

Hearing the Voice of the Lord

Papua New Guinea Christian Centre- Port Moresby-22.9.13-ekb

Found in www.pastornotes.com

On one occasion, Jesus and His disciples visited the home of Martha and Mary at Bethany. Luke 10:38- 42.

Martha welcomed them in and set about preparing them a meal.

Mary went and sat at Jesus feet and listened to His Word. V 39.

Martha was distracted with much serving, V 40, and went to Jesus and said to Him, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.”

Jesus replied, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, **but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.**” V 41,42.

Do not let the cares and worries of this life keep you from sitting at Jesus feet and listening to His voice. Psalm 46:10.

One thing is necessary.

Open the Word of God.

Ask the Lord to speak to you.

Read on from where you were last reading.

Listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking into your heart. 1John 2:27, John 14:26, John 16:13.

Jesus said, “The words I speak to you are Spirit and they are Life.” John 6:63.

His words are far more beneficial to us than our concerns and anxieties.

A word from the Lord will break the power of fear and worry, and give us the peace of God and His answer to the problem.

Instead of being under the heel of the devil, we will be filled with praise and rejoicing in God and the devil will be under our feet.

It is the word of the Lord that sets us free. John 8:32, Jeremiah 23:29, Psalm 119:105, 130.

There is a balance between the things that we know we are to do, and the things where we need to hear the Lord’s voice.

In our daily duties at home or in the work place, we already know what the Lord requires of us. Galatians 5:13, Ephesians 4:32.

If we see someone hungry, thirsty, or without clothing, we know what to do. Matthew 25:35, James 2:15-17.

We are to let **the peace of God rule in our hearts** and when an adjustment is to be made this will be clear. Colossians 3:15.

Follow the peace of God **and the still small voice** of the Holy Spirit. 1Kings 19:12.

As we acknowledge the Lord in all our ways, He will direct our paths. Proverbs 3:5,6. Trust in the Lord.

Maintain strong praise and thanks that the Lord is fulfilling His purposes in the area of need. Philippians 4:4-7.

But in our service of God, we do not know what the will of God is and what He would have us to do.

I do not know what to do. “O Lord, show me Your way!” 2Chronicles 20:12.

The way of a man is not in himself, it is not in a man that walks to direct his own steps. Jeremiah 10:23.

A man’s ways come from the Lord, how can he then understand his own way? Proverbs 20:24.

My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways says the Lord. Isaiah 55:8,9.

Listen diligently to Me, and eat that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. Isaiah 55:2.

Read the Word of God daily, listen carefully to the Lord’s voice and note down what He says to you.

My son (My daughter), **attend unto My Words**, incline your ear unto **My sayings**, let them not depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart.

For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. Proverbs 4:20-22, Psalm 1:1-3, Joshua 1:8.

So shall My Word be that goes forth out of My mouth, it shall not return unto Me void (or empty), but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it. Isaiah 55:10,11.

Jesus said, “**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that goes forth from the mouth of God.**” Matthew 4:4, John 14:26, John 16:13, 1John 2:27, James 1:5-8.

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one can pluck them from My Hand. John 10:27,28.

The Words that I speak unto you are Spirit and Life. John 6:63.

The Agent that God uses to bring His purposes to pass is the WORD that HE SPEAKS.

Matthew 4:4, Genesis 1:3, Mark 4:13,14, Hebrews 11:3, Psalm 33:6,9, Luke 1:37 AMP V, Luke 1:45.

On our part, to be able to serve God, it is necessary that we hear God’s voice, believe in our heart what He says, speak out what He is saying to us, and that we step out and do it. Matthew 4:4, John 10:27, Luke 1:45, Mark 11:24, 2Corinthians 4:13, 2Corinthians 5:7, James 1:22, James 2:17,20, Matthew 14:29.

Examples of the importance of hearing the voice of the Lord.

