

The background features large, semi-transparent letters 'ANBI' in a light gray color. Overlaid on these letters is a dark, almost black, abstract shape that resembles a stylized flower or a cluster of leaves. The shape has a white outline and a subtle gradient, giving it a three-dimensional appearance. The text 'Listening to the Voice of God' is centered within this dark shape in a white, serif font.

Listening to
the Voice of God

All
Nations
Bible
Institute

Listening to the Voice of God

2009년 5월 7일 초판 발행
2010년 7월 12일 3판 발행

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Listening to the Voice of God 1

Today, I am going to share my experience of fellowship with God for the last 20 years entitled “Listening to the Voice of God.” This is a challenge for me because this topic is subjective and I need to deliver this objectively.

The conclusion I have arrived at after 20 years of communicating with God is that I have trained my spirit to live in focusing on God and communicate with Him. How beautiful is a spirit that speaks exclusively with God! That’s the reason David can hold such communication with God. The first part of this seven part series is important. Once you get this today you will get the rest of the series as well.

The major topic of this series is the focus on God. If you haven’t been focusing on God and try to listen to His voice every moment in your life now, you will lose more than 20 pounds. It is not difficult for those who are used to listening to God’s voice and in the rest stage, and to whom the living with God has become light. However, those who have been living by their own thoughts and ways all of sudden ask “Who should I send? How do I do this? Why? God, how should I do this?”, then they will lose lots of weight waiting on God’s voice. That’s how much we have been operating in our own ways, plans, goals, and experience, and what we have instead of hearing God’s instructions on daily basis. You are responsible for your life as much as you make it yourself and by your own ways. God takes responsibility when He directs your life.

If I tell my son, who is sitting here, to take care of his own needs by getting a job or whatever, he can’t do it. It is best to receive these things from parents. The best life is receiving the provisions from the Creator. The reason we are blown away whether in ministry or in personal life is because we try to do things on our own with the limited resources we have. When we say, “God, I don’t know what to do. Please tell me. What should I do? Please speak to me.”, then there is no life easier than this. We say God is the Creator, but in reality He is a non-factor in our lives. Why? We call Him God, but we don’t rely on Him at all. If we believe Him as the Creator God and He is omnipotent, then we can’t rely on anything/ anyone else. We would be too scared not to.

Let’s suppose someone gave my youngest son, who is three years old, a bag of chips. If someone like his older sister tries to take it away from him, he will defend it with his life. He will cry trying to defend it at all cost. If you offer him a \$100 bill in exchange for the bag of chip, he will not trade it. That’s because he doesn’t know the value/power of \$100. However, my teenage son would not waste a second to take that trade because he knows the value/power of \$100.

We still live with our ways, plans and will and what we have because we are ignorant. If we truly comprehend that God is Almighty, we can’t do anything but to rely on

Him. So what does the Creator God say? Ask for anything, you shall receive! This promise is possible by only the Creator. No human being can make that promise. The response to a prayer is principally 100%. Why? Because it is the promise of the Creator. However, we don't rely on Him and still live by our own ways, plans, goals, strength and will. That's because we don't believe that He is an omniscient God. Because we don't know. Listening to the voice of God is the same. If God is a truly omniscient and omnipotent God, then we can't do anything but to rely on Him. Knowing the value of \$100, we lay things down to get hold of it; it is unthinkable to live by my ways if He is the omniscient and omnipotent God. It calls for deep repentance.

The glorious life of Adam in the Garden of Eden is beyond our imagination. The life of Adam in the Garden was a combination of the best things in your life and multiplication of them limitlessly. Where did such a glorious life come from? God told him to eat the fruit of tree of life, but not the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Every time Adam looked on the tree of knowledge of good and evil, he realized that there is none but God. That's the life Adam lived and God blessed him. God hadn't told Adam anything else in the Garden of Eden beside this, "Only rely on Me." And Adam lived a glorious life. Not that Adam gave self-effort or worked for it. He enjoyed everything God had given him. This is not a fairy tale in the Garden of Eden, but our life should be the same here on earth.

Please listen well. In reality, the listening to the voice of God is a matter of simple arithmetic. I spent seven years in fellowship with God and only after I was able to live with Him exclusively did I realized this is how I can have fellowship with God. This is what you are committing to as you listen to this message. Examine yourself! The most important point in this first sermon is to focus on God. There is no other way to get close to God's glory. It is natural to be full of this world when you care much for the world and communicate with it so much.

When you watch a sitcom on TV, do you fast for four days to watch it? Does anyone fast for four days to lie? Raise up your hand if you do. Nobody does that. You just watch TV without fasting. Whoever lies just lies without fasting at all. That's how much you have developed a habit. A habit! A well trained habit! That's the reason you watch it so easily. Because one has embodied the habit of lying, evil comes out of accumulated evil. Good comes out of accumulated good as well.

It is easy for us to live with God. Ministry is so easy. This may sound like a lie to you. Of course the body gets tired, but that's not what we are talking about. You may worry whether things will occur or not, but the prayer becomes easy, forgiveness becomes easy and everything just becomes easy. Why? Because you make a habit of living with

God. Listening to the voice of God is the same. Now, listening to the voice of God should become easy for you. It doesn't take 3 nights and 4 days of fasting to listen to God or know His will. You don't have to make a long commitment to pray for the will of God to be revealed to you. You don't need to see an Abbot of a Prayer Mountain. He/she will tell you to fast for 20 days, but you don't need that. You instantaneously know the will of God. Of course, there is some will of God that He hasn't revealed yet. We don't need to "repent until the problem is resolved." Nor do we need to fast for an extended period of time to know the will of God. Where do we see those in the Bible? We don't.

In summary, examine yourself! First, you want to have ears to hear. Second, make a pure spirit. These two things are two ways to examine oneself!

1) Develop an ear to hear

It is natural to listen to the voice of God. If I speak to a pastor in the back without using the microphone, he can still hear me. Although the distance is far, he can still hear me. How much more can I hear the Spirit who is inside of me? It is natural once we begin faith life and the Holy Spirit indwells. I asked this earlier, "how come we can't hear?" That's because we listen to so many voices like the noises of the evil spirit and sounds of the world.

For example, here is a baby boy that's just born. If ten men tell this baby boy that they are the father since his birth, by the time he reaches the age ten he will go crazy. Once the baby is born he listens to the voice of the father and grows up listening to him. So, there is no confusion or any doubt at all about who his father is. When the father says, "Son," then he knows immediately that's his father because the son recognizes his father's voice. It's the same with God. Once the Holy Spirit starts to dwell in you and you haven't stopped listening to His voice, there shouldn't be any difficulty identifying and listening to Him now. If you have stopped listening to or lost His voice, then it takes a determination to give your ear to nothing else but to His voice.

I haven't lost hearing the voice of God since 20 years ago. Someone asked me a question, "Pastor, how do you know what you're listening to is God's voice or not?" That's a sharp question. His question is like this. Suppose there is this will of God. Do we know for sure when we ask God a thousand times and God answers "yes" a thousand times? No. We know immediately that's the will of God. Why? Like I said earlier that when my son hears my voice, he knows immediately that's my voice. Likewise I know immediately when He speaks to me since the first day He spoke to me 20 years ago. That's what it means for those who desire to renew or begin to listen to the voice of God today. It is holding onto

His voice and never letting it go or stop listening to Him. Today readjust your spirit that has been beguiled by the noises of the devil and sounds of the world to the voice of God and never lose it again!

What happens when you don't hear His voice today but hear Him again tomorrow? Our knowledge has a weak oblivion and thus remembers things for a long time once it acknowledges them. However, our spirit is oblivious that we serve God as Father who is our best, but once it acknowledges the value of other things, it has a strong tendency to forget Him. Therefore, God who is the Spirit does not remember our sins once we repent of them. The reason that we don't forget bitter fights and subsequent hurts that took place 10 or 20 years ago is because we don't live by spirit but by head. Those that live by spirit don't receive hurt from others and if they do get hurt, through their repentance God heals them. And there goes the hurt. The bad memory of hurt immediately disappears. If you live by spirit and do a good deed, you don't remember it either. You rather ask God, "Did I do that?" However, those that don't live by spirit, will continue to bring up a good deed they did 30 or 50 years ago. They say, "God, I gave a huge sum of offering 50 years ago." They bring it up over and over again. Those that live by spirit don't remember their good deeds. That's the characteristic of living by spirit. They go together. If our spirit acknowledges something else as God like money, then we treat money like God in our lives. We have acknowledged God as God in our lives, but then our spirit acknowledge the value of money and replace God.

That's where the danger lies. Today you acknowledge/recognize the voice of God in this conference, but when it is over and return home you acknowledge something else, and then you will be confused again. That's our problem. It drains my energy when someone goes back to it once the conference is over. That's why we have to continue to walk with God like Enoch who walked with God and had sons and daughters. That means although Enoch was living in the world he walked with God. We are living on this earth, but we are not influenced by this world. We are influenced by God. There is nothing more important and basic than listening to the voice of God. You were listening to God's voice ever since you were born again just like a newborn baby listens to the voice of his parents. We should be listening to the voice of God, but because we are fooled by others who claim they are our father, we can't hear the voice of God.

So, in today's text it says that the lamb hears the voice of the shepherd. If a lamb listens to the voice of the hired hand, then it's over for the lamb. If a lamb mistakes the hired hand as a shepherd, then it will listen to him, but the lamb should listen to the voice of the shepherd. In order to listen to the voice of the shepherd, a lamb should not listen

to any other voice. When a shepherd calls for the lambs, they come to him, but they won't come to the hired hand when he calls for them. However, if a hired hand plays on the mind of a lamb, then it is confused: therefore, it listens to the hired hand sometimes and listens to the shepherd other times. A lamb is supposed to listen to the shepherd's voice. We don't have a choice but to listen to the voice of shepherd. This is the alpha and omega of faith life. That's how much listening to the voice of God is important. Some people have been fooled by other voices and because of them many people show an allergic reaction when we bring up "listening to the voice of God."

Many people reject the idea of listening to the voice of God for several reasons such as a false theology and others accuse those who hear God as heresy. Some may say, "Pastor, we have Bible, so we don't need to listen to the voice of God." That's a plausible reason and some think that's true. Some even go further and they are willing to die for it. "We don't need to listen to God's voice because we have Bible." Let's me ask you a question. Is the author more important than the book? Or is the book more important? The author is more important, obviously. The bible is important to us but what's the significance of the bible itself without the author, the Holy Spirit? There is a reason the word of God is rendered powerless in today's churches. The bible was not just recorded 2,000 years ago, it is also being recorded for us today. This is scary! Frankly, the reason the bible is powerless is because it exists only as Logos. However, the bible speaks to us every moment with regard to the circumstance that we are in, to the people that are involved, and to the particular time. The word is a powerful Rhema.

A long time ago British missionaries went to Nepal to minister and it so happened that a flood swept them away and they were all drowned. When the water level started to rise because of the flood, the leader said that like Peter, let's walk on the water! So, they all tried to walk on water and they all drowned to death. What went wrong? That word was spoken to Peter not to them. If that was spoken to them, they would have all walked on water.

One grandmother named Choi Kwansa from Mokpo was brought to the Onsan Conference and she was as dead as a corpse. She couldn't drink anything at all and her pupils were dilated. On the first day of the conference, I announced to bring a fresh corpse that does not smell. On the last day of the conference she was carried in a stretcher. As soon as I saw her coming in on a stretcher I realized that someone was trying to give me a hard time. God spoke to me, "Don't worry. Just lay your hand on her." She was revived. She regained her health so full of vigor that I felt pretty bad for her daughter-in-law. On another occasion, God also brought back a man who tried to commit suicide by swallowing

concentrated weed killer.

Whatever God speaks, it is done. We need to clarify whether God is speaking to us in a fresh way or if it was something that was spoken to the people in Bible 2,000 years ago. The recipients of the Bible were other people at that time. In order for the word of God to be the truth, there must a grace that surpasses the time. That can happen when the author of the Bible, the Holy Spirit, redefines it. The reason revelation is esteemed in the epistles is that the living word speaks not only to Paul, but also to the communities in this age and generation. The wrestling with what was said a long time ago while excluding the author only increases headache. That's a blind spot of theology. When it comes to theology, many of us get swept up by theories and knowledge.

