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Prophetic Training

Woodsedge Community Church
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Hearing God

I. How God speaks:

- a. Through His written word
 - i. Ps. 1 & 119
 - ii. Luke 24:13-35
- b. By appearing to people.
 - i. Rev. 1
 - ii. Acts 9
- c. Angels to speak to us.
 - i. Acts 5:19-20
 - ii. Heb. 1:14
- d. He speaks in an audible voice.
 - i. Dt. 4:9-14 (to a whole nation)
 - ii. Ex. 3:1ff (to an individual)
 - iii. John 12: 28-32 (to Jesus and a crowd)
 - iv. Acts 9:4-6 (to an enemy)
- e. He speaks in a voice audible to your ears alone.
 - i. I Sam. 3
 - ii. Acts 22:9
- f. He speaks in an “internal audible” voice. This is what the prophets mean when they say, “The word of the Lord came to me saying...”
- g. He speaks through impressions.
 - i. It is like a whisper. Lewis describes it as “That sense—so welcome yet never welcomed without the overcoming of a certain resistance...” (Perlandra, p. 140).
 - ii. Sometimes the impression comes in the form of a “knowing” (Mt. 22:18; Mk. 2:8; John 6:15).
 - iii. Sometimes the impression comes as a “leading” to do something (Neh. 7:5).
 - iv. Sometimes the impression will come in the ability to “see” something in or on a person that you can’t see with your physical eyes (Acts 14:9).
- h. He speaks through the natural world.
 - i. Creation is a revelation of the nature of God. Rom. 1:19-20
 - ii. Ants are revelation of wisdom. Prov. 6:6-8
- i. He speaks through fleeces.
 - i. Judg. 6:36-40
 - ii. Cf. the lots of Acts 1:26
- j. He speaks through physical manifestations in our bodies (Luke 8:45-46).

- k. He speaks through dreams (Job 33:13-18), visions (Acts 2:17-18) and trances (Acts 10:10).

II. How to recognize the voice of God:

- a. Four voices speak to us.
 - i. God
 - ii. Our own voice speaks to us.
 - iii. Others speak to us.
 - iv. The devil speaks to us.
 - 1. For example, he may use a spirit of divination (Acts 16:16), or a spirit of fear (2 Tim. 1:7).
 - 2. He frequently condemns and accuses us, and leads us to do the same thing to other believers (Rev. 12:10).
- b. Four tests help us recognize the voice of God.
 - i. God does not contradict His written word.
 - 1. "The Scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35).
 - 2. "If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command" (1 Cor. 14:37).
 - ii. God's voice has a consistent character.
 - 1. It is pure and merciful (James 3:17).
 - 2. It is peaceful and produces peace in our hearts (Phil. 4:6-7).
 - 3. The voice of Jesus in the NT is humble, gentle, kind and authoritative.
 - iii. The fruit of God's voice is good (Mt. 7:15-23).
 - iv. God's voice is different from our voice (Isa. 55:8-9).
- c. These tests only work with practice and in an environment of friendship with the Lord.

III. The Friends of God are the People Who Hear His Voice

- a. "I no longer call you servants because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead I have called you friends for everything I have learned from my Father I have made known to you." John 15:15
- b. "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does" (James 1:5-8).