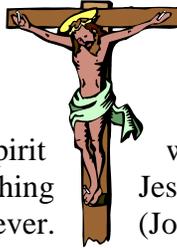




Recognizing the Voice of God



When Jesus was on earth, God the Father spoke through Him, and did His works through Him. But when Jesus was crucified on the cross and went to heaven, He promised all believers that God would send them a Comforter, who was the Holy Spirit, and would now speak and do His works through Him in the Name of Jesus.



Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would teach believers all things, and bring to their remembrance everything Jesus had said. He also promised that the Holy Spirit would live with us forever. (John 14:16,26) *“And, when He (the Holy Spirit), is come, He will guide you into all truth; for He shall not speak of Himself, but whatever He hears from God, that will He speak; and He will show you things to come.”* (John 16:13)

It is very obvious from scripture that the Holy Spirit will speak through us and to us to accomplish the works of God on this earth. When we are called to give a testimony, Jesus said not to worry, *“For it is not you that speak, but the Spirit of God which speaks in you.”* (Matthew 10:20)

Because the Holy Spirit lives in every believer, it is possible for us to be led by the Spirit in what we do and say, and to recognize His voice when He speaks to us. The way to recognize His voice is revealed to us by studying the following scripture: *“Now the Spirit speaks expressly that in the last days some shall depart from the faith.”* (1 Timothy 4:1)

How did the Holy Spirit speak to Timothy to tell him that? We find out by looking up the word “speaks” in the Greek lexicon. (Greek is the original language that the New Testament was written in). The word for “speaks” in Greek is “lego” (like the little plastic pieces that children connect together to build things.) The word means “to speak by linking and knitting together in connected words, the thoughts and feeling of the mind.”

We have all had the experience of suddenly having a complete thought come into our mind – it stands out in our mind clearly for a few seconds and then it’s gone. But, with that thought comes an impulse toward taking action either to write something down – or to do something that the thought spoke of.

However, because He speaks this way in our mind, it sounds like our own voice speaking a thought to us. And, unfortunately, people who don’t know about “lego” think that what they are hearing is just themselves thinking those things – so they don’t act on it or speak it and millions of opportunities to do God’s work and fulfill His will are lost.

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Hosea 4:6 says: “My people perish for lack of knowledge.” God is always trying to impart knowledge to His people, through His Holy Spirit speaking. God has given every human being gifts and talents that He intended to be used to further His Kingdom and win souls. The only way He can teach us when and how to use our gifts and talents according to His will, is to speak to us and lead us by His Holy Spirit. But, because of the lack of familiarity with the voice of the Spirit within, Christianity has become a “take it or leave it” religion in many ways. People want to “take” the blessing, but “leave” the obedience, and to “take” the prosperity but “leave” the chastening and self-discipline.

Our body is a lot smarter than we are. In a continual process, called metabolism, our body is constantly changing whatever we feed it into something our body can use, or into waste products to be discarded because they are of no use to our body and are not good for it and will make us sick if they stay inside of us. This is a natural physical process our body does. We are born with it. The only thing we have to do to keep it working right is to eat the right kind of food to keep our body healthy. Most people are aware of that and try to eat right.

There is another kind of metabolism that goes on within us that we were born with, but this one is spiritual. It takes place in the soul. And, like our physical metabolism it is in a continual process of changing whatever we feed into it into something our soul can use, or into waste products (in this case “thoughts”) to be discarded because they are of no use to us and are not good for our soul and will make us sick if they stay inside of us.



Our soul is made up of our mind, our will and our emotions. All we have to do to keep it working right is to feed it the right kind of food to keep it healthy. Most people are not aware of this and do not feed it the proper soul food. Soul food is spiritual. It is the only kind of food our soul can digest. Soul food consists of the meat of the Word of God, the bread of life and the living water that Jesus gives, and the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, humility and self-control.

People today are much more concerned with physical food than they are with spiritual food. Just as our bodies can become sick from wrong food and undiscarded waste, our soul can become sick from feeding on wrong thoughts and unspiritual food in the form of ungodly words and pictures that become ungodly thoughts and will make our soul sick if they are not discarded. All of us have bad thoughts in one form or another, that cause a sense of lostness, emotional abandonment, and a constant searching for love, usually in the wrong places.