When we were first married, my wife Dorothy had a struggle to believe that she was saved. One day the Lord gave her a Scripture, John 5:24. As she believed this word and confessed it out aloud, faith and assurance came to her of salvation.

Our four children received Jesus as their Saviour at an early age. When they went to school their simple faith was battered by the unbelief of this world. One day I was at my place of work, weeping, because I could see the effect this was having on their relationship with God. In desperation I opened my small zip Bible and my eyes fell on **Isaiah 54:13**, “**All your children shall be taught of the Lord and great shall be the peace of your children.**”

I stopped weeping and started to praise the Lord with all my heart. A short time later, within minutes, I found **Isaiah 49:25** and **Isaiah 44:3,4** too. These last two verses extended the promises of God for the salvation of our children. In time the Holy Spirit gave us other verses to confirm the salvation of our family. As we have believed these promises in our hearts, confessed them aloud to the Lord, and have tried to lead our children in the ways of the Lord, we have seen them grow on in the knowledge of Jesus as their Lord and God.

As a young father I struggled with the sinful bondage of anger. When something happened that I did not feel I could cope with I became angry. One day a person said to me (God speaks to us through people), “That old sinful nature of anger was put to death at the cross with Jesus. Your old sinful nature was crucified to death with Jesus on the cross.” I read and reread Romans 6:3,4,6,11, 14. As I did, the words took on meaning in my heart. I truly believed what the words were saying.

In fact I jumped up and down saying, “I am dead, I am dead!!”

I continued to claim and confess this truth of the Word of God, and the power of anger in me was broken.

In about two weeks, 90% or more, of all anger, was removed from my life.

God’s Word says, “Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law but under grace.” Romans 6:14.

In 1979 I was staying in the city of Whangarei, Northland, New Zealand.

One evening I was out jogging the streets and Jesus started to run alongside me.

He spoke to me and said, “In that day you will ask Me nothing, truly, truly, I say unto you, whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give it unto you. Up till now you have asked nothing in My name: ask and you shall receive, that your joy may be full.” John 16:23,24.

To hear the voice of the Lord on this issue, brings assurance that the Lord hears and answers our cry to Him.

When I shared this event with the Home Cell Group later that night, many could not receive what I shared with them.

I realised that it is often hard for people to believe that God hears and answers our prayer.

But He does. Mark 11:24, Matthew 7:7-9, Luke 11:5-13, 1John 5:14,15.

Finally, by way of example, **I heard the Lord speak to me so that I could receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit.**

Dorothy and I were living in a small country town with our three children, and I met a man that had received the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. I said to him, “What have you got in your Christian life that I have not got?” He replied, “I have received the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.” So I asked him how he received this and he would not tell me. He said, “Just pray and ask God for this blessing.” So I prayed for many days. At night when the others were asleep I would stay up and cry out to the Lord. Seven months after starting to pray, late one night, the Lord gave me a vision of the one word, “**GIFT!**” It was in gold letters. I had not thought this way before. I thought that the Lord would baptize me with the Holy Spirit because I was praying hard, praying often, trying to be more holy, sin less, be a better witness.

From the moment I saw the word **GIFT**, I started to thank the Lord for this gift and declare that I received it in all fullness.

Luke 11:13.

I did this for a week and at the end of the week I could see that I had **a new spontaneous joy in the Lord, I received more from reading God’s Word in one night than from reading it for a month before, my prayer life was alive as never before, I was much bolder to witness for Jesus, and I had a new victory over sin.**

In my thinking, before I received the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, I was like a car without petrol, but afterwards I was like a car with petrol. I had gas in my tank. The power was there.

The difference was amazing!

Later I realised, that the four requirements for receiving the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, are to be born again, to be cleansed for all sin in the blood of Jesus, to surrender everything to the Lord and make Jesus number one, and fourthly to receive this **GIFT** by faith. Luke 11:13, and Luke 11:9 – 12 and verse 13.

Someone said, “Converted, Cleansed, Consecrated and Claim.”