Listening to the voice of God hinges on one thing: don't do anything apart from the Holy Spirit. Why do we see great miracles in Zoe Ministry Network? There are several reasons, but we acknowledge only what God says. We won't budge when the world speaks to us or by things apart from God. Even if people bring gifts to us we won't do anything unless God speaks to us. Please remember that listening to the voice of God is necessary for you. It is not just listening once but listening to God who speaks today. We can't read the Bible apart from its author who is the Holy Spirit. Look at hermeneutics! It is important to us but God's revelation is dying out because we lack the hermeneutic of the Holy Spirit. Again and again we want the Spirit to guide us. That's the reason we want to listen to His voice.

There are two ways to listen to God's voice. In terms of methodology, one way is to audibly hear God's voice. However, that's almost unnecessary in this age of the presence of indwelling Spirit. Samuel heard God's voice audibly and we see some people like that. In the time of indwelling of the Spirit in the Bible which is the NT era, we don't see anyone hearing God's voice audibly. If someone hears the voice of God audibly, then there can be two reasons. First, it is "if you continue to live like that, you will die." Second, if God has a cataclysmic mission to entrust to someone in this end time, then He may speak so he/she will hear audibly. But I don't want to put too much emphasis on that because whether God speaks audibly or through the second way that I will cover right after this, I have no doubt that's the voice of God. I am willing to place my life on the line for it. That's how we have come so far and this isn't really a time to hear God audibly.

The second way to listen to the voice of God is listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Like in 1 Corinthians 2:10, God reveals through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. Holy Spirit knows all about me and He communicates between me and God. When we catch the signs God sends through the Holy Spirit, we call

that the voice of God. I use this word resonance. Sometime ago the telegraph was widely used in the military. The other party sends a telegraph “tho tho tho tho,” and I catch it and interpret “God loves me.” That’s how we catch the voice of God.

When it comes to the voice of God, we can’t say that God speaks more or less to different people. Some people understand when I preach because they have a depth of faith so they get the meaning of it; however, the kids playing in the back can’t hear me at all because they are busy playing with each other. If I say, “I will give you a hot dog,” then they hear the word “hot dog.” That’s it. They don’t hear more than that. Catching the signs of God depends on the depth of the faith, the depth of the knowledge of God, and depth of the fellowship with Him. God speaks, “Do not fear! I will be with you and I will hold you with my righteous hand” and that’s all you hear because you despair and are frustrated. It is fortunate if you can even hear that. God speaks, “I love you” all the time because you say that God doesn’t love you. In our church, our depth of listening to the voice of God is hearing what God is doing in the world.

So, I would like you to know listening to the voice of God is catching resonance. How do we catch the voice of the Holy Spirit on daily basis? That depends on how clearly and precisely my spirit can catch His voice. We don’t need to concern ourselves with listening audibly at this time. The focus now shifts to removal of hindrances to listening to His voice. As much as we remove those hindrances we hear the voice of God more and more.

I say this sometimes that the voice of God falls like a waterfall. I can’t even write it all down because the voice of God literally falls on me like the magnitude of the waterfall. That’s what David says in Psalms that the voice of the Lord comes like a waterfall. When I read that in Psalms, I go, “Aha, that’s what he is talking about!” I can’t write it all down because the Lord’s voice comes like a waterfall. I continue to catch it.

First, develop an ear that can hear.

How? By examining yourself! I have heard of a guy in Florida State University. One day he was passing through a little forest in front of his friend’s house and he stopped walking and started to listen to something. Later, he said that there were 18 species of crickets in the forest. Who cares whether there is 18 species or 200 species of crickets in the forest! In the field of insects, there are about 200 species of crickets in the world and this young man can tell the differences of the sounds they make. For ordinary folks, they are all the same.

That’s the reason Bible says, “Whoever has an ear, let him hear!” Have an ear that can hear and use that ear in the matters of hearing. I will say this again but when we have

faith, believe that God has given you an ear to hear His voice. When God dwells within you through His Holy Spirit, know that you have an ear that can hear His voice. When a baby is born, she can almost immediately hear to the voice of parents. She can hear her mom's voice. Whenever the door is shut with the sound, babies are startled, aren't they? What's the problem with them? They hear the sounds, but they don't have the knowledge to comprehend them. They respond to "it is milk time" not because they know what that means, but because that's the voice of mom. God has given us the ear to hear Him. We are supposed to use our ears to hear Him, but we use them for other purposes. Our ears discern all the sounds in the world although God has given them to hear Him solely. We are exposed to the noise of the devil and the sound of the world, so we forget the voice of the Holy Spirit. In short, we want to open up our ears to hear and they must be used to listen to the voice of God. Furthermore, ears must acknowledge that their job is listening to God's voice more than anything else.

How did the young man from Florida learn to hear the sounds of crickets? He didn't start just hearing them one day all of sudden. One day he noticed the subtle chirp of cricket and it went on from there. He began to study cricket and went all the way to writing a dissertation for his Ph.D. Like he started to focus on crickets out of necessity later on, we want to hear the voice of God. You must come to a conclusion that you have to listen to His voice, and then you can hear Him. Once you acknowledge the need to listen to His voice, even if you don't hear Him, He is speaking to you. You are just like a baby that you hear Him, but can't catch His voice.

Of course those who do not have the confirmation of salvation can't hear the voice of the Holy Spirit, because He is not dwelling in them. Beside them you are here because you long for God. It is so natural to hear the voice of the indwelling Spirit of the Creator God. The reason you can't hear His voice is again like the baby. You hear His voice, but just can't understand it. So you can't acknowledge His voice. The topic of this message is not to help you do something you couldn't do before, but to help you develop the skill already given you by God.

In order to develop a hearing ear you have to choose to put your heart on God in all circumstances, intentionally. The focus on God is very important. I said "willfully and intentionally." Why did I say that? Because it is so natural to hear the voice of God, but we are so much into the world spiritually that it is impossible to hear God under those circumstance, naturally. We need some time to focus on God, consistently training our heart. I will speak of this later, but we need to change our structure of mind and spiritual system to be able to hear God's voice. The system that's capable of living with God!

Let's take a look at a computer. We can't just plug it up and start using it right away. It needs to be formatted before we can use it. Likewise unless we "format"/change our structure of mind and spiritual system to listen to God's voice, it won't work even if we hear Him. We must focus on Him and train for the structure of mind and spiritual system.

An individual's level of fellowship with God has a close tie with the anointing on his/her church. In the church that doesn't preach the truth to conform to the truth system, he/she can't hear His voice. He may hear scarcely. However, the truth system must be built up and in order to build it up, the anointing on the church must be full. Not only do we need anointing on the church, but also the full fire to keep its spiritual condition clean and pure from the devil's corruption.

Let's return to the Bible and see why the early church was so powerful. There can be several reasons, but the prominent reason for that was the atmosphere which allowed the Christians to clearly hear the voice of God. The atmosphere was to a point where they were willing to lay down their lives. That was possible because the truth was proclaimed. No Christian will die for non-truth.

For example, this is not possible but let's suppose that I don't know anything about Bible, don't have the truth in me, but I am powerful enough to bring back the dead. Do you think Christians will trust me and follow me? Yes, they will for a while. They may even say at the beginning, "Pastor Kim is so powerful. He even resurrected the dead!" They will follow me, but for how long? One year? Two years? How about three years? Do you think they will be willing to die for the truth? Absolutely not! The only way a Christian can lay down his life through the church is for the truth. So, where did the maturity of early Christians come from? It came from the maturity of the church. They didn't diminish the anointing of God and the power of the fire on the church. The Holy Spirit came upon Mark's attic like a tongue of fire and the church was established full of fire. The church proclaimed the truth and the believers were willing to die for it. That's the reason they became such a powerful church. Focus on God as to listen to His voice intentionally and train your structure of mind and spiritual system through the church.

When you focus on your training and on God, you will be able to reach the level of David in about a year given that the Holy Spirit is indwelling and changing your structure of mind and spiritual system capable of hearing the voice of God. Good training from the church and the clean flow of the church make that possible. Again you need to focus on God intentionally and train your heart with the truth and the anointing of church. It takes your spirit to consistently respond to the training of God particularly with your prayer life and the eating of God's word. You don't want to pray for a little bit and pause, but pray-

ing for hours on a daily basis withdrawing from all the distractions and focusing on God intentionally. Listen to the word of God and the truth system and think about how to apply the word of God in your life. You need that time continuously. I am not talking about a onetime deal. Let the truth change and correct your false system and allow your heart to be cleansed by your daily prayer. Then you can hear God's voice.

Now, you can expand that to the edge of the boundaries of your life. You heard the voice of God only when you were reading the Bible and/or praying, but now you can hear Him in every moment of your life like in your conversation with children or in fellowship with others. I hear God's voice in my preaching and contemplate whether I should use such and such illustration or not. I use it when God acknowledges it and other times I don't. Listening to His voice expands to all the areas of your life. Where does this begin? It begins with making up your mind to hear God's voice by focusing on Him. Next, forge the structure of mind and spiritual system to hear His voice. Keep that up in your life as you focus on Him, then you will hear His voice. Continue to discipline your life to obedience in your life with our slogan in mind, "Eat the word, repent, obey, and fall down." That's what we need to do to have the ear to hear.

Second, do not rely on the substitute for listening to God's voice.

We don't want to rely on a substitute for listening to God's voice. Like I said earlier we have many spiritual young people in the church that can't catch the signals from the Holy Spirit. So, we have few spiritually mature people in the church. They are still in diapers after like 10 years of faith or even 20.

What are these substitutes? For example, good Christian books, Christian TV, sermon tapes, online ministries, and conferences are flooding everywhere. They are great in and of themselves. I have addressed at the beginning of this message that in this conference you are not going to make something as I speak on this topic. Rather, you need to take home whatever God inspires you through the messages and spend time and give effort with passion to make it yours. Some people think they can make something by attending one conference or reading a book makes them someone else. I have seen someone who devoted to the reading of books and thought he was spiritual only to find himself devil possessed later on. Furthermore, some people think that the reading of books is their skill or level and some also make a mistake of combining extracted pieces of information together for a message instead of listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Such churches are making a mistake. Their desire for instant food becomes the biggest obstacle to listen to the voice of God.

The Israelites spoke to Moses to listen to the voice of God on their behalf. Books and other things are clearly beneficial to us and spiritually as well, but they become such a poison when we don't make them our own. Attending conferences like this many times for a sporadic inspiration will turn out to be a poison. We make a mistake of thinking that a sporadic inspiration is all good for faith life, but it should not become a major factor.

You can't do much with an occasional inspiration. It rather makes you mistaken. It deludes you to think that you are a faithful man before God like "I am so and so." It deludes you and it is quite dangerous when you become content with these substitutes by themselves. That will make your faith life miserable when Satan seizes them because he will delude you.

The reason these substitutes serve as a poison is that they themselves do not lead you to make a commitment. They will only lead you to a point where you say, "It is not bad. They are all about the same." However, the listening of the voice of God requires all of us to clearly make a decision either to obey or not. Only then they become yours. In my wrestling with the Bible I vomited filth and unclean things of my spirit and false structures in me by examining my spiritual problems for seven years. You also need such time to extract things that God does not desire to see in you if you want to build the right relationship with God. Of course if you have not been corrupted ever since you were born and have been living with God, then you don't need such time. However, most people can't clearly catch the voice of God in their current spiritual condition filled with corruption, the non-truth, and faith-life in a wrong church. It becomes a poison when you hear the voice of someone else through a substitute and consider that as your skill. If you heard the truth from someone or something and were influenced by it, then you really need time to make it your own.

Third, God makes preparation so we can hear His voice.