Victims of soul-battering from verbal abuse as a child or as an adult, are afraid to reach out for what they want emotionally for fear of failure. These thoughts and memories cloud the mind making it impossible to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit – and they give themselves away to buy the love of others, and deny their own needs and God-given talents.

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Negative, devastating, hurtful words and painful memories of the past are the waste products of the soul that need to be discarded. These cruel, tormenting thoughts and memories are stored in the same place the Word of God is stored in us, in our mind! In our soul!

The soul is the place God makes Himself known to us by speaking to us by His Holy Spirit; in our mind, our thoughts, our will and our emotions. We can be free from wrong tormenting thoughts if we will deliberately feed the Word of God into our soul – and apply it to our thoughts every day, in order to bring every thought into the obedience of Christ, according to 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 which says: *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: for the weapons of our warfare are not made of flesh, they are spiritual, but they are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds in the mind; casting down (discarding) imaginations (wrong thoughts), and every thought or high thing that lifts itself above the knowledge of God in your mind, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”* If we will do that, our soul will be at peace and we will be able to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit when He speaks to us. All of this scripture is talking about our mind as the battlefield.



Our personality comes from our soul. Our souls are who we are. They are worth fighting for – but the battle is ours. God will supply the weapon which is the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, (Ephesians 6:17), but we are the ones who have to use it. The wounds of the past that have been keeping you in a spiritual wheelchair can be overcome – no matter what they were. If you will expose them openly to the Word of God they will leave your mind.

Ask God to help you put His Word first in your life; make it #1, by reading it and thinking about what you read instead of how you were hurt in the past. Listen to tapes that teach on the Word of God. Be in church faithfully – because *“faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”* (Romans 10:17) The Word of God is more powerful than any words spoken by human beings – or any of their actions against you. God can only bless us if we live our life His way, by His words and His commandments. Now is the time to get serious about your relationship with your Heavenly Father! Jesus will be coming soon.

David said in Psalm 142:7: *“Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Your Name.”* Start now to allow God to set your soul free from wasteful thoughts and memories that keep you from hearing the Holy Spirit. Let the body of Jesus that was broken for you, become the bread of life for your soul, to repair the wounds, heal the sorrows, and restore the brokenness. Let the blood of Jesus, that was shed for you, wash over your soul – cleansing away the waste products of a life time. So you can hear the voice of God and be led by His Spirit in your life.



Recognizing the Voice of God

1. When Jesus was on earth, how did God the Father speak to believers?

2. Now that Jesus is in heaven, how does God speak to believers?

3. How does the Holy Spirit speak to believers today?

4. If people don't know how the Holy Spirit speaks to them, what do they think they are hearing?

5. What is the only way God can teach us to use the gifts and talents He gave us?

6. How does our body use the good food and dispose of the bad?

7. How does our soul use the good soul food and dispose of the bad?

8. If the body is in charge of the physical metabolism, who is in charge of the spiritual metabolism of the soul?

9. Why are thoughts of old painful hurts and negative self-image harmful to our soul?

10. Why should we want our soul out of prison? (Psalm 142:7)
(The answer to this question will be your memory verse)

MEMORY VERSE _____

Recognizing the Voice of God

1. When Jesus was on earth, how did God the Father speak to believers?

Through Jesus.

2. Now that Jesus is in heaven, how does God speak to believers?

Through His Holy Spirit.

3. How does the Holy Spirit speak to believers today?

By linking and knitting together in connected words the thoughts and feelings of the mind.

4. If people don't know how the Holy Spirit speaks to them, what do they think they are hearing?

Their own voice.

5. What is the only way God can teach us to use the gifts and talents He gave us?

By speaking to us by His Holy Spirit.

6. How does our body use the good food and dispose of the bad?

By physical metabolism in the body.

7. How does our soul use the good soul food and dispose of the bad?

By spiritual metabolism in the soul.

8. If the body is in charge of the physical metabolism, who is in charge of the spiritual metabolism of the soul?

I am.

9. Why are thoughts of old painful hurts and negative self-image harmful to our soul?

They cloud the mind making it impossible to hear the Holy Spirit.

10. Why should we want our soul out of prison? (Psalm 142:7)

MEMORY VERSE *"Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise your Name."*