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Hearing God's Voice #108.mp3

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START OF TRANSCRIPT

**[00:00:05] Jimmy Knott**

Hello, my friend. Welcome again to the podcast. Teaching it transforms with Pastor Jimmy not thank you again so much for for joining me. Today, we're continuing our study in my most recent book, Lord Teach US to Pray, Hope again if you haven't gotten your copy of this. You'll all go to Amazon and you you'll a purchased one. And there's also a digital version available as well. We've been making our way in these podcast through most of the book. Today we come to the chapter, Chapter 9 in a book called Hearing God's Voice. I don't know that I've said this very often and in my years of teaching ministry, but as I have thought about this chapter and thought about this this important subject, it may be for a follower of Christ, the most important subject that we can talk about in terms of our walk and our journey with him. I'm not sure anything could be more important in my relationship with Christ, in my growth in Christ, than to know that I'm hearing God's voice, that he is speaking to me and that I'm hearing what he has to say to me. And I'm willing to follow through on what he says. You say the Bible teaches that prayers, conversation, prayer is communication. It's not a monologue. It's not one sided, just me to God, but it's a dialogue.

**[00:01:30] Jimmy Knott**

It's two sided when I pray. And I'll only talk to God. He wants to talk to me. We must learn to know and listen and obey his voice.

**[00:01:44] Jimmy Knott**

If you were going for counsel or advice in a particular area, maybe it was you wanted to remodel a house or part of a house, or maybe you needed the car repaired or maybe you needed financial wisdom and you went to someone that, as far as you knew, were, you know, top one of the tops in their field and maybe you knew them and and you trusted them and you were asking them what they think you should do about this particular issue. In that conversation.

**[00:02:15] Jimmy Knott**

Who do you think? Needs to do most of the listening. Is it you or the person with the wisdom? Well, I think that's true in our relationship with God.

**[00:02:29] Jimmy Knott**

Certainly God is one of the has the most wisdom. That doesn't mean we won't talk in a conversation. Of course we do. But I know in my own personal journey, I am needing to spend more and more time listening to the Heavenly Father talk to me. There no passage, especially in the Psalms, that talk about the importance of listening and hearing God's voice in Psalm 81, beginning in verse eight, Psalmist writes. Hear, hear. Oh, my people. While I admonish you o Israel, if he would. But listen to me. There should be no strange God among you. You shall not bowed down to a foreign God. I am the Lord, your God who brought you up out of the land of Egypt, opened your mouth wide, and I will fill it. Listen to me. I have your best interest in mind, I redeemed you out of slavery in Egypt and I walked up you to open your heart and your man in your arms so I can fill it. And I'm sorry, don't. But my people did not listen to my voice. Isra would have not had me. So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own councils. Oh, that my people would listen to me. That Israel would walk in my ways. I would soon subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes. Those who hate the Lord would cringe toward him, and their fate would last forever. God promises that he will speak to us and that he will burn, bring protection into our journey.

**[00:03:56] Jimmy Knott**

Listen to these other pastors. Hasam, 85 8. Let me hear what God. The Lord will speak for. He will speak peace to his people, to his sights. But let them not turn back to folly. John 10:27, which is a passage, will come back to in a few minutes. Jesus says, my sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me. The writer of Ecclesiastes, Solomon, writes. Guard your steps when you go to the House of God. To draw near to listen. Is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know what they are doing. Evil. Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God. For God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore, let your words be few. It doesn't mean that we don't talk in the conversation. It just means that we need to listen more. Maybe that's one of the reasons in James, one where James admonishes us to be slow to speak and quick to listen. Maybe that's why God gave us two ears and only one mouth so we would listen more, one more passage. Then this is recorded in the life of Jesus, and a voice came out from the cloud saying, This is my son. This is the father, my chosen one. Listen to him. Listen to him. Were just admonished to pay attention what God has to say. Charles Stanley writes these words.

**[00:05:26] Jimmy Knott**

I believe one of the most valuable lessons we can ever learn is how to listen to God in the midst of our complex and hectic lives. Nothing is more urgent, nothing more necessary, nothing more rewarding than hearing what God has to say. And the Bible is explicit. God speaks to us just as powerfully today as in the days in which the Bible was written. His voice waits to be heard. And having heard it, we are launched into the greatest, most exciting venture we could ever imagine.

**[00:05:58] Jimmy Knott**

So hearing from God, hearing God's voice and our personal journey with him is such an important thing. So in this podcast, I want to look at three things that I think will help us along in that journey. First of all, we need to know how he speaks. We need to know how God speaks in biblical times.