Suppose I am a Korean but born in an American family, then I must learn English out of necessity. In order to live in an American family, as a member of the family, I should learn English. Do you believe you have become a citizen of heaven? If you do, it is necessary to communicate with God. In order to communicate with Him, we should learn the language of His Kingdom. We should listen to His voice. We are to believe that God prearranged for us to listen to His voice. God gave us every power to live as a family member of God ever since the time of indwelling Spirit. This includes the power to hear the voice of God, so that we can live as a member of His Kingdom. This is not bringing forth what was not there before. We are lifting up what we have had already. God gave us many powers through indwelling and the ability to hear His voice is one of them. So, we have the saying, "Those who have the ear, let him hear!"

In human physiology we have a structure in our brain that guides us to focus on what is important and loosen up on what is not so important. We call that Reticular Activating System (RAS). We have a system within us that narrows down what is important and lets go of other things. The spiritual system works in the same way. For example, a dog sleeps so well in the shop of blacksmith with all the clanking noise of metals. However, when his owner drops the bowl full of food for his meal, he hears and recognizes that metal sound and wakes up. To our ears the clanking sound of beating down on the metal and the dropping sound of the metal bowl is the same, but for that dog he gets right up when the metal bowl hits the bottom. Why? Because the dog cares for the sound of his bowl!

We should be focusing on the voice of God actively but we are rather focusing on things that we are supposed to reject. It becomes so natural when we respond only to the truth and personally respond to the word of God. However, we focus on the things that we are supposed to reject, so hence, we respond to unnecessary things. I mentioned RAS and the listening to the voice of the Lord is the same. We have RAS in our body and it is the same in the spiritual world. Our concern should rely on listening to the voice of God all the time. If we don't, we listen to other value systems. Instead of listening to God's voice we get confused by other noises and sounds. So in our fellowship with God, we should train ourselves to respond only to God actively. This is the "Alpha and Omega" of listening to the voice of God. Unless we focus on His voice after catching His voice, we will be deceived again. The sound of the world will bring confusion. Exercise the Reticular Activating System to your advantage.

I hope you realize that listening to the voice of God should be your highest priority. If you are not serious about this, you won't hear His voice. It takes the mental attitude, "there is nothing more important than hearing God's voice," until you hear it. For example, when I first started listening to His voice, I asked Him, "When do you want me to sleep? What should I eat? Where should I go?" For the ladies, ask God, "When do you want me to get a haircut and how short? Do I buy a short skirt? Or a long skirt?" It may sound funny, but that's how much I concentrated. Whenever God prompted me to pray, I went to pray whether it was one o'clock in the morning or two. Listening to the voice of God should be our highest priority.

When you concentrate on the voice of God like that, your hardened and corrupted system will start loosening up from the sound of world and noise of evil spirits. Pollution within you will start to ooze out of you. Your structure of mind and spiritual system will lead you to hear only the voice of God and you will no longer look to non-truth which is

not meaningful in life. You will no longer be concerned over the things that have nothing to do with God including having billions of dollars. Being rich and famous does not concern us anymore. That's the reason apostle Paul said that popularity or non popularity or good things don't matter to him. He could abide in riches and also in poverty. He demonstrated that anyone can live in any circumstance as long as he hears the voice of God. This does not just happen. Do I then need to labor? No. It is more than mere concentration.

Fourth, understand the importance of our response.

I spoke about the importance of the Reticular Activating System (RAS) with regard to our response to God. Please remember our spirit works in the same way as an RAS. I want to emphasize once more about the importance of our response. I traveled to about 80 different countries and witnessed the beauties of each country. The Alps stand out among them. When I went to the Alps, it was so beautiful that I wanted to live there. But I noticed the people that had been living there didn't really realize how beautiful the Alps were. Every morning they wake up, they are right there and they can see the beauty of the Alps every day. There can be several reasons for it, but I would like to think that if they had acknowledged the beauty of the Alps consistently and responded to its beautiful scenery, then they might have appreciated it more.

Folks, living with God is the same as living with people. You probably agree with me that normal guys would do anything to marry a lady they love. Guys will do everything they can. For instance, a guy would bring 27 roses to a lady on her 27th birthday. One would take a lady out to a park and set up an event with balloons and a plank card with "Congratulations on your birthday: I love you!" or something like that. However, soon after the marriage guys start to complain about the foods their wives cook. How did that happen? Guys shut down the initial response they used to attract their wives.

It is the same with God. Some are insensitive to the voice of God today because they stopped responding to Him although they had heard Him. When God says, "Minho, I love you," then I need to remember His voice and respond to Him like "God I love you, too." We want to respond to His voice and thank Him when He reveals new things to us. If we keep up our response to God's voice, then the scope of many things would be broadened due to God's attributes. It is just like the principle that when we give thanks regardless of our circumstance, gratitude abounds even more. As much as I serve in ministry I wonder how in the world God sends such precious people to someone like me and I give thanks to God. If you want to hear the voice of God, that's how you should respond to God. Cut down on the response to the world and rather increase your response to God like "God, thank you, and I love You" and so on.

Don't take a small voice you hear lightly and continue to respond to Him. You want to be sensitive and respond actively. Feel free to exaggerate a bit. When God says, "I love you," say like "I love you so much and I am so thankful." If a tear doesn't come out, put an eye-drop on it and cry. Such responses are very important. When a man and a woman fall in love, they become romantic, don't they? That's because there is interaction responding back and forth between them. Respond deliberately. When you deliberately respond to the voice of God, He will open up things. It takes active response. When God speaks, obey Him, immediately. When the word of God is spoken, we have to be willing to lay down our lives for it.

Active response involves the Bible. For example, when I used to pray quite a bit, I opened the Book of John and prayed. In my reading through John, I would respond according to the word. The truth of the word comes out richly through this exercise. When I was reading John 5:21, the love of God became real and I wondered why God had used 'phileo' instead of 'agape' in the verse. God led me to understand that 'phileo' was the direct labor of His love for us. Creator God labored directly to love me and that's where I was able to connect agape and phileo. This is how we can actively respond to the voice of God through the reading of the Bible.

2) The Pure Spirit

This is the main part of our struggle. In order to hear the voice of God, we need to build up the structure of mind and a pure spirit. A pure spirit is only concerned with God. Paul called Timothy, "You, man of God" in chapter 6 of 1 Timothy to imply that for a man of God to not have God is like a dead man. Just like an alcoholic that when he is drunk he seems to have strength even to fly away, but when he is sober, he is subdued; for a man of God to be without God, there remains none in him. That's the pure spirit. A man who is nothing apart from God. That's what we are trying to establish and this is everything to us. This is where we start with listening to the voice of God and to everything God gives to us.

This is where you may falter as you pursue God in your quest. You may say, "Is this where I quit?" No. God predestined us to be holy and blameless when He saved us. This is found in Ephesians and 1 Thessalonians. When God calls us as His children, predestination is more like His tenacity. He is tenacious to bring it about. With the exception of those who will go to hell everyone must become holy and blameless. In short, building up a pure spirit is a process that everyone must go through.

The reason you experience much suffering and tribulation physically, mentally, and spiritually is ultimately to become a pure spirit in the broadest sense. God allowed suf-

fering in the life of Joseph in order to train him for His purpose. If we become a pure spirit, we don't have any reason to go through suffering. When we live by God solely, we have no reason to suffer. If you are suffering financially or in your relationship with others, the reason for that is because you haven't become a pure spirit. There is no reason for God to allow suffering once you become pure. The absolute goal of a saint is to become a pure spirit. That's the goal in life. Making lots of money or becoming 'so and so' is not our goal in life. We may do it or not. However, becoming holy and blameless is not only the goal to hear the voice of God, but also to meet the requirement for those who would so desire to pass through the glory of God and ultimately into the Kingdom of God.

How do we consecrate ourselves?

So, how do we consecrate ourselves? James 1:8 says, "He is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does." A double-minded man is not holy to God. A double-minded man is split in his attention; thus, he has two hearts. Our heart should be focused on God alone. We are not to pursue both God and the world. It only seems like one can pursue both the world and God at the same time. However, where there is no presence of God, we are inclined to follow after the world, whereas when we are full of the world, there is no presence of God. It is imperative that we focus on God alone and live by Him.

So, how do we consecrate ourselves? I can say that all my expository preaching covers that. Today, I want to narrow down to a couple of things; forgiveness and spiritual purging. Forgiveness is related to the result of sin. When we sin and ask God for forgiveness, God forgives us. That's forgiveness. Purification is related to the cause of sin. For example, forgiveness is like killing cockroaches when they infest the house. But, they leave the corrupted spots in which they can lay their eggs and produce cockroaches again. Purification is removing even the corrupted spots. Cutting off the leaves of a weed, the result of sin, is forgiveness, whereas pulling out the root is purification.

Let's turn to the Bible. 1 John 1:5 & 7, "The is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin." Look, it says that His blood will purify us from all sin. In verse 9 it further says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." God forgives our sins. How we respond to what the Lord speaks to us is "homologio." When God reminds us "you have sinned so and so," then we immediately say, "God forgive me." Not only God forgives our sin when we ask Him, but He also purifies us from all unrighteousness. Please listen carefully. God forgives us when we ask for forgiveness with regard to the result of sin: however, the purification

is different. That is living a life of walking toward the light continuously. If we so desire to cut off the root of sin, we have to live a life of walking toward his light consistently. Unless we do that, we will not be purified. This is a challenge for us.

As much as we walk toward the light we are purified. Consequently, as much as we are purified we can hear the voice of God. Amos 3:7 says, “Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing His plan to His servants the prophets.” The glory of the church is its authority to rule over all things, therefore, the church should serve as God’s spokesperson as it performs its role. All the words that are proclaimed in the church should become the moral and ethical standards of each generation. Furthermore, the church should prophesy all the works of God as He reigns on all things. We don’t want to react belatedly all the time. It comes down to the matter of holiness and purification. When we finally consecrate ourselves and truly live by Him, God moves the world, national, and personal histories. The voice of God addresses these realms.

In the fifth chapter of Joshua, what does God command Israel as they are about to enter Canaan on the brink of war? God commands Israel’s circumcision, so they may be holy. Look, such a command is like committing a suicide with enemies so close for war. Holiness is like that. That’s what purification is all about. It is not accepting the situation I am in whatever condition and environment I may find myself in. Purity is accepting the word of God and being willing to die for it. You know that God’s word is right and His word is the best. But why can’t you obey Him? Because you are tripped up by the matter of holiness. Because you are not pure, you can’t immediately lay down your life according to the word of God. Let the structure of mind and spiritual condition set you free to move according to the word of God.

Circumcision means cutting out superficial matters. In light of our topic of listening to the voice of God, we are frequently deceived over one thing. That is we believe God gives us good things, but in actuality He gives us what’s best. Circumcision means cutting out my attempt to build up to what is good in my circumstance as I see it. That’s what it means to be circumcised. Listening to the voice of God is choosing the best of God. It is facing in the direction of what’s best God has for me and be willing to die for it. We are being deceived by what’s good! We think it is good for everyone/everything because it is good for me. But, that’s not true for everyone. It can be bad for someone else. Only what is the best can be good for everyone. The voice of God always speaks of the highest good and of the best. That’s the reason God’s voice can utter in the worst situation. God can always bring about what’s best.

What do we need to do in order for that to happen? Both God and we have a part

to do. Our part is found in Jeremiah 4:4, “Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, circumcise your hearts, you men of Judah and people of Jerusalem, or my wrath will break out and burn like fire because of the evil you have done – burn with no one to quench it.” Our part is removing the hardened heart and consecrating our spirit. What’s God’s part? It is scary. The bible says the same thing in Deuteronomy 30:6, “The Lord you God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love Him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.” What does that mean? Once we commit to circumcision and consecrate ourselves, God will consecrate us. If we decide to circumcise ourselves, God will bring it about.

We see Elisha chasing Elijah in the second chapter of 2 Kings. It is not a laboring or giving of my best effort. There are four kinds in the spiritual course. Elisha chases Elijah as Elijah is seeking ascension from Gilgal to Bethel, Jericho, and eventually to Jordan. Elisha does not stop at Gilgal even when Elijah tells him to stop accompanying him, but he says, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” He continues to accompany Elijah all the way to Jericho. What does that say to us? It speaks of our effort and will in spirituality.

