match the offering. He told Carlie and she asked, “Are you sure?” and he responded, “I’m about 90% sure.” She said, “That’s good enough for me,” and they acted on it. So many good things came from that obedience that after the fact they *knew* that it was God, but leading up to it, they weren’t 100% certain.
 - It will *always* be a step of faith to act on God’s voice.

- People who talk about hearing God don’t have a direct line to God that you don’t have. It takes faith to act on God’s voice!
 - John 6:63 – *“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”*
 - ◆ This can’t be understood logically, but by the spirit. This is why it takes faith!
- b. Acting on God’s Word takes practice!
- James 1:22 – *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”*
 - Begin with the small things and you will grow in your ability.
 - Luke 16:10 – *“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much...”*
 - When you hear God’s voice, act on it! God is always speaking to us, it’s up to us to tune in to hear Him.
 - Pray in the spirit and let God speak to you all the time.
 - Even David fought the lion and the bear before he fought Goliath. So, hearing God in the little things first is practice for the big things.
 - You can hear God in the storm, in a crisis moment, but it is better to practice hearing God in the little things in daily life before the storm comes! Then you will more easily be able to hear Him in the big things.
 - The more you act when you hear God’s voice, your senses will become sharper. However, if you neglect to act on His voice, over time you will become dull of hearing and your heart will become hard (Matthew 13:15).
 - ◆ To overcome a hardened heart, just repent and make a commitment that, “Lord, if I think it’s Your voice, I’m going to act on it!”
 - ◆ The Lord desires obedience more than sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22).

Module 2 Lesson 3 Scriptures

1 Corinthians 6:17 – *“But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.”*

2 Corinthians 5:17 – *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*

1 John 2:20 – *“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.”*

Colossians 3:15 (AMPC) – *“And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts [deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds, in that peaceful state] to which as [members of Christ’s] one body you were also called [to live]. And be thankful (appreciative), [giving praise to God always].”*

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Psalms 89:34 – *“My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.”*

Hebrews 1:3 – *“...and upholding all things by the word of His power...”*

Psalms 138:2 – *“...You have magnified Your word above all Your name.”*

James 1:6-8 – *“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”*

Proverbs 11:13 – *“But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.”*

John 6:63 – *“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”*

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