**[00:06:16] Jimmy Knott**

God spoke in a number of ways. He spoken just directly in direct revelation from his spirit, as it were, to man spirits, spoke directly to Adam and Eve and to Noah and directly to Abraham and Moses and so on. So he spoke through direct revelation. He also spoke in dreams and visions to some of those same Old Testament patriarchs. I'm even reminded of Daniel where God spoke directly to him in dreams and vision. He spoke through his word in the giving of the Ten Commandments. Those were his words, his Ten Commandments, and he spoke directly through them many times goes many of OTEZLA books or all about the prophets.

**[00:06:54] Jimmy Knott**

And he spoke through his properties. They were mouthpieces for him. He lied. John, Eli, QSIA, Jeremiah and so on. There are a number of places in the Old Testament where God spoke through circumstances I'm reminded of. Of Gideon as an example. At times he spoke directly through angels in biblical times. He even at times spoke through the person of the Holy Spirit, especially in the New Testament, and probably spoke the loudest in biblical times during the actual incarnation and the person of Jesus Christ, God's full and final revelation to man. So that's how he spoke. During the times, as it were, of the Bible.

**[00:07:33] Jimmy Knott**

But how did they speak? After Bible times? In other words, how does God speak to us today?

**[00:07:40] Jimmy Knott**

Well, he still uses a various means to communicate to us.

**[00:07:43] Jimmy Knott**

He still speaks to us, whose word is written and completed word as we know as the Bible. And we need to learn to hear through our eyes, because when we read the scripture, God is speaking to us. God also speaks to us through others, as he did in Bible times.

**[00:08:01] Jimmy Knott**

It might be a friend or relative or a pastor or some ohmygod still speaks to us. We'll come back to that in just a minute. God certainly speaks to us through that still small voice of the presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit who comes into our lives. We come into a faith relationship with Christ. He still speaks to us and props us. Gives us impressions as well. And he also speaks through circumstances that take place in our lives. That certainly would not be the first place that I would go, but it's certainly one avenue that God uses to in speaking to us after biblical times.

**[00:08:37] Jimmy Knott**

Second thing I want to deal with in this podcast had to do with the fact that. Usually before kids speak to someone or hear someone, they have to have our attention. And that's true with God. God needs our attention in order to speak to us.

**[00:08:54] Jimmy Knott**

There are so many voices crying for our attention, crying for our listening ears. There are so many distractions in our lives, tend to be so busy and God wants to get our attention. Have you ever stopped to think how God wants to get your attention and the way to which God might use to get your attention? Well, let me walk through. I don't have time to fully develop these. But let me walk through there, a number of them and other ways that God uses, I think, to get our attention. So we will hear from him and listen to his voice. And when I finish, I want to share with you the one said, at least God uses most in my life to get my attention. So first, God may use what I call a restless spirit to get our attention. Many times, Caernarvon uneasiness of heart, especially in life, important to changing decisions, a job, a move, getting married, etc. God uses these to speak into our spirit and give us a sense of restlessness. So he will get can get our attention and speak to us next. Sometimes God gets our attention, as I referred to earlier, by speaking to others who could be through a spouse. It could be through a child. It could be through a friend. It could be through a co-worker. It could be through a teacher. A good through through a weekend sermon. I mean, there's so many ways a God can speak to us through others next.

**[00:10:19] Jimmy Knott**

Sometimes God speaks to us when he blesses us in an unusual way. Now, I honestly think that this is probably the most least likely of all the ways that God gets our attention. And I think part of that has to do with the fact that even as believers, we live in a culture that lives with such a great sense of of entitlement that, you know, I have my rights and I deserve this. Santa deserve that. And I think that attitude of entitlement sometimes just blinds us to the tremendous blessings of God that he's trying to use to get our attention to speak to us. Next, we talked about this sinner in a recent podcast about how does God answer prayer. And one of those is no unanswered prayer. And I think that's one way that God uses also to get our attention. Sometimes when God says no and closes the door and leaves our prayers unanswered, it's a way for him to get calls us to want to stop and to examine our lives, who

he can speak to us. Another way God speaks to us is through the different appointments in life. God often uses those to get our attention whenever our world or the world around people that we know in love collapses. We tend to become more sensitive and receptive to the voice of God.