What is my will in spirituality? It is not my attempt of laboring to achieve something, but rather to continue to focus on the direction of God. Grace is the best God offers to us and we should fall down and receive it. We don’t want to take a stance of “give me grace if you want, but if you don’t, I am fine, too.” You know we have a free will, so at times we may disobey God, but we want to receive God’s grace absolutely. That’s the direction I am talking about. That is the will I am addressing to you. When you respond to the voice of God, it becomes more clear and frequent. Consecration means pursuing God in the right direction as you try to live by Him. “Lord, You are God.” As we continue to respond like that false information is extracted from the structure of our mind and our spiritual system. It starts to dissect false information. Necessarily eat the truth through your church and accept the right spiritual flow. On top of that must you focus on them. Be consecrated!

Listening to the voice of God is basic, so it warrants more than just listening to this message once and be done with it. It is so important to go back and cover the past messages. Through the Lord’s Prayer, we train to live life God-centered. Through the Beatitudes, we build a poor spirit. Next, build a mourning spirit and a meek spirit. The meek spirit is training to develop instantaneous concentration on God. In the midst of sorrow God says, “Rejoice,” then we should immediately dance in joy like crazy. In the midst of complaints God says, “Be thankful,” then we should open up our spirit with thanksgiv-

ing. It is not easy to accept this message of “Listen to the Voice of God” without having the Beatitudes down, especially a meek spirit. Nevertheless, I am preaching this message because I believe you have embodied both the Lord’s Prayer and the Beatitudes. If you haven’t I hope that you will listen to those messages over the internet and train yourself to live life God-centered by giving up your ways, thoughts, possession, and experiences. Through the Lord’s Prayer messages, train to live with nothing but what God provides you. In addition, through the Beatitudes train to become a poor spirit, a mourning, a meek spirit, the thirty for the righteousness, and the pure: therefore, fully comprehending what it means to see God. The pure spirit is simplified by God, to be completely filled with God, to choose where God works among many choices, and to refuse to compromise with the world: thereby seeing God.

Consequently, you will hear the voice of God like the sound of a waterfall when you listen to this message again. Nevertheless, I will continue to preach on with this message. This is so basic that it is crucial. Please continue to wrestle with this. Starting tomorrow I will go into the practical part of the message. Listen to the message and get into small groups to listen to the voice of God. Furthermore, receive ministry from pastors and also interpretation through ministers. Hopefully, you will wash off the false spiritual system and its structure of mind and listen to the voice of God. In addition, take with you what you can although it may be complex. It will be better if you can beat on your chest in repentance. So, when you get back home and to church, please wrestle with this message seriously at least for this entire year 2009. See at the end of the year how much your ears have been opened to hear the voice of God.

The top priority is listening to the voice of God. “I will concentrate only on God this day in my life. I will focus on God more than 50% of the time in 24 hours and make myself available to God.” I will wrap this up with one practical way today. Make a commitment today to cooperate with God to become the pure. “God help me! I will truly give my best effort to listen to Your voice. Help me God!” I would like you to make that decision. Decide to respond to God and decide to focus on God. Focusing on God is asking God lots of questions. What is going on, God? What do I do? Whether you can hear His voice or not, leave yourself open with all the possibility to hear from Him. Living life with a King warrants asking lots of questions. Moreover, make a commitment to listen carefully and obey His voice. This will give you practical help as you try to listen to His voice today.

Conclusion

Please calm your heart down. Some people are stirred up because spiritual knowledge has gone inside. Some may not even feel that. People whose structure of mind and

spiritual system have been corrupted by non-truth and by things of the world can be delivered. Deliverance can mean casting out evil spirits or dirty things. Some are corrupted by not walking toward the light. For example, if you visit a cheap Chinese restaurant in China, you may find a dirty plate, that its outer rim is so filthy dirty, it cannot be cleaned. It wasn't washed and was left alone for a long time to a point of such a hardened state. It can't be cleaned even if one rubs it hard. Some people are like that. Their structure of mind and spiritual system have been corrupted and left alone for so long. That's the reason they can't respond to the word of God at all. I admonish you to really roll over today. It is going to take a deep repentance to pass through the pain of death. On the other hand, those that have been stirred inside, ask God what problems are associated with the stirring. Those that have begun to hear the voice of God approach God with more thirst and hunger for a pure spirit. Continue to live by the light. Concentrate on God and activate the Reticular Activating System (RAS) to root out the sound of the world, and do not pay attention to it. Focus on the word of God and respond to God. Speak to God, "I want to live by You. God, speak to me! I want to hear Your voice." Continue to have the passion for the Lord and live like that for a good, long while.

When I met God 20 years ago for the first time, I cried for seven months 24/7. After seven months of crying I became someone else. I was revolutionized. You probably won't cry for seven months like me, but you must have a time of blessing realizing how corrupted and filthy your spiritual system and structure of mind are as you focus on God alone. "Oh, God, how I want to serve You. God, I want to focus on You alone. I want to live by You solely. Lord, through this conference help me to initiate a revolution of being that I would be revolutionized. Amen."



Listening to the Voice of God 2

This second message of “Listening to the Voice of God” is about removing obstacles. In other words, it is focusing on God. The Reticular Activating System (RAS) is God’s blessing to us and it is the same spiritually. We need determination to focus on the voice that we care about, God’s voice, and to live by God alone. This is the alpha and omega of listening to the voice of God. How far do we go in concentrating on God? As far as 24 hours a day, if we can do it. Your life may be painful as you try to switch from living a life dictated to Satan’s strategy to one obeying God’s stipulation.

A man of God lives by God. Listening to the voice of God is not merely teaching a technique to hear God’s voice. It is the whole sum of a life of faith and it’s the basics. Faith life starts and ends with this. I am not teaching you this for you to hear a word or two, but to lead you to fellowship with God. When your prayer shifts from a monologue to a fellowship, it takes you to a new dimension. You speak of heaven because you hear of heaven and because you speak of heaven, heaven will open up. How can one speak of heaven hearing sounds of the earth and world and the noise of evil spirits? How can he who cannot speak of heaven open heaven? I have a key in my office and it opens the door of my office. No other key can open my office. Likewise heaven opens up when we speak of heaven. In order to speak of heaven, we must hear the voice of God.

This is the most important element in listening to the voice of God: Focus. Focus on God 24 hours a day if you can to completely remove the false structure of your mind and spiritual system. Be in a glorious state to embrace the Kingdom of God. When God says, “Rejoice,” we should admit guilt of our sin that we haven’t rejoiced and immediately repent of that. Furthermore, when God says, “Be thankful,” then we should admit our sin not having been thankful, stop complaints, and immediately turn to thanksgiving. It is impossible to hear the voice of God when we haven’t built up the structure of mind and spiritual system that can move the Kingdom of God. There has been severe damage by those who claim to hear the voice of God when they actually can’t hear God nor embrace the Kingdom of God. They cause much havoc in Christian circles and greatly encourage an allergic reaction in people when it comes to a matter of hearing the voice of God. However, people with the structure of mind and spiritual system that can move the Kingdom of God can hear the voice of God very accurately and succinctly. Not even a single word falls to the ground.

As you listen to the word today, look at the corrupted structure of your mind and spiritual system and pull out what’s hiding underneath your internal world. Dig it up and pull it out. When we do the dishes and put everything in a big bowl for a while, all the remaining food particles will sink and settle down to the bottom. After a while the water

seems clean on the surface, but once you start stirring it up, what's on the bottom comes up again. In inner healing, that's what we need to heal by stirring up what's inside, rounding it up, and discard it. When we remove it, we will have the power to catch the resonance of the voice of God, naturally. In order for that to take place, we must do away with our concerns over the world. What is there beside God? Speaking with others won't get us anywhere. Living in the world won't get us anywhere, either. Our concern should be concerning God alone.

1 Corinthians 1:9 says, "God, who has called you into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful." This is the second message of this series "Remove the Obstacles." Let's take a look at these obstacles; traps, noose, road block, and barrier. These obstacles hinder our fellowship with God. With the removal of these obstacles, the presence of God will be fortified in us.

1. The Traps

There are three traps I would like to address: hastiness and busyness, inability to differentiate the voice of God, and presumption.

1) The Trap of Hastiness and Busyness

I want to address the traps of hastiness and busyness first. Later I will address distraction which is similar to hastiness and busyness. These traps take place in two different ways. First they can arise within us. Second, the traps can come from outside. Nevertheless, both types of traps works together. Let me explain that. The attacks come from outside because our personalities are already formed in such a way. In other words, the personification of our inner world results in an attack from outside which in turn reveals our inner state.

Suppose there is a hasty man. People with such a personality need deep repentance. Through intentional training they must remove their hasty personality. When God first created us, there were no doldrums or rage. You might have learned these things from the flow of your family. Is there depression in the Kingdom of God? No, there is not. How about rage? No. Nevertheless, we have such personalities. People talk about them because they don't understand the Kingdom of God. There is nothing like that in the Kingdom of God. The false personalities like hastiness and busyness will be formed in you and they will attract attacks from the outside. Those attacks in turn will bring the fulfillment of hastiness and busyness in you. This is a vicious cycle.

Hastiness and busyness are a big obstacle to listening to the voice of God. It is

something we have to fight against as we try to hear God's voice. Now, where do they come from? Their root is in Legalism. The personality of hastiness and busyness does not acknowledge the basic of faith life which requires us to pause and have fellowship with God. We make a mistake by thinking in our heart that keeping ourselves busy will bring assurance when in actuality there is nothing to do. This is legalism. You think you earn righteousness by doing things, which is the essence of legalism. So you can't sit still and always seek to be doing something. You can't be still in the quietness of God. The reason prayer time should be considered important is not because of the longevity of prayer itself is important. If you are in a right relationship with God, there is a minimal time of prayer. When you kneel in a prayer, two and a half hours will pass like the blinking of an eye. If you can't set your bottom down for even ten minutes, then your personality is hasty and busy. That is spiritually dangerous.

This is true for the pastors and pastors' wives because they become religious in their faith life. So they become distracted. Their mentality is to keep themselves busy with work. Grace is not doing anything unless God provides. Grace is a gift and we accept it when He offers it to us. We build our faith life principally by what God provides us with, not by doing things on our own. "I must do something all the time" That's legalism. They don't care if what they do is pleasing to God or according to the will of God. For example, is evangelism the will of God? We should evangelize. How do we know God wants us to evangelize, to pray or love someone at that particular time? When God told Paul in Macedonia to go to Europe instead of Asia, if I had been Paul I would have thought "This is a mission and this mission is God's will. It doesn't matter and Asia is fine, too." However, that's not what God wanted. God scatters us according to the direction He desires. The classic example of legalism is making us work all the time. Therefore, out of legalism the church is producing workers instead of heirs. Workers get paid with salary whereas heirs receive inheritance. Is your church full of workers or heirs? In Major League Baseball, ball players make millions of dollars whereas some people make \$10,000 or \$100,000. The value of church members is worth millions of dollars in terms of the glory of God which is far better than a group of people who make \$10,000. The prayer of an heir is more powerful than the prayers of 10,000 workers. The Kingdom of God comes not by the number of people. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. The prayer of the many unrighteous does not make it powerful and effective. Who would God answer? The prayer of one million unrighteous people or one righteous man? That's the reason hastiness and busyness is a problem in and of themselves.

Those that can't pray for more than two and a half hours should repent deeply. Furthermore, they need to train to get on their knees to pray whether it goes well or not.

The reason people can't focus on God for two and a half hours is because the spirit of religion and the spirit of legalism have seized them.

I lead a prayer meeting from 2 a.m. to 8 a.m. for a week sometimes in our church. Church members pray from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m. with ease and most of them push up to 8 a.m. They can do that because of their spiritual growth, of the anointing in the church, and of the spiritual circumstance that the life of God moves in them instead of the spirit of religion. If for some reason the church is full of the spirit of religion, then we must deal with it one way or another. The spirit of religion and the spirit of legalism is like a running a marathon in full metal armor. Try to run a marathon in full metal armor from the medieval age. How far can one run? The spirit of legalism renders people powerless. They seem to do things, but they really can't do anything. Richard Foster said hastiness does not belong to devil, but it is the devil himself. Please remember that hastiness leads to big spiritual loss. It is difficult for those that are in this trap to acknowledge fellowship with God. They must go through a time of dealing with this distraction.

