

DEVELOPING OUR SPIRITUAL SENSES

A visual lesson for preparation to being used in the Gifts of Holy Spirit

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In I Samuel chapter 2, we find that Israel had again not honored God. God said "I will raise up a faithful priest, that shall do according to that which is in my heart and in my mind....." God wants a people who walk closely to him. A people who will honor Him with their obedience. A people who know His heart and His mind!

Add a simple stick figure drawing of a boy laying on a bed with a voice cloud over him and the large number "3X"

When Samuel was living and serving in the temple, he was not expecting to hear God's voice. "He did not know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed to him." I Samuel 3:7 After God called Samuel by name three times and he ran to Eli the priest each time to see if he had called him, Eli finally understood that GOD was speaking to Samuel. He told him to say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening". The next time, the Lord came and stood near Samuel and called him by name. When Samuel said "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening" the Lord began to speak to Samuel concerning the judgment coming to Israel. He passed over Eli, the priest, and other leaders and He spoke to a small boy. He found someone who would do what was in God's heart and God's mind!!

Did Samuel recognize God's voice the first time? No. Even the religious leader, Eli, did not expect God to be speaking to the boy. God wants to speak to all of His children, but we must LEARN to recognize His voice. He wants parents and teachers to train the children and youth to listen to and recognize God's voice. He is still searching for a people who will "know His heart and His mind".

What hinders us from recognizing God's voice?

Visual 1 Brain and strongholds

See these places in the brain? These represent "strongholds" in our minds. Many times when God speaks to us, our wrong thinking opposes His voice. We all have certain ways of thinking that we have learned from our family, our church, or our nation. Sometimes, these thoughts are contrary to the Word of God, but we continue to think them because they are "strongholds". They can be thoughts like:

My family is so poor that we are not as good as other people.

My family is so rich that we are better than others.

My church is better than other churches.

My country (or people group) is better than our neighbors.

My country is small and weak that we are inferior to others.

My skin is dark and I am not as good as people with light skin.
My skin is light and I am better than dark skinned people.
I speak English so I am better than those who don't.
I get good grades at school, so I am better than the other students.
I am a quiet person, so I cannot praise God outwardly.
My church does things a certain way and that is what I will always do.
God could never use me. I am not good enough.

These are all samples of wrong thinking. Romans 8:7 says "Our natural mind is an enemy against God". Can you think of an example of wrong thinking? The Bible says that we are to pull down every thought and imagination that exalts itself against obedience to Jesus. It says that, with God's help, we can pull down strongholds!! II Cor. 10:4,5 Every time God's Word contradicts our way of thinking, we must choose to believe God's Word. Then, when God speaks to us, our thoughts will agree with what He is saying!

Visual #2 Heart that is bound

Another hindrance to hearing and obeying God's voice is bondages in our emotions. Sometimes we may even recognize His voice, but we are not FREE to obey because we are "bound" in our emotions. These feelings are often connected to the "strongholds" of wrong thinking.

Examples:

He may want us to witness to a man, but maybe we have been hurt by men. The hurt keeps us from trusting men. We are not free to obey God
Maybe a pastor or leader has hurt us. If God wants to use us to bless them, we may fear rejection. We are not free to obey God.
Perhaps, Holy Spirit speaks to us to give someone a hug and show His love to them. If our parents did not touch us or express physical love, we may not be free to obey God to show affection to others....even to children.

Visual # 3 Heart that is free...with chains broken.

It is important that we forgive those who have hurt us and let God heal our emotions. Then when God speaks we are FREE to obey Him, no matter what it is. II Cor. 1:3,4 says that when we allow God to comfort us in all of our troubles, we can then comfort others who are in any trouble. (read these verses from the Amplified Bible) We must be set FREE ourselves, so we can be used to set others FREE!

Visual #4 Body, Soul, Spirit

Many people try to contact God with their body. They may crawl on their knees for many kilometers. They may beat themselves until the blood comes. But they cannot contact the One, True, Living God with their bodies.

Others try to reach God with their minds. They meditate on certain words or try to leave their minds blank to contact God. They may contact an evil spirit, but they cannot reach the One, True, Living God in that way.

Our God is a Spirit. The ONLY way to reach Him, is with our heart or our spirit. When we are born of His Spirit, our own heart (spirit) is made alive unto God! Now His Spirit can speak to us and we can speak to Him!

Visual #5 Ear (put the visual ear over your physical ear)

How does God speak to us? Through our physical ears? No, not usually. (put the ear over your stomach or innermost being) He speaks to us in our spirit! He speaks by His Spirit. He speaks to our "inner man".

Matthew 4:4 "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God" **God continues to speak to us today!**

John 10:27 "My sheep hear my voice.....and they follow me."

1 Corinthians 2: 9-13 ".....ear has not heard.....the things that God has prepared for those who love Him, but God has revealed them to us by His Spirit.....that we might KNOW those things.....these are the things of which we speak."

We must always walk with an expectancy that He is going to speak to us.