**[00:11:34] Jimmy Knott**

God also speaks to us through what I would call just unusual circumstances and experiences in our lives to get our attention as Christians. And because God is sovereign and I don't believe that to really at any accidents for us, God can provide, as it were, like you did for Moses burning bush experiences to get our attention. If we're looking for him so he can speak to us another way, that God uses another method, God use it to get our attention, frankly, as is failure, often on the heels of tremendous blessings in victory. The Hebrews experienced difficult times of failure. We shouldn't learn to allow our failures to get our attention and to be used as stepping stones to success to allow God to speak to us through them. Next, I think God can speak to us when he drives up our resources, especially financially. He usually can get a listening ear when our resources begin run low or out. Next is tragedy. Sometimes great difficulty, pain and hard a guy can use to get our attention.

**[00:12:43] Jimmy Knott**

He often allows tragedy to strike in our lives in order for us to turn a listening ear to him. When that happens, when tragedy happens, it has an unusual way of causing us to perk up and to listen to God. And then one, find a way God gets our attention or maybe others to the ones that I'm listening is through sickness and affliction. There are a number of times where sickness an affliction God used to get someone's attention in scripture, and he's done that. I know in my own personal life. A number of years ago, I had some serious heart issues and ended up with four emergency bypasses. And I know out of that experience, once I got recovery, it really became a great soul searching time for me to pause and to listen to God speak about what he might have in front of me having are spared my life. So you look at these lovely there, 10 of them.

**[00:13:35] Jimmy Knott**

And I'll tell you, for me, the ones that God uses most in my journey is I look back and especially as I'm attentive now, days is the restless spirit disappointments.

**[00:13:50] Jimmy Knott**

Tragedy, difficulties, tremendous difficulties. And then through sickness and affliction, those are the ones that God has most used in my life. What about you? Which of these methods has God most used? You may have to kind of look back on your journey. You may not have even ever thought about this, that there's been one, two, three ways that God has consistently used to try to get your attention. So he could speak to you and you could hear his voice. Now, the last thing I want to talk about in really the most practical thing is how to recognize God's voice. We know he's trying to get our attention, but I'm afraid all too often, rather than perking up in listening, we may get frustrated, we might doubt, we might miss trust, we might even get angry and Rebello God. And what we should do is listen to his voice. But the very important aspect of hearing God's voice is recognizing his voice. I mean, think with me for a minute. Think about your think about your spouse. Think about a best friend thing about a mom, dad, a grandparent. Think about a co-worker, coal close co-worker that Europe that you have a great relationship with. My guess, if I were to play an audio of their voice, you would immediately recognize, oh, that's my that's my wife. That's my husband.

**[00:15:09] Jimmy Knott**

You would immediately recognize the voice of a good friend. You would immediately recognize the voice of the co-worker. You never stop to think, why is that so? You see, there are two things that are really important to recognize voices. Number one, you have to establish a relationship. Have to establish a relationship with him. And then secondly, you have to repeatedly over time and in establishing and growing that relationship. There has to be repetition of you hearing their voice. And when there's relationship, especially that which is progressing over time and then you're hearing their voice repeatedly. Then you can immediately recognize their voice where without any video at all. And I think this is part of what Jesus was talking about. And John, Chapter 10. Let me read a few verses out of John. Chapter 10. Jesus says to him, To the good shepherd, the gate keeper opens the sheep, hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep bad name and leads them out when he has brought out all of his own. He goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. They hear his voice. They know his voice. A stranger. They will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers. And listen for the downing versus 14 and 15. Jesus said, I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me as the father knows me. And I know the father. I lay down my life with the sheep. And then Danny, verse 27, one of my favorites, my sheep, hear my voice. There's that relationship and I know them and they follow me. There is that promise that God will speak to us.

**[00:16:55] Jimmy Knott**

And there is also the realization that we need to hear and recognize his voice. So are there some clues? I mean, there are so many voices that are speaking into into our ears today and on the Internet, only the paper through friends and family and Amitav, just so many voices that are vying to get our attention. How do we filter through all of those voices and determine and discern and recognize the voice of God? Well, let me close this podcast today by giving you several clues, I guess you could say, or ways that God speaks to us.

**[00:17:32] Jimmy Knott**

And the first one, and I think it's the most important one, is that we can recognize God's voice calls. When God speaks. It will always be consistent with the written and completed word of God. God will never, ever lead us to say or to do anything that goes against the teachings and principles of his word.

