

SESSION 2 - RECOGNISING THE VOICE OF THE SPIRIT

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

god, recognising, verses, gifts, voice, spirit, understand, heard, holy spirit, scripture, life, guide, church, small still voice, lead, place, elijah, apostle, visions, talk

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Well,

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Well, Welcome back, we're just going to look at this session in relation to recognising the Voice of the Spirit. A lot of us sometimes get a little bit confused about hearing God's voice and knowing God's voice and we always ask us of for, is that really you God? Or is that the direction you really want me to take? Sometimes we get a bit confused, because we're listening also to everybody else, and what everybody else is

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saying. So we need to understand that one of the roles of the spirit is that His our

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guide, He leads us and He guides us. And so we need to understand and become into a place of recognising his voice. More frequently and knowing it's Him. It's just like, if you're married, and after 10, 20 years, you know, you've recognised the voice of your husband, or you recognise the voice of your children, they could be down the hallway, you may not even be able to see them. But as soon as they sing out to you, soon as you hear their voice, you know, whose voice it is. And so this particular session is about that. Let's be in relationship with the Holy Spirit, His our comforter, our guide and our counselor. He empowers us to know and to hear the voice of the Spirit. Recognising the Voice of the Spirit, understanding that the Holy Spirit is a person. The Holy Spirit isn't a thing. It isn't a, what is it? It's actually part of the Trinity. Defining the three in one, the Trinity, recognising that the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, they all work together in bringing us into oneness with him. 1 Corinthians chapter 12, verses 4r to 6, let's have a look at that. And if you have your Bibles, turn to that Scripture with me. And we're having a look at the theme or the session today, which is recognising the Voice of the Spirit. 1 Corinthians chapter 12, verses 4 to 6. 'They are diversity of gifts, but the same spirit. There are differences of ministry, but the same spirit, and they are diversity of activities. But it is the same God who works all in all.' And so this is a particular scripture that tells us, that the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, they work together. So whatever gifts and whatever abilities, whatever things that God releases into your life, and whatever He gives you, it's part of the same spirit that's

outworked from the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. So when we come to that place of understanding that, hey, this Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity, he's part of the Godhead. And so we have to learn to hear and recognise his voice, and to understand that hey everything of who we are and the gifts and abilities, they all come and they outwork through us through the Holy Spirit. And brings us into a place, which I called the Will of the Father. The foundation of the church, it was founded upon five particular gifts, and the Holy Spirit outworks, the purposes and the plans and the will of the Father, through the heart of the church. Because we get empowered and we get equip, we get equipped by the church through these five gifts, which are the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastor and the teacher. This is found in Ephesians, chapter 4. Turn with your bible, if you're with me following this. We're going to Ephesians chapter 4, and we're looking at verse 11. And this is what it says 'When the church was founded, verse 11, and He himself gave some to be apostles, gave some to be prophets, gave some to be evangelists, gave some to be pastors, and he gave some to be teachers. And the purpose of this was for the verse 12, for the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of

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Christ.' And so we understand that the outworking of the Holy Spirit, it flows through the foundation of the church, the apostles which govern the prophets, they guide, the evangelists, they gather the pastor, they guard, and the teacher is all about building the grounds, digging up our grounds and teaching us. So that was the foundation of the church. And we need to understand that, you know, the Holy Spirit can talk to us individually. But he can also talk to us through the function of the body of Christ through which they call the five-fold ministry, the apostle, prophet, evangelist pastor, the teacher. And there are three sections or there are three groups, or the three gifts of the Holy Spirit, and they're outworked through our lives. And in Romans chapter 12, we call these gifts, motivational gifts. Let's have a look at Romans, chapter 12. We've just come through the foundation of the church, through the apostle, the prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher. But we also understand that aye, the Holy Spirit empowers not just the five-fold ministry, and those people are leading up front. Everything about God is about the body. And so you're part of the body of Christ, you the ease and the legs in the arms and hey, God works his gifts in his ability. That's why he wants you to recognise and to know the voice of His Spirit. He wants to lead and guide you into everything that His got for you. So we are just going to have a look at what's called the motivational gifts. And they're found in Romans chapter 12, turn there with me if he can. Romans chapter 12, we're talking about understanding the voice of the Spirit, but at this particular time right now we're looking at the foundation of well the voice of the spirit is outworked through the five-fold ministry, but also aye the Voice of the Spirit and recognising Him. He outworks, his voice, his purposes, his plans through you. In Romans chapter 12, the motivational gifts it says, 'In having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them. If prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith, or ministry, let us use it in our ministry. He who teaches, he needs to be teaching. He who exhorts, in exhortation, he who gives to outlive reality.

