

**Dear Partners,****April 2018**

Last month we talked about the powers of darkness and how we can take authority over them based on the Word of God. What do you do after you have taken authority over the works of the devil in your life and command him to take his hands off of what belongs to you? You continue speaking the Word over your situation until you see your breakthrough! During this time you wait upon the Lord and listen for His instruction for the next move in your life. So this month we want to shift gears a little bit and talk about what it means to hear the voice of God in our life and obey it. What does the Bible have to say about hearing the voice of God? Are all Christians able to hear God speak and receive direction from Him? Are there times when God doesn't speak?

We will attempt to answer all these questions based on the Word of God. We ask that each one of you read this newsletter with an open heart to receive and then go into the Scriptures on your own and study them. Psalm 32:8-9 says, *I [the Lord] will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.*

God's desire is to guide us through this life. He wants to guide us in our big decisions and in our small, everyday ones. He wants to be involved in every detail of our life (Ps. 37:23). God cares so much about guiding us and being involved in our life that He sent the Holy Spirit for that very reason.

Jesus said this about the Holy Spirit, *The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you* (John 14:17). The Holy Spirit dwells within every believer. He isn't reserved for a few, select individuals within the body of Christ; He has been made available to each one of us. The truth is every believer has the ability to hear AND obey the voice of God through the Holy Spirit. The choice of whether or not to *listen* to the voice of the Holy Spirit is up to us. God is always speaking. Are we always listening?

Jesus also said these words in the Gospel of John, *However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come* (16:13). We have been given the greatest gift here on earth to help us in every single decision we have to make. The Holy Spirit is the small voice on the inside of every believer that must be learned. What do we mean by learned? We have to learn how to listen for Him. We have to learn how to ask Him for guidance and how to yield to His instructions. The most important thing we must know about the Holy Spirit is that He will never speak anything that goes against the Word of God. His guidance will always lead us to truth. He will never tell us to lie, cheat, steal, betray, or judge. **His instructions will always be in line with God's Word and for our own benefit.** His words and instructions will always bring life and lead us to paths of righteousness (Ps.23:3).

What are some ways we can recognize the voice of the Holy Spirit? He can speak to us through revelation from the Word of God. In fact, the Word of God is the number one way to hear the voice of God. It is our road map. Everything must be checked through the lens of the Word. Another way we can discern the voice of the Holy Spirit is by checking our *peace* level. If you don't have peace, don't move forward. It's that simple.

That conflicting feeling we get in our gut sometimes is God trying to tell us something. Often times it's telling us to stop and wait on the Lord until we feel peace about the situation or decision. It may be that you have to turn down a job offer that looked great on paper but it wasn't where God wanted you. It may be that you meet a great person and begin making plans to get married only to discover that you have no peace in your heart at all. It may even mean that the house you fell in love with is not the one God had in plan for you. Many times we will not understand the reasons *why* God chooses to guide us in a different direction and many times He does give us an answer. In any case, it is *always* a good plan for our life and *always* for our own good (Jer. 29:11)!

When we go ahead of God and ignore the promptings of the Holy Spirit, we can eventually become callous to hearing His voice and His sweet guidance. We can end up making mistakes that can't be undone or business decisions that cost us a fortune. We can find ourselves in situations that could have easily been avoided if we had just checked with the Holy Spirit first.

Friends and partners, we want you to be guided by the Holy Spirit in your everyday life! Ask Him to reveal to you which ways you have missed the mark on hearing His voice and ask for forgiveness. Was it because there was too much noise surrounding you and the voice of God couldn't be heard? Or is it because you went ahead of God without first checking with Him? It may be that you received an answer in your spirit for a particular situation but you didn't obey it and instead went against it. Whatever the case may be, it is never too late to start asking for, listening to and obeying the voice of the Holy Spirit! Spend some time in the Word of God and pray daily. You will soon discover that the voice of God is nearer than you ever thought. ***My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me (John 10:27).***

UPDATE:

This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of John and Alexandra's escape from the communist regime of Romania! John had the great privilege of visiting Udine, Italy for the first time since his escape. He was amazed at the hunger that people had for the Lord when visiting this area and was able to minister to these precious people all these years later! What a mighty God we serve and what an honor it was for him to go back to this city! John recently returned from an overseas trip to Rome and Bucharest, Romania. Although it was a long trip, it was very successful and many souls gave their hearts to Christ. John saw many people get saved, delivered and healed. We give God the glory for that!

You are part of the harvest that took place on this trip. Your continued support in prayer and financially makes it possible for trips like these to take place. Thank you! We ask that you continue praying for what God has in store for JMM in the near future as we believe God is expanding our territory overseas. We will share news about what God is doing in the expansion of JMM at a later date when the time is right. Thank you for praying for us so we can continue to depopulate hell and populate heaven together!

In Christ,

*John & Alexandra*

\*If you would like us to remove your name from our mailing list, please let us know because every stamp counts!

\*Don't forget to check out our programs on YouTube and stay connected with us on Facebook!