

POWER ACADEMY

Switching On Your Faith

Module 2: The Power Within

Lesson 7: How to Hear God
More Clearly

Power Academy Module 2

Lesson 7 – How to Hear God More Clearly

1. Confess That You Can

- a. John 10:27 – *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”*
- b. You need to confess, “I can hear the voice of God!”
- c. Too many times we confess, “I can’t hear God’s voice,” or “I struggle to hear God’s voice.” These confessions will actually convince you that you can’t, but Jesus, the Word of God, said that you can!
- d. If you are born-again, you CAN hear God’s voice! If you aren’t born-again, then you need to give your life to Jesus. Decide to make Jesus your Lord: believe it in your heart, and confess with your mouth, “Jesus is my Lord,” and you will be born-again!
- e. We are a spirit, we have a soul (mind, will, emotions), and we live in a body. To hear God’s voice more clearly, we have to renew our minds and tune our souls in to our spirits.
- f. Confession is not declaring something that isn’t true. The truth is that you *can* hear God’s voice! “I can’t hear God’s voice” is a lie!
- g. Romans 4:17 – *“God...calls those things which do not exist as though they did.”*
- h. We confess the Word—the truth. The spiritual is more real than the natural. We confess the spiritual to see it come to pass in the natural.
- i. John 18:37 – *“...Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”*
 - When you were born-again, you became “of the truth”!
- j. John 10:27 (AMPC) – *“The sheep that are My own hear and are listening to My voice; and I know them, and they follow Me.”*

2. Spend Time with God

- a. In the business of life, the very place we get our nourishment and ability to live this life is spending time with Him.
- b. Acts 17:28 – *“For in Him we live and move and have our being...”*
- c. Acts 13:2 – *“As they ministered to the Lord and fasted...”* and then the Holy Spirit spoke to them. Some translations say “worshipped” instead of “ministered”. The time you spend with the Lord ministers to Him. It blesses Him!
- d. As you spend time with Him, you will also learn His character!
- e. Spending time with God can be:
 - Praying in tongues
 - Reading the Word

- Singing to Him and worshipping
 - Giving thanks to God in praise
 - Confessing how good He is
 - Spending time in silence, intentionally focusing on Him
 - Getting out in nature to just listen
 - Asking God’s opinion on things, as though a conversation with anyone else:
“Lord, what do You think about this situation?”
- f. For Ashley, if he asks God questions and waits to hear, that isn’t normally when he hears an answer! Usually, the answer comes later. But for Carlie, when she listens, that’s when she hears God answer.
- God speaks to each of us differently, in different ways, and in different times! It isn’t a set formula. Just because you don’t hear an “answer” from the Lord right away, it doesn’t mean He isn’t answering, or won’t answer.
 - For example, Josh Terradez will hear from God while he is playing his piano in worship.
 - Other examples might be through painting, through writing, or while exercising.
 - God will use what you give Him!
 - He will speak to you through ways that are unique to you. Just be sure that you are intentional about finding that time in your life.
- g. God likes you! He wants to spend time with you, just like any other close relationship.
- h. No matter how busy you are, be intentional about cutting out distractions and spending time with God.
- i. You can spend time with God no matter where you are.
- j. However, don’t become rigid and religious about it. Give the Holy Spirit the freedom to interrupt your routine!

3. **Learn God’s Character**

- a. Learn God’s MO, what He says and doesn’t say.
- b. When you know God’s character and nature, you will more easily be able to discern when it’s His voice or not.
- c. This is so important because many times people will play the “God card,” saying that, “God told me this.” When we know God’s nature, we won’t buy into the lies of a false prophet, the actions of someone’s flesh, or the lies of the enemy.
- d. One lie that we bought into when Hannah was sick was, “Maybe this is God’s judgement on you.” Because we didn’t know God’s nature, we listened to the words of other people. (God will never put sickness on you as judgement, or to teach you a lesson!)

- e. Not understanding God’s character and nature can cause you to misunderstand what you think you are hearing.
- f. God will never violate His Word or character.
- g. The best way to get to know God is through His Word. Read the Gospels and get to know Jesus. Jesus was the perfect representation of the Father (John 14:9). Read the epistles (New Testament letters).

4. Cut Out Distractions – Fasting

- a. We can easily get distracted.
- b. Philippians 4:8 tells us what to focus on: *“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.”*
- c. One way to cut out distractions is through **FASTING**.
 - Fasting IS for today.
 - Fasting IS NOT to force God to do something.
 - Fasting IS NOT to get God’s attention or get your prayers answered.
 - Fasting IS NOT to bring attention to a cause or an injustice.
 - Fasting IS NOT to jump start your weight loss program.
 - Fasting IS NOT to repent!
 - Fasting IS to cut out the distractions of our natural senses and to focus on spiritual things.
 - Fasting IS a tool to starve unbelief in your life.
 - Fasting IS to help to hear God’s voice more clearly.
 - 2 Kinds of Spiritual Fasts:
 - ◆ A fast which God directs you to do.
 - ◆ A fast which you personally decide to do to deny your flesh and focus in on God’s voice.
 - There are Biblical examples of very long fasts without food or water, but don’t do that! If you do something like that just out of your own will, it can cause serious illness or death.
- d. Matthew 17:14-21 – ¹⁴ *And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying,* ¹⁵ *“Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water.”* ¹⁶ *So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him.”* ¹⁷ *Then Jesus answered and said, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.”* ¹⁸ *And*

Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. ¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” ²⁰ So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. ²¹ However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

- Read this story also in Mark 9:13-29 and Luke 9:37-42.
- e. Some think that Jesus was saying that this kind of *demon* could only come out through prayer and fasting. However, that doesn’t make sense for multiple reasons.
- How would the demon know whether you’ve been praying and fasting or not?
 - Are you saying the name of Jesus isn’t enough? To say that Jesus was talking about a special, more powerful kind of demon is to imply that you have to add prayer and fasting to His name!
- f. The subject of this verse is the “unbelief”. It should be read, “This kind of unbelief does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”
- The disciples were dealing with a natural unbelief that came from what their natural senses, specifically their sight witnessing this boy being thrown down and seizing.
 - That seizure was speaking to them, and moved them at a heart level, their natural senses were moved, and their unbelief was being fed by it. That natural unbelief stopped them from using their faith to cast out the demon.
- g. The way to defeat that natural unbelief is to fast, to deny your natural senses (specifically hunger) the power to influence you.
- Your flesh will tell you, “We’re gonna die if you don’t feed us!” But that isn’t true!
 - When you fast, you are actively telling your flesh, “No, the spiritual is more important than you are.”
 - Hebrews 5:14 – *“But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*
 - One way to exercise your senses is by fasting! You are saying that the spiritual is more important than then natural. It will tune you in spiritually by removing unbelief.
- h. Remember, you aren’t fasting to move God, or to get God to answer your prayers. He already loves you, and He will answer your prayers because of Jesus! Fasting is to train your flesh to be able to receive from God.
- i. If God tells you not to eat, don’t eat! Sometimes God will lead you to fast for a specific purpose, and it is important to listen to Him in those times.
- j. You can also choose to fast, to just spend time with the Lord, like a spiritual detox! You decide to fast from food, just drink water, etc., for the purpose of tuning in to Him

and training your flesh that your spirit is the boss!

- k. You can also fast *anything*: TV, coffee, etc. If you can't fast food for whatever reason, fast something else. You might fast electronics! **Fasting will work with anything in the natural that you can replace with time spent with the Lord.**
- l. However, the purpose of fasting is to replace those things with time with the Lord.
 - Some people can miss the benefits of fasting because they don't understand the "why" behind it. Fasting television isn't just to stop allowing that influence in; it is to refocus the time spent on television to time with the Lord, instead.
 - The outward action of fasting won't benefit anything; it is the inward intention to spend time focused on the Lord instead on what we are fasting.
- m. Matthew 6:16 – *"¹⁶ Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ¹⁷ But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."*
 - Don't let everyone know that you are fasting! If someone asks you, you don't have to lie to them, but don't broadcast it to the world. Do it secretly, between you and the Lord.
 - One reward of fasting will be that you can hear His voice more clearly and have a more intimate relationship with Him.
- n. In the context of believing God for something for a long time and not seeing any progress, this is an area where fasting can really be beneficial in getting a breakthrough.
 - However, sometimes people get frustrated with fasting, because it becomes a work of the flesh. "I've fasted, I've prayed, I've bound and loosed, I've tarried, etc..."
 - This can be an area where the enemy can bring condemnation very quickly.
 - Don't allow the enemy to bring condemnation. This is where the intention is more important than the action! Remember, you aren't fasting to move God, but to move yourself. However, it isn't about your ability to fast perfectly.
- o. Our culture is one of saying one thing, but doing another.
 - Our words are powerful, but sometimes we say something and our body doesn't listen to us. We speak the Word, but nothing happens.
 - Many times, we say one thing, but do another, so our bodies have gotten used to not listening. Your body feels that you don't really mean what you say.
 - Your heart becomes divided, and your body thinks, "Well, you've said ten things today, but you haven't meant any of them."
 - So, when you fast and your stomach starts to rumble, this is an opportunity for

you to bring correction to your body. “Flesh, let me correct your thinking on this: I do mean what I say, and you *will* listen to me!”