Many are influenced from outside because that's what they choose. For example, when I minister to teenagers, I notice that 99% are distracted. Their spiritual screen is very fuzzy due to computers. Few members of our church still own televisions. The rest have put away their televisions long ago. There is really no time to watch television if you want to join our ministry. I want to remove computers from our home as well, but I can't because we need them. You shouldn't use it but to look up the word of God like me. I sometimes look at the news on the computer, but we have to cut out everything that causes us to be hasty and busy.

Don't talk much with others. The conversation with God must become the main flow in your life. Another thing teenagers are distracted by is the cell phone. Their mastery of text messaging with their thumbs is incredible. They seem poised to live their life with hastiness and busyness. A man of God does not move easily. He doesn't seem to move and yet something great makes him move. He doesn't have much and yet he does great works. We need to fast from televisions, computers, and conversing with others as we train to listen to the voice of God. Fasting is not limited to meals. People that are addicted to television should start to fast and not watch anymore to the point of removing them from their home. Those that are addicted to the computer should fast and do only what's necessary. It is problematic not to talk to others, but those that talk too much should cut out unnecessary conversation with others. Truth does not enter us through wasteful conversation like a sale in some department store. It is better to share the word of God during the cell meetings.

As you commit to listen to the voice of God there will be more attacks of hastiness and busyness. It is necessary to fight against them consciously. Set a time for prayer and make a decision like “I won’t get up for next two and a half hours!” I will fast from television! Your spirit will continue to be hasty and busy as long as you accept it and choose the influence of hastiness and busyness from outside. When you pray, please turn off your cell phone. I don’t meet anyone during my prayer time. Nothing is more urgent than to meet God! Nothing is more urgent than to hear the voice of God! Pastors are way too busy and too easily distracted. They can’t sit still for 20 minutes to pray let alone two hours. You absolutely don’t want to be distracted. That’s the work of the spirit of religion and legalism in you. I want to talk to pastors’ wives. If your husband is too busy, handcuff him and train him to pray because the pastor is the most important. Without setting his spirituality straight, what he preaches to the congregation won’t work. When he is busy and thus doesn’t pray, the church members will not pray no matter how much he tells them to. We should go deep into the presence of God. We should be able to profess naturally “The world and I are gone, but the Lord remains.” Those that can enter into the stillness of God and those that live eternally shouldn’t be hasty at all. This moment is eternal, so there is no reason to rush. When the Philistines invaded Israel all the way, David was not in rush. He took time and asked God, “Should I fight them or not, Lord?” That’s a man of God.

In Matthew 6:6 Jesus says, “But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” Talk to God in secret. It is so important to set up a time to pray talking to God alone and to cut out the world and the relationship with others. The benefit of waking up early in the morning to pray is monumental. With the expansion of the ministry I don’t pray as much, but I used to pray starting at either 1 a.m. or 2 a.m., and sometimes all night up for about seven years. Since then I pray at 2 a.m. every day. When I wake up at two in the morning, the stillness of God is speechless. I am just grateful for that! We don’t want to be busy. You need this certain time of prayer life to enter into the stillness of God.

Jesus always went away where it is quiet to pray. Even Jesus prayed like that and how much more so for us? You can’t sit still because of the work of the spirit of sexual immorality is against you. Your emphasis on your relationship with others in your life and hurts from others prevent you from overcoming loneliness. That is the work of the spirit of sexual immorality. The spirit of sexual immorality always forms a relationship with someone. We need to cast it out. When I fasted for 40 days, I was up in the prayer mountain and my wife just conceived our first child. I was all alone with God to spend time with Him to prepare myself to become a pastor. I started to experience loneliness and it came upon me harder and harder. I thought I was going crazy. At that point all I could do was to shout

“Jesus” for two hours. This flood of loneliness was at last taken care of in my 40 days of fasting. Your loneliness through the spirit of sexual immorality must be taken care of as well. If you can’t do it, set up a time to meet God alone to first remove the hastiness and busyness that comes from interacting with other people. Examine yourself and see how busy you are!

Pastors are bound to be busy because they have to meet the church members and talk to them every day. They eventually forget how quickly they are swamped with busyness. Pastors shouldn’t meet church members at certain times of the day. Some may say, “Our pastor does not have love...” Don’t mind them even if they say that. Is the love of church members more important? Being loved by God is more important!

2) Inability to Differentiate the Voice of God

There is a second trap; the inability to differentiate the voice of God. Everyone who has the indwelling Holy Spirit and faith can hear the voice of God. A new born baby can instantly hear sounds. She hears her mom’s voice, only she can’t comprehend it, yet. It is the same with us. If you are living with the indwelling Holy Spirit, you are hearing God’s voice. You just do not comprehend it.

In First Samuel, Samuel hears the voice of God but does not recognize it. He goes to the High Priest Eli and says, “Why did you call me?” You are in a state not being able to recognize His voice, so you can’t comprehend what He says. My intention is to teach you to recognize His voice. The resonance of the Holy Spirit! It is very rare to hear the voice of God audibly. Hearing the voice of God is catching the resonance the Holy Spirit creates within us. It is like a telegraph “tho tho tho tho.” “God loves me!” Like First Corinthians 2:10, the Holy Spirit who indwells me searches the deep things of God communicating all my affairs to Him. In turn, God sends signs to the Holy Spirit and when we catch the resonance of the Holy Spirit, we call that the voice of God. Our training is to recognize it and to comprehend it.

The reason we don’t recognize the voice of God is because we don’t understand the way God speaks. It is not because we don’t know the simple technique like $1 + 1 = 2$, but because we are worldly and our faith life is one of the flesh. That’s it! We must extract the sinful nature and the way it dominates our life. When we subdue it and stand on it and remove the noise of the devil and the sounds of the world, we will hear the voice of God. People that fast for 20 days or 40 days normally hear the voice of God well. Why? Because they are hungry! They have nothing else on their mind. They are locked on God. However, those whose faith life is of the flesh have completely removed their ability to recognize the

voice of God. That's the reason people whose faith life is of the flesh must repent deeply.

Another example is that most people hear the voice of God, but they are not sure if it is God's voice, their own voice, or the voice of the devil. Once I caught the voice of God 20 years ago, I have not let it go. There is no choice but immediate obedience. When my son hears me saying "Son," then he immediately knows that's his father's voice. He has been listening to the voice of his father all his life. Of course I can deceive him, but he knows my voice. One group of people cannot recognize the voice of God at all because they have been living in the flesh. The other group is in a state of confusion in their spiritual value system because they have been wandering between the world and God.

For example, if ten women tell a new born baby that they are her mother, she will be confused. The most important function of the spirit is forgetfulness. Our spirit is so impressionable that once it acknowledges something as God, it will remember, thus, if it acknowledges money as God, it will remember money as God. Of course our mouth speaks of God, but we speak out of our knowledge, not out of our spirit. That's the reason when we say "I have faith!" and command the evil spirit to go out, it talks back to us, "You go out!" Why? Because we spoke not by the power of God but by knowledge. The devil is a spirit, so it knows clearly whether we speak in spirit or in knowledge. We are the only ones that don't know.

Why do we not recognize God's voice? First, it is because we live in our flesh. The way of the spirit is not to teach $1 + 1 = 2$. The answer to all the questions is the Holy Spirit. How much we do not restrict the Holy Spirit! Everything goes through the Holy Spirit. You may ask, "Why did you switch to another topic?" I am preaching to you, so that you may essentially understand and see your weaknesses as to why you can't recognize the voice of God. People that live not by the flesh but by the Spirit, not only catch the voice of God supernaturally, but also catch it through other people like my wife. I notice this as the voice of God. God even spoke through a donkey. However, a man that lives by the flesh would not even tremble when a donkey speaks to him. He would ignore the donkey saying, "You are out of your league" and then beat it up. He completely ignores God. That's the epitome of a fleshly Christian. God speaks to us through animals and nature. Spiritual people know that! The morning air was so refreshing this morning. When I had opened the window, sunlight came through refreshly and praise came out of my mouth, "All things shine, renewed and bright." That's the image of spiritual people. It is to feel the presence of God in the world God created. We are confused by the voice of God because we have been living in the flesh, our value system is confounded, and we don't focus on God. In short, the only way to live is by the Spirit of God.

3) Trap of Presumption

If we knew what to do in any situation, we would never listen to the voice of God. Let's look at how David reacts when 100,000 Philistines invaded Israel. It is a pressing situation, because they already came to the Valley of Rephaim. If David had decided to just fight them simply because it was a dire situation, then he wouldn't have heard the voice of God. David asked God, "What is Your will? Do I fight them or not? How do I fight this battle?" God speaks when things seem impossible, so logical, so easy, or difficult, or pressing. Instead of acknowledging that He speaks to us in all situations, we presume that we don't need to hear from God in certain situations. We immediately give up of hearing His voice. God will not speak to us when we don't want to hear Him, because He is a Person and He gave us free will.

In Joshua chapter 9 we see the victorious Israelites after the battle of Jericho. In their pride, they decide to send 3,000 men to destroy a little town known as Ai. Of course, they are defeated. When we don't hear the voice of God, don't think it just ends there. When we can't hear the voice of God, either your experience and your ways are controlling you or Satan is. If God is not reigning in me, then I am reigning over myself. And when I am in control over me, then Satan is involved. Do you see now? When you don't hear God, it just doesn't end in not hearing Him. Satan is working diligently for you when you don't hear God. When we face suffering and trials, we rely on God more. However, it is a big mistake to think that just because we are suffering we will automatically hear the voice of God. Unless you create a personal spiritual culture to hear the voice of God, suffering and trials won't necessarily make you hear Him.

For example, after the defeat at the battle of Ai, Israel just accepts the people of Gibeon thinking, "It is all right to spare them." They didn't listen to the voice of God. Israel did what they wanted to do, because they hadn't created a culture suitable to hear the voice of God. If you listen well and understand this topic of Listening to the Voice of God, then you will build a personal culture and develop a habit of hearing God's voice. Otherwise, you will face suffering, trials and persecutions. In my experience, the fullness of injury of not listening to the voice of God may not come for 10 to 20 years, or later at the end of your life. Ordinary people, whether they are in ministry or not, will continue to live without listening to the voice of God, because this devastating effect is not revealed right away. When you pastor church members without God's revelation and His voice, you might think they would immediately become monsters and rip you off, and you then would feel remorse and start listening to the voice of God. They, rather, will continue to grow beautifully without much fluctuation and they will live well. However, one day they will tear off their shell and reveal this true monster form. When we are not hearing the voice

of God, we hear someone else's voice. When God is not reigning over us, the devil reigns over us.

You may think that you will rely on God when you are about to make important decisions in your life. "That's when I will listen to the voice of God." That's impossible! If you haven't established a personal culture in your life to be keen to the voice of God, you can't hear Him even in emergency situations. Do you think a man prays to God when he is suffering? No, that's not a prayer, but rather a complaint or supplication. He may beat on the ground and cry to God to save him, but if he does not have anything to do with God, that's self pity. It does not matter whether that's God, Buddha or Allah, because he is just seeking an absolute being out of anxiety. Please don't think that people whose relationship with God is broken should expect an answer in prayer when they are in trouble.

Listening to the voice of God is necessary for those bound to the Kingdom of God like citizens in America naturally speak English, because they live there. Why don't we hear His voice? It is because of presumption like, "I know what I have. I know the power I have. I know where I stand." And they don't try to go beyond their limits. God does not work with what I have. We have to get rid of the unbelief of sizing up what we have and of trying to utilize it. That's the reason we don't hear the voice of God. We got to have an attitude of, "I will listen to whatever He says." God may say that I have a million dollars although I only have a buck. We don't need God when He does things worthy of a buck with the buck I have. I can do that. Today's churches are ministering with what they have and we call that legalism and religiosity. What is the faith God has given to us for Him? That faith is creation out of nothing and resurrection of the dead, at least. That is not the faith of this generation which has the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, but for Abraham in the Old Testament. In this time and age of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the faith of the church can bring about even more incredible things.

