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Rev. Ronald L. Slaughter, Senior Pastor

Women's Bible Study

Rev. Janelle Y. Greene, Minister to Women
First Lady Kyla Slaughter, Women's Ministry Advisor
Tuesdays at 6:30 PM

September 26, 2017
Rev. Janelle Greene, Facilitator

Subject: Discerning the Voice of God -

How to Recognize When God is Speaking – Chapter 2: Inside Information

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:16 New International Version (NIV)

1 Samuel 3:7-10 NIV

⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸ A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

John 16:8 NIV

⁸ When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:

Acts 23:1 NIV

²³ Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said, "My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day."

Romans 8:8-9 NIV

⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.

Romans 9:1 NIV

Paul's Anguish Over Israel

⁹ I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit—

1 Corinthians 2:14 NIV

¹⁴ The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:16 NIV

¹⁶ Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 The Message (MSG)

¹⁶⁻¹⁷ You realize, don't you, that you are the temple of God, and God himself is present in you? No one will get by with vandalizing God's temple, you can be sure of that. God's temple is sacred—and you, remember, *are* the temple.

2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:^[a] The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Timothy 1:3 NIV

Thanksgiving

³ I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.

Ephesians 1:13 NIV

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of

your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

Ephesians 1:13-14 MSG

¹³⁻¹⁴ It's in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free—signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit. This signet from God is the first installment on what's coming, a reminder that we'll get everything God has planned for us, a praising and glorious life.

2 Peter 1:3 NIV

Confirming One's Calling and Election

³ His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

1 John 2:27 NIV

²⁷ As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him

Book Used for Women's Bible Study this Season:

Discerning the Voice of God How to Recognize When God Is Speaking by Priscilla Shirer Moody Publishers, Chicago ©2012

Subject Consideration:

The work that occurs in our spirit-beings takes place on the inside of us and manifests outwardly. We are comprised of body, soul and spirit. The way we can hear or discern God's leading, prompting or voice has a lot to do with our availability to the Holy Spirit. As believers in Christ Jesus, the Holy Spirit does the work on the inside of us where our inner-beings become alive and are renewed (Titus 3:5). Our spirits become alive through the work of the Holy Spirit, known as the Spirit of truth (John 16:13). We become sanctified by the truth (John 17:1-20); as the Holy Spirit works in us a fashioning and developing of spiritual fruit and godly character (Galatians 5:22-23). Knowing and accepting that God abides in each of his children is powerful and transformative. God's spirit abides in us! "This means that listening to [God] is an exercise in hearing from within – not being directed by external stimuli that divert your attention away from [God's] direction" (Shirer, p.39). This works through the way in which God made us – Body, Soul and Spirit. As the spirit of God dwells within us our lives become changed. The transformation impacts every way in which we hear God's voice – our mind, will, emotions and conscience (the soulish part of us) is charged from the Spirit of God; more so than what comes from the external influences or philosophies of the world.

We see accounts in the Scriptures where God calls out to someone in their sleep; indicating that the person received guidance from a counselor on what to do. We also learn that God is the one whom initiated the speaking in this example. As well, our we learn that we should not have a complacent disposition. We should not necessarily expect that God will just speak without us being able to filter out the "noise"; that comes from the competing factors of life and from our personal circumstances. Our relationship with God will grow like any other relationship; as we spend time in conversation with God. We begin to attune our hearts and spiritual ears to God when we: meditate and read the scriptures; practice listening in quiet spaces; get comfortable with places of solitude; quieting our spirits as we progress with daily activities; pray in silence; and pursue Godly counsel.

May I remind you that this is internal work and it is *not microwaveable*? Listening is ongoing and ever developing throughout our life experiences. We may rely upon many past experiences to encourage our faith and perseverance but the reliance and trust in God remains fresh for new insight and direction. The development and growth is individually customized and uniquely fashioned for each person. The Holy Spirit will work through our spirits, souls and through our conscience. It may take time; and often cannot be rushed or compared to another. Do not be afraid to step out and try to exercise what you hear in your spirit – even if it seems to defy personal logic. But we also should measure our decisions through any the lulls that come to give us time for evaluation, the conviction or our conscience, any inner sense of warning, promptings to delay or accelerate a matter. We also must be sensitive to when our spirits ought to yield to what may not be fully understood but sensed and confirmed through the Holy Spirit.

Book Review Questions:

1. What is the analogy that is used to describe the relationship with Holy Spirit on page 38?

2. When we talk about listening for God to speak to us, who is it that we are listening for? (pg.39)

3. Where does the Holy Spirit reside? _____

What Scriptures refer to it? _____

4. What three things are all human beings comprised of?

5. What is *your body*? (p. 39)

6. What is *your soul*? (p.40)

7. What is *your spirit*?

8. What occurs within your body, soul and spirit when God engages with that person?

9. What is the Conscience? How does the Holy Spirit work with your conscience? (p.43-44)

10. Can you write down the last time your conscience steered you in a certain direction, flashed a warning sign or alerted you to a certain dilemma. There is no right or wrong answer here – just focus on the experience. How did it feel? Where you aware of that voice or notice?

11. How does human logic submit itself to the Holy Spirit? (pg.44)

Hint: *hearing; discerning the truth of God's direction, conviction of the heart..*

Fill in the Quotes:

1. "The Holy _____ is to us what the _____ is to an airplane." (p. 38)
2. The Spirit's _____ to _____ what we cannot, and then _____ information to _____ based on _____, provides us with the insight we could _____ through onboard _____ alone." (pg. 38)
3. "All human beings, saved or not, are composed of _____ parts: _____, _____, and _____." (pg.39)
4. "This is why the _____ you feel when God speaks to you is often a lot like that _____ - _____ "knowing" you all you had to go on was an _____ conscience." (pg.44)
5. "As the apostle Paul said from _____ experience, the Holy _____ works *in tandem* with our _____." (pg.45)
6. The **FIVE Ms of correctly hearing God** (pgs.47-48):
 - a. Look for the M _____ of the Spirit.
 - b. _____ for the M _____ of the Scripture for guidance.
 - c. Live in the M _____ of _____.
 - d. _____ to the M _____ of _____.
 - e. Expect the M _____ of confirmation.

At Home:

- Review the chapter 2 and this lesson.
- Consider how you can sense what your conscience is trying to tell you. Get comfortable with it.
- Listen from within; get a sense of your spiritual senses. Recognize the ways in which the Holy Spirit may send confirmations in your life
- Commit to a method of devotional study or meditation on the scriptures.
- Meditate on the Word – especially concerning questions that you are pondering.
- Keep reading. Next week we will cover Chapter 3 “What Do You Want?”

“I believe that God has related these somehow; the voice of conviction in the conscience and the Holy Spirit, the point of contact, witnessing within [wo]man’s being. It is always perilous to resist the conscience within.”

- A. W. Tozer