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He who

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leads with diligence. He shows mercy with cheerfulness. And so he's saying there are these particular motivational gifts that God gives his body his church, one is prophecy, and one is ministry. One is teaching, one is exhortation, a gift of giving. And there's also the gift of leading, and there's also the gift of mercy. So these are the motivational gifts. God outworks them in your life. Hey I don't compare myself with anybody else. Every single one of us are unique, you are different to me, so is the person sitting next to you. And so these gifts are given to us through God and they're outworked through the Holy Spirit in and through our lives. These are some keys to remember don't force the gift. The gift should just flow naturally. If you've got the gift to leading somewhere you just want to be doing it and come so naturally, be faithful. And I know that when I'm a leader I don't want to hurt people. Uh, you know, lead with grace, lead with mercy, lead above all with compassion. Jesus was so compassionate. When he saw the multitude in the crowd, he was moved with compassion. Ask God for a mentor. Ask God to put somebody in your life who is moving in the gifts you know that God has placed in and on your life. And so pray for God to bring a mentor, or somebody into your life that you can talk to about particular desires and dreams and visions that you have about the particular motivational gifts that God's put into your life. So there are three particular sections, like I said before three particular groups of the gifts. One of the revelation gifts. The revelation gifts are; word of wisdom, word of knowledge, and discerning of spirit. The spoken gifts, the spoken gifts are; prophecy, tongues, interpretation of tongues. The third section is gifts of power; the gift of healing, the gift of miracle, and the gift of faith. And so when we're coming to a particular place of understanding the you know, the role of the church in equipping and training us, then we understand aye there's also motivational gifts that God has given us. And then we understand that all these particular gifts, you know, the three particular types of gifts, worked out through revelation gifts, spoken gifts, and the gifts of power. And so in recognising the voice of the Spirit, we ask our self well does God really speak to His people? 1 Corinthians chapter 2, 1 Corinthians chapter 2, verses 9 to 13. 'And it is written, eyes not seen, nor hear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.' So it's by this spirit, that God wants to reveal things to us. He wants to speak to us. And that verse 10 says, 'For the spirit, search is all things. He is the deep things of God, for what men knows the things of a man except the spirit of a man, which is in him, even so no one knows the things of God, except through the Spirit of God. And so there is a defining or a definition, we need to understand I've got a spirit of man, which is the flesh and the carnal nature, my thinking my feelings, and some of us are

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motivated and governed by how we feel. But it goes a little bit deeper than that, here its talking about that we need to understand the things of God through the Spirit. God wants to reveal things to us through His Spirit that we are more than just a natural man, but we are a spiritual man. We all know that at the foundation of the earth when man was created, God breathed His spirit within men and he became a living being. He formed him out of the dust of the earth. But he was not alive until God breathed His spirit. So we actually were created a spiritual being first, then we became a living being. We understand that sometimes we get motivated and directed by the voices of others, by the things that we may feel, the things that we may think, but there are something deeper, and we've got to come to a place of recognising the still small voice. We understand in 1 Kings chapter 19, where we see that particular a scripture that says that there was a small still voice, so there is the voice of the spirit. And sometimes we go looking for the voice of this spirit through others. It's ok to have counselors nothing