Mark 11:22 says, "Have faith in God." What is the faith of God? "If anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will happen it will be done for him." The attitude of "I will always work according to my ways and what I have" will lead you to think that you don't need to hear the voice of God. The obedience to the voice of God is not just doing something good, but it is doing the best there is. That's how to become the glory of God. That's why God does not work on my level. Listening to the voice of God itself is an incredible thing.

In Romans chapter 8, if your mind is on the flesh, your sinful nature and your old man will prosper. That's a spiritual law. Please remember that. When we have a presumptuous attitude of "I can do this much" and are focused on the things of the flesh, limiting

God, our fleshly desires are kindled up and our old man will prosper. However, when we listen to the voice of God, we are focused on God and interested in spiritual matters resulting in ignition of the desire of the Holy Spirit and the prosperity of the new man. The goal is to see the blessings, growth, and prosperity of the inner new man through obedience to the voice of God. In order for that to happen, your mind must be fixed on spiritual matters. The flesh cannot do anything. We must totally break the flesh down.

2. Noose

1) Noose of Defiance

Now, we are on the topic of the noose. Defiance is sin. Disobedience is sin. Defiance is intentional denial of the will of God. One knows the will of God, but instead of obeying Him, he chooses to do what he desires. That's defiance.

When you first start to listen to the voice of God, you hear "I will be with you. Wait!" a lot of times. You also hear "forgive." The wounds in you destroy your personality and prevent you from accepting the Kingdom of God. The wounds in you are most critical in the structure of your mind. So, God tells us to forgive. Forgive not only the offender's sin, but also the wounds he left in me even though I haven't done anything wrong. When we don't forgive intentionally knowing fully the voice of God said to forgive, that's the sin of defiance. That's choosing to do what I want.

In 1 Samuel 15:21, God says, "Obedience is better than sacrifice." Hebrews 10:26-27, "If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God." I don't know who wrote Hebrews, but whoever it was, he was a priest before conversion serving as a pastor now. What does verse 26 mean? The author of Hebrews used Numbers 15 stating one who deliberately keeps on sinning cannot offer sacrifice for sins. Only those that sin accidentally can offer sacrifice for sin. Deliberate sinners face either stoning to death or excommunication from the assembly. If you continue to defy, your spirit will eventually die and you can't hear the voice of God, later. The church should be clear about the urgency of sin. Deliberate sinners are disqualified to offer sacrifice for sin.

You can't hear the voice of God without a determination like "I will even give my life when God speaks to me." Listening to the voice of God surpasses our reason and rationality in one perspective, may lead to losing face, and take away everything we have. We can't live on without listening to the voice of God, so we listen. From a humane perspec-

tive we may take a huge loss and lose face. God may say, “Go and ask him for forgiveness.” I may say to God, “I didn’t do any wrong to him.” God further says, “Don’t talk about what he did wrong.” In the beginning, God speaks a lot about forgiveness when we listen to Him. He wants to heal us through that. Some of you have been living as a Christian over 10 years and yet commit a sin of defiance to God by not forgiving someone. That causes a blockage and your fervent religious life gives you a false assurance. It is important to be ready and willing to lay down your life for whatever God speaks to you in obedience.

2) Noose of Double Minds

James 1:6-8 says, “But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord.” Don’t be a double-minded man. It is impossible to hear the voice of God unless he is utterly relying on God. In faith training, one of the things we need to learn is to stay still unless God moves. David prays to God and when He doesn’t answer his prayer, he just dies. David does not proceed in his ways at all. He just stays put. That’s a man living by grace. What can I do when God does not do anything about it? We are talking about the Creator God. We begin our prayer to God with our back-up plans in case He does not answer our prayer. Our plans according to our ways are all set and the prayer to God is just a formality. “I won’t live by what God does not provide!” “I will not do anything besides what God speaks!” It is certainly not easy to listen to the voice of God without making such commitments. These are reasons it is not easy. Listening to the voice of God is a fellowship with the Creator and it is not for just anyone.

When we don’t hear God’s voice, Satan intervenes. The enemy speaks to us when we don’t hear God’s voice, and it is always about what I have desired. We have some people that fast for 40 days. People that fail fasting mostly say, “God told me to stop fasting out of mercy while I was fasting.” Why did he hear “stop and eat?” Because he wanted to eat! Satan asked Eve, “Did God really say not to eat?” Satan had known the desire of Eve. When we don’t hear the voice of God, the enemy speaks what matches our goals and desires. Let us not have a double-mind. Our trust should lie in God alone.

3) Noose of Deception

We don’t want to be hypocritical. People that God rebuked the most were the hypocritical people. Isaiah 29:13 says, “These people come near to me with their mouths and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.” People do not have a right relationship with God and still they pretend they do. They also pretend to obey God when they don’t. They do that to get recognition from others. I want you to give up seeking man’s approval. If you

are too conscious of others, pay too much attention to public opinion, and overestimate what others say, you will become hypocritical. Can a man treat a soul precious when he doesn't fundamentally accept God's dignity and His life in fullness, and he doesn't consider God as precious? That's impossible! Fundamentally speaking, a love for the soul can fail at anytime without the love of God. That's the reason we should principally accept things from God and learn to love the all things. If you think you can do something without God, you will fall into despair struggling your own limitation.

That's so true for the pastors like me. We pretend to be joyous when we are not. Sometimes we are in the middle of an "argument" with a spouse, we see a church member and immediately change our tone of the voice pretending everything is all right. We become a hypocrite. We become a 'religious' person. There is nothing more dangerous in faith life than making up a false ego. Elimination of a false ego is more difficult than accepting death. I think there are lots of pastors who have built up an iron wall of false ego in merely 10 years of ministry. They must be joyful when they are not. They must preach being filled with the Holy Spirit when they don't want to preach. They must pray eloquently in congregational prayer when they can't pray like that. These are the reasons that destroy their personalities. They are well respected by church members, but when they come home, they are disrespected by their children. They don't even earn respect from their own wives. I have received a precious letter from my wife that she respects me. That's proof that I am not living a hypocritical life.

When we have a false ego, we are consistently deceived when it comes to hearing the voice of God. We should fear the ever watching eyes of God. God's perspective of me is most important. Please don't pay attention to other's perspective. Don't focus on the opinions of men apart from the voice of God. Look at things and speak through God's perspective. Please don't pretend to be someone when you are not. That's how we build a false ego.

3. Road Block

1) Uncontrollable Emotion

Road blocks slow down progress or even stop it. First, we want to take a look at a road block; uncontrollable emotion. There are no dark things in God. It is pretty odd to find what God does not desire in God. Depression, rage, and counterfeit are totally unrelated to the Kingdom of God. We originally don't have any of them in our personality. God has not given them to us at all. You have chosen them and learned them. In conclusion, when you listen to the voice of God, you should be full of hope, joy and faith. If you are still

critical of others and depressed while hearing the voice of God, you didn't hear God, but the devil.

Rage and anger are detrimental when they come to listening to the voice of God. As soon as we rage or anger the voice of God ceases. When you discipline your children, make sure your emotion is under check. Anger does not fulfill the righteousness of God. Worry, fear, anger, fleshly desire, doubt, and unbelief have nothing to do with God. You should pray continuously to shake them off you.

It is natural to be angry over someone who did something wrong. That can take place in the typical religious life, but it is impossible in the Kingdom of God. God helps us to see why someone got so angry. "He was wounded. He was spiritually attacked. That was your fault." Proverbs say that man's way of right or wrong ultimately leads to death. What you think right is not necessarily right according to God's eyes. When people get into car accident, most of the time it is a fault of both parties. Likewise when someone gets angry, I am not 100 % free of fault. Although the other party is clearly at fault, I have offered some sort of motivation.

Based on my experience of casting out the spirit of sexual immorality in sisters, I have noticed that they drive their husbands with that spirit. What I mean is that the spirit of sexual immorality teaches the husband to be sexually immoral. For example, a wife may intentionally reject her husband, make him feel lonely, ignore him, or say something to cause discontent. They initiate the husband's sexual immorality. The worldly standard may condemn a husband who had affairs with other woman as bad and wrong; however, if a wife caused it and gave all the reasons for her husband to commit adultery, whose fault is it when they stand before God? All these things do not operate within logic. Listening to the voice of God is not an easy thing. Why? Because the voice of God can be heard when all these things are corrected and adjusted. That's the reason Korean churches are showing allergic reactions when we bring up the topic of listening to the voice of God. There have been so many mistakes like using corrupt and misleading speech in the name of God when in actuality they spoke of their own opinions. Hence, lies!

How do we treat our uncontrollable emotions? If anger, rage, doubt and other things arise within us, we have to admit that. Justification of "I should get angry over that" does not lead to the right emotion. In addition, it is being controlled by the outside force, and prevents us from hearing the voice of God. Admit it! When your teenager comes home late, instead of punishing him out of emotion, listen to the voice of God. "What's the reason he came home late? Did I cause him to do that because of my stiff parental perspective?" That's why we can't easily pick up the rod of discipline. We don't want to make

decisions out of emotion hastily. This is the way of healing our emotion. When you do this, the listening to the voice of God becomes much easier. It takes practice.

2) Distracting Thoughts

The hasty and busy are bound to be easily distracted. Distraction itself is not sin. It is like when my son is about to die from severe illness and I desperately need to pay doctors to operate on him, but I can't use any of the billion dollars I have for my son. That's what distraction does to us. How sorry is that? God, the glorious being, is our father and we have a promise from Him, "Ask whatever you desire it shall be granted"; nevertheless, we can't say a word of prayer for help. That's what distraction is. This is one of the top strategies of our enemies. That's why we must cast it away from us if we have any of it, even if it takes our blood and sweat and knees to peel off. These distracted cannot come before God.

Ephesians 3:12 says, "In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence." We have freedom of speech. We can say whatever is on our mind to God. That's what "approach God with freedom and confidence" means. Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." At the throne of grace decisions are made with regard to the history of nations and the world. We have been justified through Jesus and, yet, distraction makes the throne of grace fail for us. Mary and Joseph lost Jesus in their busyness and distraction. We are supposed to pray for two and a half hours to move the throne of God and go into the presence of glorious God; however, the distracted cannot pray at all. Obviously, because they lost their focus. Our spirit and soul are supposed to control the body and go before the Lord, but we can't because of distraction. One of the best known examples of distraction is falling in a sleep in less than 5 minutes after beginning reading the Bible. They just go to sleep because nothing happens.

The distraction our enemy throws at us is a spiritual battle for the most part. Deal with personified busyness and hastiness and also deal with the spiritual battle coming from outside. Why do I all of a sudden remember the face of my first boyfriend/girlfriend of 20 years ago? What about the scene from a famous sitcom 10 years ago? Train the undisciplined mind! You control television, the computer and other things! It is possible to control them. Use the computer for a good reason. Repent if you play computer games or you are addicted to the online pornography. Through uncontrolled television or computer usage what you see or hear will enter through the structure of your mind and spiritual system and ultimately your sub consciousness and definitely affect your action in the course of your life.

4. Barrier of Tradition

Finally, we came to the barrier of tradition. The blessing of God is unimaginable when we follow and obey the truth of God. God speaks of tremendous blessings in chapter 28 of Deuteronomy in verses 1-14. They are not impractical to us. To receive those incredible blessings from God is through obedience according to Deuteronomy. If we obey the word and do it, God will make us the head, not the tail, bless us when we come in and go out, and raise us up high above all the nations on earth. The blessings are beyond our imagination and, yet, these are practical matters. Disobedient people can't really understand this. When one church, Yulbang Church, or Zoe Ministry Network puts its life on the line for the word of God, before a generation passes, they will become a tribal nation. This is the biblical doctrine of the church. My heart pounds when I think of trainees of our ministry and our future children spread all over moving the world. The reason we have our children in home school is to prevent the corruption of worldliness that brings spiritual loss in our children. God will no doubt use them when we do that.

