

Encounter(ing) God

Holy Spirit Part 4

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Review

Encountering Father, Son, Spirit. No mere head knowledge, personal experience! Encountering the Holy Spirit — He — not it — Person, power, priority, purpose. He is our Advantage!

- **John 16:7**

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

Hearing the Spirit's Voice — He's speaking — you can hear!

- **John 16:13-15**

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 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. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you."

- **guides into truth by speaking** — **John 8:32** know truth, make you free — opposition, past, present, future.
- **tells you things to come** — prepares you for certain future events. How cool!
- **declares what's ours in Christ** — reveals all resources available to us forever, **Ephesians 1:3**.

**No wonder He's our Advantage,
He speaks to us about past, present and future!**

Revelation 2-3, Jesus addresses seven churches; *all seven end with the exact same ending...*

- "He who has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches."
- Spirit speaks what He hears Jesus say.
He takes the general words of Jesus and makes it specific and personal.
He emphasizes it in a way that makes it timely, applicable, and impactful.
He guides us into transformative truth!
- In these seven churches Jesus speaks everything from encouragement and comfort to rebuke and warning. The Spirit will do the same. Don't miss the Spirit's voice because it isn't always fluffy and soft.

**There is no question the Spirit is speaking;
do we have an ear to hear Him?**

Sources of Hearing

Understanding the potential sources of what we're hearing...

- Self — needs, desires, imaginations
- Satan — perversions, accusations; *condemnations that lead to helplessness*
- Spirit — Word, will, ways of God; *convictions of Holy Spirit lead to hope and change*

**We need to be mature enough and discerning enough
to know the difference.**

Sounds of Hearing

What are the different sounds, ways, that the Spirit might speak?

- **Audible** — never for me, but it is possible.
- **King James** — does Holy Spirit speak in KJV? Maybe, if that's the Word you've poured in — that's what Spirit uses. You may hear in the language of the version of the Bible that you have poured into you.
- **Earthshaking** — maybe, **1Kings 19:11-12** wind, quake, fire, and still small voice.
- **Silent sense** — gentle impression, subtle enough to miss it altogether, or even misinterpret it as your own idea
 - **Acts 15:28**
For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things.
 - **Prophecy/Visions/Dreams** (*prophecy = speaking divinely- inspired words*)
 - **Acts 2:17**
AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS, SAYS GOD, THAT I WILL POUR OUT OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH; YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS...
 - **Job 33:14-16**
For God may speak in one way, or in another, yet man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while slumbering on their beds, then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction.

Settings for Hearing

Creating time, place, and space for the Spirit to speak

- **Set an Appointment** — God loves spiritually-prepared atmospheres. **Acts 1-2!**
- **Pray** — **Mark 1:35** Jesus rose early, Lord's prayer, **Psalms 23**, your heart.
- **Read Word** — general helps to hear specific, **Acts 2** "this is that."
- **Worship**
 - **Acts 13:2**
As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

**When we value the Spirit's voice enough to set a time, pray, read, and worship,
He speaks and we'll hear.**

Safety when Hearing

- Does it line up with the Word, will and ways of God?
- Does it resonate in me?
- Does it line up with what God is doing in my life?
- Do those closest to me hear the same thing?
- **Proverbs 11:14**

Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

Close

Friends, there is too much to lose and everything to gain by hearing and obeying what the Spirit is speaking to us. Our own transformation and the transformation of those around us hangs in the balances. Let's make it a priority to listen, hear and obey! Let's experience the Advantage!

Discussion Questions

1. Does the Holy Spirit always speak words of encouragement and comfort?
2. What is the difference between the way Satan condemns, and the Holy Spirit convicts?
3. Have you experienced the Holy Spirit making a gentle impression on you, but enough to know that it was Him and not yourself?
4. How can you create a time, and place, and space for the Spirit to speak?
5. What are some guidelines you can follow to know that you are safely hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit?

NOTES