



KNOWING THE POWER AND PRESENCE OF GOD

Lesson 1

GOD REVEALS HIS WILL TO US



OPENING PRAYER: Read Ephesians 1:17-23. Paul wrote this to the faithful in Christ Jesus who lived in Ephesus. We can adopt this prayer for ourselves and fellow Christians knowing that God gives the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that we may know Him better. He intends for us to know the hope to which He has called us and His incomparably great power for us who believe. Christ is head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him. God communicates with His people.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE WAYS GOD COMMUNICATES HIS INTENT TO US?

1. THE HOLY BIBLE

Second Timothy 3:16-17 NIV *All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

The Bible is the 'text book' for this series of lessons. From Genesis through Revelation God gives us insights into His love for us and His plan to enable us to choose the path that is a blessing to Him and others as well as ourselves. Reading the words, not as ancient history, but as examples to base our life decisions upon, offers a life of adventure as we are individually guided by the Holy Spirit to fulfill our God-given role. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and revelation to know God better and know the power He intends for believers.

2. THE VOICE OF GOD

Read John 10:27-28 about Jesus teaching that believers listen to Him and follow Him. Some people hear the audible voice of God but most people experience an inner recognition of words and insights that are not from their own thinking. The Holy Spirit, also called the Spirit of truth, communicates truths of God. (John 16:12-15) Discernment is needed to determine whether the words are from our own desires, temptations from the devil or instructions from God. The writings in First Samuel Chapter 3 record an example of hearing the audible voice of God.

3. VISIONS, INNER IMAGES, PICTURES. WORDS, SYMBOLS AND DREAMS

Acts 9:10-12 Ananias received instructions from the Lord in a vision to place his hands on Paul to restore his sight.

Read John 14:21 about Jesus making Himself known to those who have His commands and obey them out of love for Him.



Acts 2:17 NIV *“In the last days,” God says, “I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.”*

Acts 18:9-10 The Lord spoke to Paul one night in a vision.

4. GROWING AWARENESS

Acts 7:23 KJV *“It came into his heart to visit the brethren.”*

John 16:13-15 The Spirit of truth will guide you into all truth.

5. GOD’S CREATION

The beauty of a flower, a majestic mountain, and a newborn baby reveal the wonder of God. We are wonderfully made. Refer to Romans 1:20 Psalm 139:13-14

6. HEAVENLY VISITATIONS

Refer to Acts 8:26 and Acts 9:3-6

7. THE HAND OF THE LORD

Habakkuk 3:1-4 NIV *....rays flashed from His hand where His power was hidden.*

Jeremiah 1:9 *Then the Lord reached out His hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put My words in your mouth.”*

Acts 11:21 NIV *The hand of the Lord was with them and a great number of people believed turned to the Lord.*

Ezra 7:28b NIV *Because the hand of the Lord my God was on me, I took courage and gathered leaders from Israel to go up with me.*



I heard testimony from a man who felt the Lord told him, “Search Me out and see where My hand is resting.” He was planning a conference for people to come to learn about praying for others. Instead of holding the conference in a hotel, he felt guided to ask permission of a pastor of a small church in Washington DC if the conference could be held in his church. Instead of just talking about prayer, the change of venue allowed the participants to go into the neighborhood to pray for others. It was a life changing experience for many.

8. OTHER CHRISTIANS

We can learn about God from other Christians whether they are priests, pastors, teachers, family, friends, neighbors, well known or unknown. Biographies and testimonies of Christians can help us understand how God works among His people and inspire us to be faithful to what the Lord is calling us to be and do.

DISCERNMENT

In our attempts to hear from God and obey His directions, we need to learn how to tell what is from God and what is from our own desires and what are temptations from the devil. Even Jesus was tempted by the devil. (Luke chapter 4) Most helpful is studying the will of God as stated in the Bible. We will be able to discern counterfeit by spending time with the real thing (Scripture). God will confirm what we sense is from Him in many ways. The message will have the ultimate goal of bringing glory to God. The word may be challenging but a basic inner peace will evolve. Listening to God is a learning process and everyone will make mistakes. It is often helpful to be part of a class or home fellowship or Bible study group to grow in understanding and use of our

God given gifts and receive counsel about our experiences and style of ministry. Rejection from others about what we believe is communication from God does not prove us wrong but it may be a time to ask for confirmation from Him. A group may all be committed to God and yet come up with different answers. Sometimes the reason is that we are given pieces of truth and we need to fit the pieces together to form the intended ministry of Jesus on earth today.

WHAT IS OUR PART IN LEARNING TO LISTEN TO GOD?

1. Accepting Jesus as Savior. John 3:16 NIV states: *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.* John 14:6 NIV Jesus taught: *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one come to the Father except through Me.*
2. Forsaking idols, false gods, and seeking directions from ungodly sources. Deuteronomy 18:10-12 lists things that are detestable to the Lord. The list includes sorcery, those who interpret omens, engage in witchcraft or casts spells or is a medium or spiritist or consults the dead. God is able to help us know His intent for our lives without our turning to horoscopes, Ouija boards, tarot cards or fortune tellers. These can cause spiritual confusion. As in all areas, as you learn what displeases God, turn from those beliefs, habits and practices (repent) and ask God's forgiveness. It is promised. Destroy materials that are part of these actions that displease God. Isaiah 45:18-20 proclaims that God is the Lord and there is no other and He speaks the truth.
3. Allowing God to be part of our daily life Rev 3:20, John 14:23, Psalm 105:4, Isaiah 41:13
4. Allowing the Holy Spirit to teach and empower us for service to others.
5. Choosing obedience to God, walking in the 'Way' of His teachings as described in the Holy Bible. Acts 9:2