We must understand the amazing blessing of God if we obey His word. Tradition is the addition of human expression to the truth. For example, when God gave the Ten Commandments through Moses to Israel, they later came up with 613 laws through the tradition of elders to bind up human beings. That's the barrier of traditions. We find the same thing in our churches. When God's word says "give thanks," we are to teach that anything that falls short of giving thanks is sin. We are also to teach Christians that there is no other lifestyle except the lifestyle of the righteous. Furthermore, the bible clearly teaches that only the overcomer will receive the glory of God and that's what we need to teach. However, we somehow come up with a way to deceive ourselves that even though we make compromises and get broken down, we believe that we can go on without the truth of God. We live in a generation that places the doctrine of denomination over the word of God. Korea is the only nation in which denominations exert powerful influence. We don't need denominational theology that paints the color of denomination over the word of God with pretty wrapping paper. We must break down the barrier of tradition that render Christians powerless, such as denominational doctrine, denomination, and the word wrapped by ways of man. There shouldn't be any addition to the word of God at all. There is only one thing for the church to do and that's to be willing to die for the truth.



Listening to the Voice of God 3

Now we get to the portion “Discerning the Voice of God.” This is the first of a three part series and the first part is the most important. I would like to distinguish what’s genuine through Discerning the Voice of God like we have distinguished what’s genuine through the obstacles.

I have no reason to address how to discern the voice of God if you have not let go of the voice of God since you accepted Jesus. Would my son wonder if he hears my voice or not when I speak to him? “Is that my dad?” If my son asks that question every time I speak to him, how can he live? He would be too tired to do that. If we did not let go of His voice ever since he had spoken to us, we wouldn’t need to discern His voice. No matter how hard evil spirits try, we won’t be deceived. However, we have acknowledged something else in our spiritual life in the place of Father. Thus, it is quite difficult to discern the voice of God in our lives. For them we have this series as how to discern the voice of God. Those of you that already hear the voice of God, please don’t think that it is a waste of time, but rather be patient and enjoy it as a confirmation.

In this first part, I would like to share two things: discerning through God’s approach and discerning through God’s appropriateness.

1. Discerning through God’s Approach

It is rather difficult to address on how to discern the voice of God because it is immensely subjective and it is painful to convert it to be objective. It is laborious to objectify my subjective experience with regard to listening to the voice of God. I am not saying this for you to understand my pain, but to understand this message and its application. So, seek God’s wisdom at this moment to understand what is what. The Holy Spirit will help you understand many things and give clarity on how to discern the voice of God.

It is rare to find someone whose spiritual quality is as ignorant as mine. I am not saying this to show you my humility. This is a fact starting with my family’s flow, how I had lived my life, and everything I had including my IQ. I think I was wicked to almost perfection. That’s why I believe you will experience tremendous spiritual growth because you have excellent qualities. God intentionally chose me for this reason. God told me, “Since you were changed who would not be changed?” In all honesty, I pastor with that heart always. When a new member comes, my attitude is that since I changed why would he/she not change? I really bring hope to the hopeless in an overflowing manner.

Therefore, have hope! What is the hope? “I have not seen others who do not have more spiritual qualities than me!” I truly believe you will reach the highest level of Listening to the Voice of God.

There should not be any problem involving Listening to the Voice of God. Absolutely not! The reason for any problem is that people wrongly define the voice of God. You are listening to this message and when we train like this, we can't make problems. No problem at all. Not only this but also the spirituality and Holy Spirit ministry! People have a misconception of Holy Spirit ministry that they think it is all about the spiritual gifts which ultimately bring problems. Spiritual gifts are the beginning stage in spirituality. It begins with faith at the point of contact with the Holy Spirit. Spirituality begins at the basic stage which is the spiritual gift stage. In our church we open up all the spiritual gifts right away during one year of leadership training. This has caused our church to get a bad name because you train with false truth system of Christianity.

So how do we discern the voice of God through God's approach in this first part? The question we want to ask is how do we distinguish the voice of Shepherd and the voice of thief? How do we discern the voice of God?

Like I said earlier, if you had been listening to the voice of God on the first encounter with Him, you wouldn't need this process of discerning the voice of God. We listen when He speaks! When He speaks, we would immediately recognize His voice and be willing to lay down our lives for the hope, faith, love, His amazing blessings, and His word immediately. However, when you started to recognize other things, the confusion began. Now is the time to discard everything but the voice of God, in spite of confusion, and hold on to His voice. Naturally, you begin to live with God and such life becomes easier. If you start to focus on listening to the voice of God, you will lose lots of weight. When you try for the first time to listen to the voice of God, your spirit will float and you can't fall into deep sleep. You will feel like you are floating in the air even in your sleep. You are not tired because you are full of Holy Spirit. Nevertheless, you feel like living a life that's not yours. That's a symptom or effect we see when you focus on the voice of God. In this conference, if you have started to focus on God, you will notice the effect whether you can tell you are asleep or not.

God approaches us when He wishes to speak to us. When I want to speak to my son, I call him in close range. My voice in a sense approaches my son. Likewise God approaches us. When He does, we must discern whether that's Jesus or the thief.

1) The Lord comes through the door

First, let us remember that our Lord comes through the door. In Revelation 3:20, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me." Jesus will knock on the door and come

through the door. Have you seen the picture of Jesus standing by the door and knocking on it? There is no knob on the door to open to go inside. We must remember that unless I open the door Jesus will not force his way in. The door here means our free will. Again God will not barge in when our free will does not agree with Him. God does not speak to one who does not welcome, invite and rejoice in Him 99.9% of the time. God calls and speaks to one who is interested in God and committed to live by Him alone using the Reticular Activating System, not the one who is filled with world and not interested in God. In short, God does not force through the door. "Force" is still heavily subjective. What I mean by that is you feel God's approach as forcefully as your spirit's legalism is.

For example, if the children always listen to the parents and obey them, they don't have to tell them do this or that. However, if they are always disobedient to the parents and oppose the parents' will, then the parents must approach their children and deal with them although they don't want to. "Son, you gotta do this!" Parents must deal with them like that.

When a child does not fully submit to the Father, the Father does not approach him. However, there are times when a Father allows a son to continue in his disobedience. The point is that a child/one who does not fully embrace the heart of the Father may think God is somewhat forceful. This is also subjective. The key point is that God does not forcefully enter into one's life when he completely rejects God and says, "I dislike God!"

This demonstrates the blessing and the curse of free will that God gave us. God seeks the highest good and desires to give us what is perfect. I would like Him to give us some of them forcefully at times.... However, that's not how God treats our free will. If that's true, wherever you train or worship, if you are doing it forcefully or out of obligation, then it is not the work of the Spirit of God. This is pretty important for the pastors in the leadership. Oppressing church members by your own authority as a pastor in your community is dangerous.

It is like this. On one hand, when you oppress someone by the authority of God, it is painful in the course of obedience for him; however, when he obeys, he will experience freedom and peace. On the other hand, when you oppress someone by man's authority, his spirit will be parched and ultimately he will experience the destruction of personality. Instead of having peace, he is always uncomfortable. That's what man's authority does to other people. One of the misunderstood leadership qualities in Korea is using man's authority in leadership thinking that's charisma. That's absolutely not true. In short, oppressing others is not the work of the Holy Spirit. That's the work of evil spirits. If some leadership is oppressing others or forces others, it is accurate to say that's evil spirit. I say

it with 100% confidence, it is 100% the work of evil spirit. Of course, it is difficult to say that it is always oppression when a leader emphasizes certain things and forces others to follow. However, it is very important to remember that God comes to us when our free will agrees to it. In short, when I haven't opened up my free will and someone speaks to me, then that's not God. That's why we say that God does not force us or push on us.

In 1 Samuel, God speaks to Samuel, "Samuel, Samuel." Samuel's weakness of inability to recognize God's voice does not prompt God to forcefully come closer. After calling him three times and when Samuel learns that's the voice of God through Eli and says, "Your servant is here," only then God approaches Samuel. God's approach is very gentle and He approaches us only when our free will agrees to it.

In the New Testament, there is not a single incident where Jesus oppressed man on the earth. Jesus oppressed evil spirits, nature, and everything else except human beings. Jesus chose to suffer for man instead of oppressing him. That's Jesus. That's the reason if we don't meet Jesus the Man, we can't meet Jesus the God. Jesus always chose suffering when it came to the soul and that's the prerequisite for being the Messiah. That's the reason we have a saying that we don't minister to live but to die. That's important. Again, God always chooses to suffer for the sake of man never oppressing him. Only evil spirits oppress. There are many who have been torn by the oppression of leaders in Korea.

2) He leads and never controls

Let us remember that Jesus enters the door when our free will agrees to it and He does not control us but leads us. If we know what we are listening to is the voice of God, we can easily catch Him when He approaches us. If He speaks to you and you feel oppressed, then that's not the voice of God. Of course your free will must accept God, but you may not like to do that. If you force yourself to listen to the voice of God, then you may feel pressure or slight oppression. However, that's not what I'm talking about here. We know right away the work of evil spirits when they come. We feel oppression whereas we feel peace when God comes to us.

Evil spirits cannot easily penetrate into the spirit of man. The breakdown of the soul by evil spirits takes a long time, but they can't immediately enter the spirit of man. They must first take control of our mind. One problem we have is that both God and evil spirit can seize our mind. The evil spirit does not come through the door. Like the Bible says, those that do not come through the door of the fold are the thieves. When we open up our free will to God, He comes in through the door. However, the evil spirits come through our emotions, reason, mind, and unresolved desires. As much as your spirit is not

resolved you open yourself up for Satan's attack.

For example, if the sexual immorality in me has not been resolved, then from outside spiritual attack will come for sure. If I do not take care of the unbelief in me, then an attack of unbelief will surely come. If I haven't dealt with rage, then the spirits that instigate rage will incite slandering, gossiping, hastiness, busyness and fear. As much as I haven't dealt with I leave myself open to Satan's attacks. Therefore, if I continue to purify my spirit and remove Satan's attacks, then the voice of God will be clear and loud. Evil spirits cannot come to us any longer because they only come through our unclean emotions and unresolved desires.

For example, if I am full of greed and the voice of God utters, "I will bless you with a lot of material authority," that's not the voice of God. We can't say that's 100% true because we are limited in our knowledge of how God's works will be displayed. Ruling out 0.1% because of that possibility, 99.9% of the time that's not the voice of God. God does not say that He will bless one with materials when his greed has not been dealt with. God also does not say to a pastor who hasn't dealt with sexual immorality that He will bless him with many followers to reveal a great glory. That's never the voice of God! Personal authority cannot be given to one who hasn't dealt with sexual immorality. 99.9% of the time, that's not the voice of God. God also does not say to one who is full of rage that He will give him God's authority and power. That's not the voice of God. If you give him who is full of rage authority, he will kill many people with it. That's the reason that when the voice of God is uttered to people who haven't dealt with their fleshly desires, we should conclude that's not the voice of God.

Suppose one who doesn't live for God or His glory, pray, and dedicate himself to God receives blessings. That's a phenomenon of evil spirits' intention to lead that soul to utter destruction; it is not a blessing from the Lord. In short, those that do not live for the glory of God or that are impure in their spirits will be destroyed whether they have or have not. Now, do you see how dangerous it is to just pray for blessings, blindly? That's because all our concern should be on the eternal world and not on this earth. Prosperity on earth does not mean anything if we do not prosper in the eternal world. It is a blessing not to have while on earth if we want to be prosperous in eternity. It is better to have not. For instance, if an elder wasn't healthy, he wouldn't have a mistress. God gives him good health and now he has two mistresses. It is a blessing, then, not having good health.

Thieves break through our security through our unresolved fleshly desires. In short, God intervenes into our lives when we open ourselves up through free will, but Satan comes through our unresolved desires. Satan speaks the sounds of deception regard-

less of where we stand spiritually, physically, and mentally. Like I said earlier, when I am full of greed, God does not say that He will give me material blessings. God is clearly aware of my spiritual and mental conditions. He knows what not to give so and so. However, knowing that God shouldn't give whatever to us, but because our fleshly desire demands an approving voice, Satan speaks that to us. You really know that inside.

