

LEADING FROM THE THRONE ROOM (PART 7)

LEADING BY LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF GOD

I. Introduction: We have shared how of all the places you could want to be, there is no place that will have a more positive impact on your life than in the throne room of God. It's a place of perfect worship, where we are perfectly represented, celebrated, and filled with joy and peace. In addition to that, it is the place where we are invited to listen to the voice of God and be led and empowered to lead others.

Some observations:

- A. There is nothing more valuable than catching a whisper/word from God.
 1. Where there is a revelation from God, there is a manifestation of grace, favor, and power. "*Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God*" (Rom. 10:17 NKJV). (Heidi, Russ and the mobile home)
 2. To the degree there is no revelation and fresh word, there is a "form of godliness" without the power. Without a vision/revelation the people perish (Prov. 29:18).

*The Urim and Thummim were the most valuable commodities in the high priests' possessions.

- B. The essence of spiritual leadership is discerning, following, bringing people into agreement with and moving people together towards the revealed will of God.
 1. "Spiritual leadership is getting people off of their agenda's on to God's." –Wayne Cordero
 2. One of the main reasons God wants to draw us close into His presence is to make known to us Ephesians 1 that reveals the blessings of being seated with Christ in heavenly places, "*With all wisdom and understanding, he might make known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ...*" (Eph. 1:8 NIV).
- C. One of the encouragements God has for us in the New Covenant is to assure that hearing from God is His promise, delight, and certain plan. His sheep hear His voice.

The issue isn't having confidence in our ability to hear God, but having confidence in His passion and ability to make His will plain to our heart.

II. Key components of leading by listening in the throne room of God (Acts 13:1-3)

A. Key observations:

1. The prompting began with the leading of a leader, who submitted his word.
2. The portal of revelation was ministry to the Lord, worship and fasting.
3. There was a corporate agreement and discussion.

In the New Testament the focus of stewarding the voice of God was not the job of one spiritual leader, like Moses going up into a mountain, but of a corporate process of hearing God together. The emphasis in leading by listening to God is not focused on a top down, chain of command kind of leadership, but a leadership that aimed at collaboration and agreement. (This is encouraged in marriage- "submit yourselves to one another.")

B. Reasons why this kind of leadership is so important

1. God is a relational and honors our efforts to be unified by hearing together. *"If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.*
(Matt. 18:19 KJV).
2. The more the participation the greater the ownership.
3. We all see in part and hear in part. As we collaborate and interrogate, a bigger picture becomes clearer and encourages wisdom for the most strategic execution of God's leading, in a family or church community.
(The blind men interpreting the elephant).
4. God speaks in a partnership of understanding with the Holy Spirit.
"It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements" (Acts 15:28 NIV).

III. Important keys in discerning, hearing, and executing God's leading

- A. Our motive is so important. One of the greatest things that is achieved by spending time in the throne room in worship is that we are reminded of the central concern of Heaven, "*that in all things Christ would have the preeminence.*" It is so key that we have emptied ourselves of our own agenda.

“Have no will of your own in the matter.” –George Mueller

“Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own” (John 7:17 NIV).

Wayne Myers input on motives... “If we’re sincere God doesn’t mind at all repeating himself and is able to redeem sincere attempts to do what we think is God’s will.”

B. Being a person of the Word who continuously spends time searching, understanding, interpreting, and applying Scripture to our everyday life. The same skills involved in understanding and applying the Bible are the skills required to discern the voice of God in individual cases and settings.

1. As evangelicals the Scripture is the final word of authority. In the same way a judge considers first the law when coming to a verdict, we must first define accurately the revelation of Scripture to our situation.

2. Deception happens when we get the cart before the horse; we begin to interpret Scripture to fit with our vision or supposed revelation, instead of requiring our revelation to fit with God’s word. Galatians 1:8 teaches us that we should utterly reject even an angel if he comes with a different message than the gospel.

3. It is only God’s word that gives us the capacity to discern between soul and spirit (Hebrews 4:12).

4. Scripture gives us objective truth. *“...if anyone does not speak according to this word, it is because they have no light in them” (Isaiah 8:20 KJV).*

C. The ability to rightly discern the voice of God comes from a humble and teachable spirit open for correction. Solomon was the example... “I am but a child and I don’t know what to do.” The first step to knowing is knowing that you don’t know.

1. God encourages us to test, submit, to seek the confirmation or evaluation of others in discerning what His voice is in a particular situation (2 Cor. 13:1, everything confirmed by the mouth of two or three witnesses).

We must humbly admit that we all have blind spots and certain triggers, where we respond out of reactions rather than revelation.

James 3:17-18 describes the right spirit for discerning God's voice.
But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness
(NIV).

- D. In discerning God's voice, it is important to recognize that a word from God is not of private interpretation. There is not only a word but the interpretation and the application. As we vet a word from God, questions like how, when, who, were, with whom all come into play. The thorough interrogation of the word adds great light and insight to the interpretation and application process.
- E. It is also important to understand that the hearing and applying of God's voice is a point of intense and persistent spiritual warfare. The first attack of Satan was to tempt Eve to be confused and miss God's voice. "Hath God said?"
Don't be surprised by this process bringing a season of attacks and opposition... a barrage of doubts, skepticism, opposition, testing...

Some things that help

1. Make the word clear on tablets and with confirmation.
2. Remind yourself often and systematically of things God has told you.
"Timothy my son, I am giving this command in keeping with the prophecies made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well" (I Tim. 1:18 NIV).
3. Never doubt in the dark what you saw in the light.
4. Make faith decisions on leadings and refuse to look back.
James 1:5-6, says ask in faith and don't be double minded.
5. Have prophetic prayer partners, expect prophetic words to confirm and amplify what God has called you.

- F. In praying for clarity, I find it is good to-
1. **Look up**- Turn your attention to worship and making big God's heart and the centrality of your concern for His agenda. Fasting can amplify this.
 2. **Look in**- As you listen, there is often a need for stillness and letting the dust settle. Learn to pay close attention to the peace of God that acts as an umpire.

3. **Look around-** Be aware of things like open and closed doors and the confirmations or hesitancy of trusted friends.

Note all of the languages of God:

Spiritual mentors, Scriptures, intuitions, circumstantial alignment, inner peace, angelic or supernatural signs and wonders, prophecy or miracles, a clear highlighted portion of Scripture, a repeated compelling passion or burden to respond in a certain purposeful way.