**[00:17:52] Jimmy Knott**

Now, in order to recognize that, then we have to have a pretty good working knowledge of what the Bible says. And I know

sometimes that's just not practical for a for a new or a newer believer in Christ. So it's important to have men and women in your life that at least you feel like have a pretty good working knowledge of scripture, that you can go to them and ask them about about an issue or situation and what the Bible teaches or says about it. And then you can discern God's voice from there. So this is probably the most important way to recognize God's voice. It will always be consistent with and not contrary to his word. A second way to recognize his voice is that it often conflicts with our own human wisdom.

**[00:18:38] Jimmy Knott**

It's not a surprise, or at least you should be, that God's will. God's voice often opposes what we want to do.

**[00:18:46] Jimmy Knott**

Sometimes what we think we should do is not what God wants us to do. Sometimes when God's voice speaks to us, we want to say that that doesn't make any sense, but only because it's contrary to our own human wisdom. So one of the real good clues and filters is that when God is speaking, it may go against what our own human rationale and wisdom seems to say.

**[00:19:15] Jimmy Knott**

Next, we can recognize God's voice because it will often clash with our own selfish desires. The voice of God will never lead us to say or do anything that would fulfill our fleshly, fallen, sinful desires. He's going to always move us to walk in the power of the spirit. I mean, here's a really good rule of thumb.

**[00:19:32] Jimmy Knott**

Never do as you please. But only as he pleases you to. Another way to recognize God's voice is that his when he speaks, it will usually challenge my faith. You see, sight is so different. He didn't want to challenge my faith. He wants to destroy my faith. God wants to develop and to grow my faith. The voice of God will always challenge my fate to grow and mature. And then he will also go on and empower me to do whatever he is he's telling me to do. Another filter or another clue is that when God speaks, it will create courage in my life, or at least will require courage and commitment at times to follow his voice. Satan. On the contrary, he's so deceptive. He makes life look so easy and so enjoyable. But when God speaks, it will often require great courage for us to obey. Next, when God speaks, it will caution me to think of how others will be affected. God is always concerned about others. He would never have me affect others harmfully. He would never encourage me to exercise, as it were, my rights. His voice. He's always marked by love. Next, his voice will cause me to be patient. Not every time, but over and over. The Bible tells us to wait upon the Lord. But again, Satan and the world in which we live is never been more of an instant society. Satan is always pushing us to hurry up, hurry up, hurry up. But the voice of God tenderly says, I'm in control. So be patient. Next, the voice of God can be discerned in a sense of considering future consequences. God voices concern not just for the present, but it is, but also for the future. For the then for the what's OUTFRONT. He would never speak to me to sacrifice the eternal on the altar of the temporal Satan. He says go for it right now. God's voice always is leading us to prepare for tomorrow. Next, God's voice will bring calm or peace to your SO. It may not be there immediately, but eventually it will come and remain. His voice will give us peace.

**[00:21:43] Jimmy Knott**

Even the misuse of the most difficult understand of circumstances in life and his peace will pass all human understanding.

**[00:21:51] Jimmy Knott**

And then finally. God speaks when he does, it will deepen our commitment to obey the lordship of Christ, the voice of God speaks so we can know him better, love him more and follow him more completely. When God speaks, the end result is always he wants to make us more like Jesus. So these are just some filters. Certainly the first one the written completed word of God is is the best filtered. Recognize his voice. But all of these others can come to play. They don't all have to line up every time, but usually two or three will. So you can discern that that the voice of God is the one who is speaking to you. Here's what I want to close with Shana, giving you a word of caution and reminding me of the same. Whenever we fail to listen and obediently respond to the voice of God, it's likely that it becomes harder to hear it in the future. I tell you, that really scares me to death because I want to hear from God as a follower of Christ. And I'm sure you do as well. So there are many voices, aren't there? And there are many distractions vying to get our attention. Never has our world been noisier. We must learn to hear his voice above all other voices, because he does, he'll speak.

**[00:23:08] Jimmy Knott**

The issue is, are we listening?

**[00:23:10] Jimmy Knott**

Can you imagine what could happen if even a small portion of us started hearing from God and obeying? How might that affect our individual lives, our family's lives, the lives of others, and the lives of those in the world in which God allows us to touch?

**[00:23:28] Jimmy Knott**

So let's work hard at becoming better listeners and hearing God's voice. Thank you for listening to truth that transforms. Remember, it only transforms us when we applied. Blessings from Pastor Jimmy.

**[00:23:46] Jimmy Knott**

See you next time.

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