wrong with that, but we always have to come back to that place center. Know, hey God, I heard your voice in this. If you make a wrong mistake, hey don't get too stressed, we all make mistakes, we all make the wrong choices. Hey and we all trip up. Don't try and complicate the Voice of the Spirit. You know, there's another scripture that talks about 'He leads us by peace and He leads us by joy,' but sometimes, there's not a lot of joy in maybe what God's asking you to do. You may not feel joyful about it at times. But there is a peace that prevails. When we saying 'God lead me guide me Is this what I need to do? Show me said small still voice. And it's a peaceful voice. And you have this confirmation. I know God, this is you. There's a peace about it. And you sort of know, I know, this is what you want me to do.' 1 Kings chapter 19, verses 11 to 13. And we see here, we see the Scripture. And God said, Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord. And behold, the Lord pass by me in a great in strong wind, tore into the mountains, and broke the rocks in the pieces before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. So sometimes it's not natural circumstances. And here we see Elijah, he's hiding in this cave. And he's looking for direction. In verse 11, one kings 19, verse 11, 'And after the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.' And so there are circumstances and situations that happen in the natural. And sometimes we always think, oh yeah, maybe that's it. Oh, I seen that happen. Or I seen a word I saw a vision or heard, I don't know. We get so confused about the voice of God sometimes. And we get when we trip up, but here we see with Elijah, Verse 12 'And after the earthquake, there was a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire.' So these are just sort of natural circumstances that are Elijah had seen. And after the fire, he said there was a still small voice. So when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle. And he went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him and said, 'What are you doing here?' Elijah, then began a conversation of God and Elijah, you know, and so sometimes it's not the natural circumstances, we can't look to them always. We have to understand that there's a small still voice, because the Bible says the Spirit of God lives

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within us. So many times we're looking to the outward, but God want us to look on the inside, and understand that when we come into a place of quietness, when we position our self to pray and to seek his faith, He will speak to us. He wants to speak to us. The other scriptures that you can find about hearing the voice of the Spirit, recognising God's voices, Psalm 119 verse 105, Psalm 130, Psalm 148, Psalm 162, all about David recognising and hearing the voice of God in his life. In 1 Timothy 3:16 to 17. We know that in the conversion of the apostle Saul, Apostle Paul, converted from the name Soul to Paul, he heard an audible voice. So yes, this is a small still voice. Yes, there's an audible voice. Many people have heard God's voice, and I know I'm one of them. And we see the conversion of Saul in Acts chapter 9, verses 3 to 5. This is when he was in a state of persecuting the church and killing the Christians and he was in a place of outworking his commands from the Roman Empire. And then God just knocks him off his horse one day, on the road to Damascus, he has an encounter and he hears this voice and God led him and guided him, you know, to becoming one of the greatest Founder of the church in that day in an in that era, Apostle Paul. So yes, we have other guides, other guides, which are leaders, sometime God chooses leaders for us. Sometimes he uses our family, sometimes he uses our friends. And sometimes he uses dreams and visions, open visions or dreams while we're sleeping visions while we're awake, we'll talk a little bit more about dreams and visions. But recognising the Voice of the Spirit is all not always put down to the natural circumstances, or what's going on around us. Learn to listen, learn to develop a relationship with the Holy Spirit, that you recognise his voice, you