Revelation 2:7 "He that has an ear, let him HEAR what the Spirit is saying to the churches..."

When we hear His voice, we must be willing to obey!!

We must pull down every stronghold that opposes His voice.

We must be free in our emotions to obey Him, but not be led by our emotions.

He will reveal His secrets to us, if we are listening!

Have you ever heard Him speak to you?

(Use a radio with static in between stations.....Ask,) "Can you hear these words? No! You must tune in the program in order to hear clearly. (Turn the dial to bring in the program clearly.) We, too, must practice tuning in to God's voice.

VISUAL #6 EYE

Have you ever seen a TV or internet picture? Can you see the waves in the air that bring the pictures? No, you just see the picture. But there is an antenna or a satellite that catches the waves that make the picture. Holy Spirit shows us things that our natural eyes have not seen. He reveals them to our heart. THEN, we know what it is God is showing us. THEN, we can explain it to others. Just like the TV or Internet must be turned on, before it can receive the pictures, we must put up our "spiritual antennas" by praying in our Holy Spirit language. That helps us to "tune in" to God's world and be ready to "see" pictures from God.

- He can give us a thought that is like a picture.
- He can give us an open vision.....showing us a picture-message that we can see while we are awake!
- He can give us dreams while we are sleeping.
- He can give us a picture of a map to show someone where to go.
- He can give us pictures that show future events.
- He can give us a picture showing a disease He wants to heal.

Have you ever seen a picture from God?

Jesus SAW what the Father wanted Him to do and He did it.

John 5:19 "...The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He SEES the Father do..."

God wants to show US things that He wants to do.

I Corinthians 2: 9-13 ".....eye has not seen.....the things that God has prepared for those who love Him, but God has revealed them to us by His Spirit.....that we might KNOW those things.....these are the things of which we speak."

Visual #7 MOUTH

When we are free from strongholds and emotional bondages, when God wants to use us to speak, we are ready to obey Him and speak!! When God speaks to our spiritual ear or gives a picture to our spiritual eye, He often wants to use us to TELL OTHERS the message. Sometimes, it may be just for us to keep to ourselves, but if He is telling us to tell others, we must obey Him.

1. We simply declare in a voice that can be heard, the message that God is speaking or showing to us. If we need to get permission from an adult, we must not be afraid. We must go to the leader and share that we think God wants us to share something.
2. He may give us a message for one person or the whole group.
3. He may give us a "new song" to sing with a new melody. A song that we have never heard before. A song that He is giving us right then for that group of people.
4. He may use us to give a "victory shout" that will help to bring a spiritual breakthrough for God's will to be done in a meeting.
5. He may use us to speak kind words of comfort to a lonely person.
6. He may use us to give words of praise and thanks to someone who really needs to hear those words.
7. The words He gives us will always agree with the Bible.

Jesus said "the words I speak are spirit and life"

When we speak HIS words, we are speaking words of LIFE.

Visual #8 HANDS

When we are free from strongholds and emotional bondages, when God speaks, we are ready to obey Him and DO what He shows us to do!

He may lead us to wave our arm while we speak.

He may lead us to go and touch someone in His Name.

He may lead us to go and hug someone (of the same sex).

He may lead us to "act out with drama" the picture He is showing us.

He may give us an "object lesson" to do.

He may lead us to raise our hands, clap our hands, or wave our hands in worship.

He may lead us to make a gift and give it with our own hands.

Sometimes, what He shows us may not make sense to our natural mind. Like the time, Jesus spit in the dirt, made mud, and put it on the blind man's eyes! That looked foolish to those watching. But Jesus obeyed the Father.

Once, while ministering in Malaysia many years ago, I was walking and praying or singing in the Spirit while waving my arm back and forth. I did not think about what I was doing. A few years

later, a lady told me that when my arm passed in front of her, she was instantly filled with Holy Spirit! God's ways are much higher than ours.

Another time, I was speaking in a church in India. A lady came to that church for the first time. When I gave her an "American hug", God touched her heart. She needed that expression of His love. She started attending the church and has been attending with her family for nearly 10 years.

We do not know how our obedience can bless someone else. We must listen and obey. We must DO what He says.

Are you willing to use your hands for Jesus?

Visual #8 Feet

When we are free in our thoughts and in our emotions; when we are listening to His voice: we are prepared to GO anywhere He wants us to go and DO anything He wants us to do.

He may lead us to walk up to a new child and give them a message from Him.

He may lead us to walk around our neighborhood quietly praying.

He may lead us to GO to a neighbors' house to talk to them about Jesus.

He may call us to GO on a mission trip. If HE does, He will also speak to our parents and open the door to GO in His timing.

We want to be "in tune" with Jesus. We want to be free to speak, sing, do, or go!!

Jesus, the Head of the Church, wants His Holy Spirit to be able to use each person (young and old) in His Church. Then, He is glorified.

Teacher: Please also read "Training Children in the Supernatural" and "The Gifts of the Spirit" and "Ways God Speaks to Us" These lessons can easily be used in a series to prepare children to be used in the Gifts of Holy Spirit.