

POWER ACADEMY

Switching On Your Faith

Module 2: The Power Within
Lesson 5: Obeying God's Voice

Power Academy Module 2

Lesson 5 – Obeying God’s Voice

1. Lesson 1 Review: Ways God Speaks to Us
 - a. His Word
 - b. An Audible Voice
 - c. Other People
 - d. Circumstances
 - e. Dreams and Visions
 - f. Desires
 - g. Spirit to Spirit

2. Lesson 3 Review: Hearing God’s Voice
 - a. The Still Small Voice
 - b. Questions to Ask to Determine If It’s God
 - Does it line up with Scripture?
 - Do I have spiritual peace?
 - Is this just my flesh, or is it God?
 - Is this a life-altering decision?
 - c. Acting on God’s Voice
 - It takes faith (John 6:63).
 - It takes practice.

3. Lesson 3 Continued: Acting on God’s Voice – It Takes Courage
 - a. Sometimes the action God asks you to take will conflict with man’s wisdom, and you have to deal with criticism from family and friends.
 - b. When Jesus told His disciples He must go to the cross, Peter said, “No, Lord, we’ll find another way.” But Jesus rebuked Peter and said, “*You are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men*” (Matthew 16:21-23).
 - c. Proverbs 29:25 – “*The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.*”
 - If you are constantly worried about what other people think of you, it will act as a snare to your ability to act on God’s voice.
 - You will find it harder to hear the voice of God if you are afraid of what people will think of you when you obey Him.

- People often listen to colleagues, friends and family more than to God.
- d. This was King Saul’s downfall: he listened to and sought the counsel of people rather than God.
- e. Never let people’s opinions hinder you from obeying God!
- f. Practical Tip: Just imagine everyone is already against you before you act on God’s instruction! Expect that people will say you’re crazy, and do it anyway, because “God and I make a majority.” (Of course, the reaction will never be *that* extreme.)
- g. God is the only one you have to please!
- h. Example: Ashley was in a conference with 5000 other people, and told God, “I will do anything for You!” But Ashley struggled with the fear of man. God told him to turn around and worship facing away from the stage. Ashley wrestled with this, because he would be the only one worshipping backwards! But he obeyed, because it was subjecting his flesh to the will of God, overcoming that fear of man.
- i. John 10:27 – “*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*”
 - Often people are missing the obedience part to this verse: “...*they follow Me.*”
 - They ask, “Why isn’t God using me?” They get frustrated because they see other people passing them by, and feel overlooked.
 - Sometimes it isn’t because you haven’t heard God, but you haven’t moved in obedience in the instructions God has given.
 - Just check your heart and repent. “Lord, I’m sorry if I’ve heard you and haven’t obeyed due to fear. Remind me of that last thing You told me to do, and I commit to follow through with it.”
 - In this way, you can break out of that.
 - Obedience is a big part of this because if God is going to give us opportunities, He has to know that we are going to follow through with what we hear.
 - We all hear from God, but some of us don’t follow through with what we hear, and then over time our hearts become hardened to His voice.
 - Why would the Lord give you the next step if you haven’t obeyed the first step?
 - ◆ His instructions may not be too glamorous! It may just be, “Go and help this person.” Or, “Go volunteer here.” Or, “Go pray for this person.”
 - ◆ But He’s not going to give you the next step, if you haven’t obeyed the first one.
 - There is no condemnation, here! God loves you! Just repent and commit to act when you hear God speaking to you.
- j. You’ve probably heard the phrase “a seared conscience” (1 Timothy 4:2). This comes as people reject God’s voice over and over again.

- This starts with little things! For example: You have unloaded your groceries and your conscience is nudging you to put the cart away, but you leave it and drive away. That’s not a big deal, in the grand scheme of things, but if you reject His voice in those things, over and over again, your conscience will become dull to even knowing the difference between right and wrong.
- However, if you obey God in even the little things, your heart will become more and more sensitive to His voice in bigger things.

4. Acting on God’s Voice: It Takes Trust

- a. Hebrews 13:5-6 (NLT) – ⁵ ... *‘I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.’*
⁶ *So we can say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?’*”
- b. You can trust God! God’s Word (written and spoken) will never fail!
- c. Joshua 21:45 – *“Not a word failed of any good thing which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.”*
- d. Luke 16:10 – *“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much...”*
 - Again, practicing acting on in the little things will lead to bigger things later.
 - God will start you in little things!
- e. The “money test” is one of the biggest tests that people fail and then find themselves frustrated and lacking in many areas of their lives.
 - Finances are actually the “least” thing that Jesus was referring to in Luke 16:10.
 - Often, the Lord will ask us to give, to trust Him in the area of finances, first! Money is the smallest area of our lives in which we should learn to hear His voice.
 - You’re blessed if you tithe or not, but if you don’t tithe, you are missing out on the opportunity for God to bless you in a greater way.
 - Trusting God with our money is a baby step! If we can’t trust God with our money, how can we trust God in areas which are far more important?
 - If God is asking you to give something, it’s because He’s trying to get something greater to you.
 - The money test is one you have to pass!
 - Jesus said you cannot serve both God and mammon (Matthew 6:24). You can’t hear the voice of God and the voice of money at the same time.
 - This is why giving is so powerful, because we are exercising trusting God, hearing His voice and following it.
- f. Luke 6:46 – ⁴⁶ *“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say? ⁴⁷ Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸ He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the*

foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. ⁴⁹ But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.”

- There *will* be storms in this life!
 - ◆ John 16:33 – *“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”*
- However, when storms come, the thing that will keep your life from being shaken is a foundation of hearing God’s voice and following His direction.
- There are a ton of things in the Word that we can obey God about because they are written in the Word. Other things will be those specific direction from the Spirit in daily life.

5. Summary of Acting on God’s Voice:

a. It Takes Faith

- As you practice in these little things, doing them by faith, spending time practicing hearing the voice of God, you will develop your hearing.

b. It Takes Practice

- Put yourself in environments where you can develop your hearing: Read the Word; spend time in worship; attend church; listen to good teaching, etc.
- Take action in small things to test/practice your ability to hear Him, to discover what His voice sounds like.

c. It Takes Courage

- Sometimes acting on God’s voice won’t make logical sense.
- You may have to go against what other people say and overcome the fear of man.

d. It Takes Trust

- You can trust God! He will never let you down!
- Psalm 37:25 – *“I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread.”*
- God’s Word is the most secure thing you could build your life on!

Module 2 Lesson 5 Scriptures

Matthew 16:23 – *“But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”*

Proverbs 29:25 – *“The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.”*

John 10:27 – *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”*

Hebrews 13:5-6 (NLT) – *“⁵ ... ‘I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.’
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