understand and know that he has the role of leading and guiding us. So there's a practical key for recognising the voice of the Spirit. And one is our need to know his character. God always wants the best for us. The Holy Spirit's function is to comfort leading guide, and he functions out of the nature of God. There are times and seasons, he leads and guides us. We see it Job chapter 22 verses 25 to 28. And we see it in Job chapter 23, verses 8 to 12. Read this scriptures and have some thought and meditation and reflection on these scriptures. Say that again, Job chapter 22, verses 25 to 28. And Job chapter 23, verses 8 to 12. Be patient, don't rush, take time in building your relationship of intimacy with the Holy Spirit. Another great scripture is found in Isaiah chapter 40, verses 28 to 31. I love this scripture because it's got the principal and the key of learning to wait. Sometimes you want to rush off. Look, if you're making major decisions in your life, you need to learn to wait. And you need to have confirmation. Hey, this is God's voice, not my own feelings, not my own thoughts and so read Isaiah chapter 40, verses 28 to 31. And you learn the art of learning to wait, learning to listen, learning to build an intimacy and becoming one with the spirit that I am outworking the will of the Father in my life. Make intentional and time to sit in the word and be prepared with a pen and a devotional and prepare yourself.

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Don't rush into things. Yes, I've got some great friends that I talked to. Yes, God's given me some great mentors. But you weigh up what do you hear by asking God for confirmation from His word or something that He may give you to give you the green light. That you are in the place where he wants you to be. Don't make decisions when there is restlessness. I've seen it people so restless and they got no peace. They just rush into these decisions. They trip up and then they get up and they think oh well I made the wrong choice there. And it's okay to make the wrong choices. There are times and seasons. But the key is to understand that we have to make the choice that is lined up with the will of the Father for our lives. Read Isaiah chapter 55, verse 12. Understand times of crossroads in times and seasons, God has for our lives, the only thing that never changes is him. God's always the same. His character never change. His things are of eternal purpose. And God wants to bring us into the place of understanding that everything we do and where we live is God eternal purpose and it's got destiny. God's plans and purposes that He has for us is not always lined up with our way of thinking and how we're feeling. It's lined up with His word, it's lined up with the things that He has for your life. Look life normal, we live out live, but there are some things where the hand of God wants to live in and live through your life. I'd like you to turn with me to Isaiah chapter 55. It's a really great scripture, you know, and we'll go back to verse 8. 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are my ways your ways my way, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.' Isn't that a great, you know, understand that sometimes you know, God's ways are different to ours, his thoughts are different to us. Don't ever go boy, are you thinking about yourself or how you feel and go to the Word of God. God's word stains forever. And we understand that he wants us to be in a place where there's joy, verse 12, and Isaiah 55. Continue to read that scripture. Then verse 12, it says, 'For you shall go out with joy, and you'll be laid out with peace. The mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. So in hearing and recognising the Voice of the Spirit, hey there is some joy. There is a place of peace in it. Don't rush into things. Learn to wait. Learn to listen. Learn to not go by what you're thinking and how you're feeling. And understand that there's times and seasons in everything. There are crossroad that God brings us into and we have to make a decision. Ask the Holy

Spirit to lead us out into everything that is God for us, which has eternal purpose, eternal destiny. In everything we need to keep our eyes on Jesus. Look, it's okay to look to family to friends and leaders, but always come back to that place of well God you'll piece in which direction you want me to go. Amos chapter 3, verses 7 to 8, keeping your eyes fixed on Jesus. John chapter 4, verse 34. I'd like you to have some activation time, write down some personal testimonies, testimonies about how God led you and now he's guided you to come to a place of understanding and hearing the voice of the Spirit, for direction for guidance and for confirmation. Think about these, write, a couple of personal testimonies. So when we meet in a fortnight's time, on our little activation, chat, Facebook, or Zoom, we'll talk about these things in testimonies that you've got. My final instruction for you is to read these scriptures so that you're becoming one with God, one with the Father and one with Jesus, the son, one with the Holy Spirit.

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You developing a desire to be in the will of the Father for your lives, developing an intimacy with the Holy Spirit, where He's our comforter and He's a guide, and He leads us into everything that He has for us. Read these final scriptures, John chapter 15, verses 4 and verses 7, verses 15 to 16. John chapter 17, verses 20 to 23. May the Lord bless you until we have our next session. Amen.