- When you say, “Be quiet, flesh, or I’ll skip lunch, too!” your body will begin to understand that there is integrity in the words that you speak, that you do mean what you say!
 - **Fasting is training for your flesh.**
 - There is no condemnation, but being careful what you say is just another practical tool we want to give you so that you can receive from God!
- p. Remember, fasting isn’t about pleasing God, making Him love you more, or anything like that! It is a tool that will help you to change *you* and your ability to hear from God more clearly and receive from God more easily.
- q. You can get into works with anything: praying, fasting, spending time with God, etc. if you make it about gaining approval from God. God accepts you because you’ve trusted Jesus—full stop! These things are about positioning *yourself* to hear from God more clearly.
- r. **Cut Out Distractions: In General**
- When you get in the car, turn off the radio and tune in to hearing God’s voice.
 - When you’re waiting in line, etc., can you use that time to practice hearing the voice of God?
 - Nowadays we are bombarded with sensory overload. When there is five minutes to spare, we pull out our cell phones.
 - ◆ Make an intentional decision that you aren’t going to do that, to spend time focusing on the Lord instead.
 - Walking down the street, just say, “Lord, how are You doing today? What would You like to speak to me today?” Just start praying and having a conversation with Him.

5. Expect to Hear

- a. John 10:27 (Wuest) – “*The sheep which are mine are in the habit of listening to my voice.*”
- b. We need to make listening to God’s voice a habit!
- c. Be expectant. This goes along with confessing that you can hear God’s voice. Expect to hear from Him.
- d. God loves you and He wants to communicate with you!
- e. Be ready to take notes on what God has to say to you.

6. Be Obedient

- a. If you want to hear God’s voice more clearly, then be obedient when you do hear Him speak.
- b. If you hear God speak to you and do not obey, it is like putting a layer of hardness around your heart.
- c. When you hear your conscience tell you not to do something, and you do it anyway, if you keep doing that, you eventually get to the point where you don’t care anymore.
- d. In the same way, when God tells you to do something—go tell that person God loves them, or ask forgiveness from that person, or give this in the offering—and you don’t obey, it can be a little harder to hear God the next time. We begin to harden ourselves to hearing God’s voice.
- e. However, each time we obey the voice of God, we become more sensitive to hearing His voice.
- f. God only has good things for you, so you need to obey Him!
- g. “No, Lord” is an oxymoron. If He asks you to do something, it should always be “Yes, Lord!”
- h. Don’t try to work it out logically when He asks you to do something. Just obey God and leave all the consequences to Him!
- i. Luke 6:46 – *“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”*
 - Jesus continues to explain that those who don’t follow His instruction, it’s like building a house on the sand that cannot withstand when a storm comes. However, if you do what He says, it’s like building your house on the rock.
 - James 1:22-25 – *“²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”*
 - When you hear the Word, you are meant to go and do it!
 - This can be when you hear that still small voice in something specific, but it can also just be when you read the Word, or hear it being taught. Whatever the Word says, do it!
- j. Why would God give you step 2 when you haven’t obeyed step 1 yet?
- k. If you’ve gotten off track, just repent and go back and do the last thing you know God told you to do.

7. Don't Limit God

- a. If you limit God in your thinking, you won't be able to hear Him clearly in that area.
- b. If you don't allow yourself to go there in your imagination, God may be trying to speak to you, but if you've never considered it, you won't be able to hear Him.
- c. For example: Even when we were completely broke, we kept imagining what it would be like to give away large amounts of money! We even wrote checks in large amounts to envision the possibility.
- d. If you are too narrow-minded and imagine that only certain things can happen, God might speak to you but you ignore it because it's not on your "radar".
- e. Mark 9:23 – *"Jesus said to him, 'If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.'"*
- f. God can do supernatural things, far beyond natural reason!
- g. Sometimes we pray and say, "God is it A, or is it B?" Meanwhile, God is trying to tell you it's "Z"! So, make sure you are open-minded to God.
- h. Don't limit God's power and how He can do things.
- i. Romans 4:19-21 – *"¹⁹ And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹ and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform."*
 - Abraham and Sarah didn't consider the natural limitations. They were strong in faith and only considered that God would perform His promise to them!
 - Give God the opportunity to do something supernatural in your situation.

Module 2 Lesson 7 Scriptures

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

Romans 4:17 – *“God...calls those things which do not exist as though they did.”*

John 18:37 – *“...Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”*

John 10:27 (AMPC) – *“The sheep that are My own hear and are listening to My voice; and I know them, and they follow Me.”*

Acts 17:28 – *“For in Him we live and move and have our being...”*

Acts 13:2 – *“As they ministered to the Lord and fasted...”*

Philippians 4:8 – *“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.”*

Matthew 17:14-21 – ¹⁴ *And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying,* ¹⁵ *“Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water.”* ¹⁶ *So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him.”* ¹⁷ *Then Jesus answered and said, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.”* ¹⁸ *And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.* ¹⁹ *Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?”* ²⁰ *So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.”* ²¹ *However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”*

Hebrews 5:14 – *“But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*

Matthew 6:16 – ¹⁶ *Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.* ¹⁷ *But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,* ¹⁸ *so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”*

John 10:27 (Wuest) – *“The sheep which are mine are in the habit of listening to my voice.”*

Luke 6:46 – *“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”*

James 1:22-25 – *“²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”*

Mark 9:23 – *“Jesus said to him, ‘If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.’”*

Romans 4:19-21 – *“¹⁹ And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹ and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.”*