I haven't lifted up such a prayer, but if God gives me 300,000 people, do you think I can handle them? Yes, if my focus is on growing the size of the church. However, my focus is to train up every member to be the best saint in the world, to be a minister, and to be a missionary according to the principles in Ephesians. That's why it is a daunting task to have just one new member every week. My prayer time just gets longer and longer. I begin intercessory prayers as soon as people join our church membership, and my prayer time gets long. Intercessory prayer may not be painful for those who just do it out of routine; however, in some perspective, it is a lot of work because intercessory prayer is embracing all pain, hurt, despair, and corruption of those whom you pray for. It is necessary to repent first, pray holding on to the word, and be filled with Holy Spirit before engaging in the intercessory prayer. If you don't, it will be difficult to carry on with such prayer. Of course, we do that some times because we don't have enough time or the intercession for a particular person may be urgent. The regular pattern of intercessory prayer does not begin right away with prayer.

When I hear the voice of God, "Minho, I will bring revival in 2009 and give you 30,000 people," that's not the voice of God. I know that because I know full well that I can't handle them. I can't even be deceived by that voice. You are the same. You know well your weakness and what you are vulnerable to when you possess something you shouldn't. If you hear the voice of incredible blessings, then you know that's a lie. It is possible to prophesy that God will bless you so richly in the future when you purify and sanctify your spirit. Yes, that's possible. Nevertheless, don't believe if a voice comes and says that it will be done right away.

When Satan approaches us, he uses fear as a springboard and threatens and intimidates us. For example, if you don't do this, something bad will happen. That's the voice of Satan. God never speaks that way. In addition, Satan's voice commands in a coercible manner. That voice impels and constrains you to act now.

I ministered someone a long time ago who was trained by an evil spirit for three nights and four days. There would be a voice that falls on his ears to read in the Bible a certain chapter and verse when he didn't have any desire to read. He perceived that as the voice of God and started to read the Bible. Next, the voice would tell him to sing a hymn

out of the hymnal. Next, it would say to stop breathing for one minute. After reading the certain chapter and verse in the Bible, the voice would come to circle the well a few times. “Jump over your son back and forth ten times!” When the voice says to pray for 10 hours three straight days, he prays for 10 hours. Although the evil spirit was cast out of him, it took a full month for that voice to disappear from him. That’s because it seized his language center in the brain to destroy him. That’s never God’s voice. Don’t be deceived by that.

God is affectionate, loving, humble and gentle. When He approaches, we know immediately. “Ahh, this is the Lord!” I know it is subjective, but I know right away even if a wolf puts on white power all over and pretends to be the mother lamb. Even if it tries to trick me, it won’t work. The approach of God who is full of gentleness, humility, and love comes with peace which fills my heart immediately. In short, if you do not feel peace almost 100% of the time, it is a work of evil spirits. That’s a rule of thumb in discernment. The voice of God gives us peace. In other words, if there is no peace and stillness in your faith life, something is not going right.

3) God’s approach is personal

My 3rd point is in John 10:3, the shepherd enters by the gate, his sheep listen to his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name. God speaks to each sheep. God speaks to each one of us personally. So, if He speaks to address all of us at once, that’s not the voice of God. Let’s suppose that I am writing a letter to my wife. Would I address her as the most noble and respectable wife of a senior pastor of Yulbang Church? No, not at all. I would address her as my beloved Hyunkyung. Likewise, God addresses us personally.

This is difficult to describe because God’s approach to us is subjective. This is related to appropriateness which I will address as a second style. Appropriateness is a style. God has His own unique style as He approaches us. It comes about by the depth of my faith and by the long fellowship I have with Him. This is like the unique style my wife and I develop in our relationship. I have a unique style when I speak with my wife and so does my wife as she speaks to me. This is what I mean by being personal. The evil spirits work against us and try to deceive us; however, this deception does not work against us because we have developed a unique style in our fellowship with God in the last 20 years. I am saying again that God is personal. The style in which God comes to me depends on my depth of faith, maturation, and other things. For example, when God pours out His love to us, He doesn’t pour out so much in tous that our small vessel will break apart. That’s not the way of God. He doesn’t do something that we can’t handle.

When I say this is personal, I mean that God approaches one that He is speaking to in a way that fits him. God speaks to him in a unique way. In the early stage of my faith life, God called me, “Servant, servant.” Now, that’s not how God calls me. As I have matured God calls me in a new style, “Minho, Minho.” God will continue to call my name in heaven. Do you think that your name will change when you go to heaven? No, it will not. That’s why we should be named well because our name will be the same even in heaven.

When I say this is personal, there is appropriate intimacy, tenderness, and thoughtfulness in the voice of God. When Jesus came to earth, He called Himself, “Son of man” which necessitates much theological explanation. “Son of man” can be summed up like this. If God says, “I am God” to us, then we will faint and die. Therefore, He said to us “I am a human being just like you. I know your hurt and sorrow and I will take upon your pain.” That’s how God approaches us. I will explain it more when I get around to Mark, but it is a complicated theological issue. There are seven or eight steps but in short the reason He calls Himself as Son of man is because we can’t accept Him when He calls Himself “God.” This is pretty personal. He is Creator God that created all things in the universe and transcends the universe and, yet, He comes into the history and counts even the number of our hairs. God is personal enough to count our hairs. What I mean by “personal” is that it is something for us to experience. We must develop our own style as we fellowship with Him.

A couple has developed their own style after 20 or 30 years of marriage. If not, their relationship will sour and drift. They should feel comfortable. In the early years of marriage, a couple is driven by curiosity and excitement, but after 20 years or so they develop a unique style of trust and friendship. However, if they do not develop their love style after 20 or 30 years, their relationship is disquieting. My wife and I have a certain a style for our marriage which is under 20 years whereas Elder Park and his wife probably have a style fitting for 50 years of marriage.

We develop our own style in fellowship with God. If we don’t, we will be easily deceived. In other words, if we don’t have a frequent interaction with God, that means we won’t have that certain style. When we have a frequent interaction with God, we develop our unique style with God. There is God’s own style of approaching us. For example, I am different from other people. God normally comforts those that are suffering and they can draw a new strength from the comfort of God. However, with me God confirms the vision that He cast to me instead of comforting me. He would say, “Minho, you know that I am fulfilling the glorious vision that I have shown you. So, don’t you fear anything!” Like that God confirms His vision to us. To some people God comforts them by saying, “I love you

and I am with you.” That’s God’s way of approach to some people. You have to develop your own style. That’s possible when you have a continual fellowship with Him.

2. Through Appropriateness

Appropriateness in listening to the voice of God means not going beyond of your faith. God does not speak to us beyond the depth of our faith. This is very important. For example, God can do supernatural things through anyone. When He tells me to raise up the paralytic, I have no doubt that’s the voice of God. However, if a man hears that who has never done that before and only has a faith to attend the Sunday worship service, then 99% of the time that may not be God’s voice. That may be an attempt to stir up heroism and to lead one to despair. It is an unwritten rule of the Kingdom of God that God doesn’t speak beyond the depth of our faith. Widen/deepen your faith continuously, so that you may have God’s faith eventually, that you will not doubt the voice of God when He says, “Throw this mountain into the sea.” When I accept by my faith, that’s because I already know that’s the voice of God. It is the same as the faith that resurrects the dead and as the faith that creates out of nothing. From my perspective we have a pretty active ministry with creating something out of nothing. That’s all possible because I have a deep faith. Again, God doesn’t speak to us to do something that’s beyond our faith. So we have discerned that God speaks to us through appropriateness in terms of depth of faith.

1) Through Appropriateness of Time

God speaks to us with regard to appropriate time. In Matthew 6:34, God speaks to us, “Don’t worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” However, Satan tempts us to worry about tomorrow and to focus on the past. The voice of God is realistic and present. God is eternal present. For example, if you hear a voice that says something like, “How are you going to raise up your kids?” That is the work of Satan. He also makes you worry about what to eat after a month when you still have enough food to last a month. God is realistic and present. This does not mean that God doesn’t speak of a vision in the future. The strategy of Satan is to deter you from concentrating on what’s at the present moment and shifts your concern vaguely to the future, so you will worry about it.

Like in Hebrews 13:5, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,” remember that God fills us with His presence and He is always with us. Don’t fall into Satan’s strategy by consistently focusing on a vague future. Satan tries to turn our attention to the past or the future. For example, Satan may say, “You sinned that time.” That is a typical strategy of Satan. Even if you haven’t repented of your sin, God doesn’t speak like that.

That's not how God approaches us. God says something like, "I am sad that your spirit is in such a condition and you are in the midst of sin." That does that mean? The reason you are in the midst of sin is because your past sin is not resolved. Satan tries to make us cling to the past. When you hear something like, "Hey, what are you gonna do now?" That's the voice of evil spirits. God never speaks that way. Now, can you discern that? When you hear a voice, you discern it. That's how you comprehend the voice of God.

2) Appropriate Resource

Do you believe God speaks to us with regard to resources? God promised to supply all the needs to those that are with Him. In Matthew 6, Jesus said, "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; but seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness." Those that heard this word of Jesus weren't rich people, but rather the poor who would die of starvation unless they found something to eat before the day passed. Nevertheless, Jesus promised the prosperity of God to them saying, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness." In Philippians 4:19 Paul says, "Any my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus." The voice of God reminds us to focus on the riches of His glory instead of what we have.

We want to remember that. It is Satan's strategy when we try to do things with what we have. "Minho, give glory to God with a dime because that's all you have." That's a lie. Satan focuses on our deficiencies and what we lack. Satan says something like this, "That's all you have!" With five loaves of bread and two fish, God's focus was on introducing the prosperity of God. However, Satan's focus is on "that's all you have." Satan's focus is on the lack of 200 denarii which is the cost to cover the food for the crowd, whereas God's focus is on feeding the 5,000 with five loaves of bread and two fish. Satan's strategy is to lead you to focus on what you have and thus refocusing on what you lack. I am not saying that you think on a large scale. When it comes to God's ministry with regard to resources, the focus is not on what I have or what I lack.

If we want to start on a church building project with a budget of \$100,000 and hear the voice to plan ahead within the budget, this may not be the voice of God. Almost! There can be a special case, but I have not lived like that in my 20 years of living with God. For those who have been living with God like that, it may be appropriate for them. However, in my case that's not how it has been. Like you already know about the church building we are using right now, God had told us to buy a \$1 million building when the whole church asset was worth \$100,000. So I told the owner of the building to sell it to us because we need it. The asking price was \$950,000 but I told the owner, "If we don't buy this, no one else will. We will buy it for \$500,000." That's what I told him and he couldn't sell it after-

ward. Later, the owner came back to me and said, “Pastor, please pay me little more,” so I paid \$ 20,000 on top of the original offer. We bought the church building for \$520,000. Things like this happen more than once or twice.

We were living with 13 other ministers in our 800 square foot apartment and it took us two hours to take shower. Therefore, we wanted to move to a bigger apartment and that’s when IMF hit our nation. The deposit for the lease of our apartment was \$28,000, but with the IMF it plummeted to \$18,000. Who would pay the deposit of \$28,000 now? We couldn’t recover the deposit for the lease. Anxiously I told God that we don’t have much time to pray and it is painful. God replied and said, “Put it in the market.” So, we put it out in the market that same day and we had a signed contract for \$28,000 that afternoon. Isn’t it funny? The current value was only \$18,000 and someone paid \$28,000. When we live with God, our focus is not on what we have. For the last 20 years reading through the Bible, the focus of God is on feeding 5,000 men in His riches with five loaves of bread and two fish, not over the deficiency of bread worth 200 denarii.

When it comes to appropriateness, the depth of faith is important. Everything is the same. More than laboring diligently for 10 hours of time we have, giving ten minutes to God brings greater work just like giving five loaves of bread and two fish to God. This is what I mean by not living by the Law, but by grace. When you do something for 10 hours, it is not much at all. However, ten minutes that you give to God will bring about a great work. It is impossible to feed 5,000 men with 200 denarii, but five loaves of bread and two fish given to God would bring a plentiful result. This is what I call grace. In short, living by laboring for 10 hours is the Law and the will to buy food with 200 denarii to feed 5,000 men is also the Law.

“How are you going to meet what you lack?” The voice of Satan focuses on the deficiency. “Where are you going to get the money from? What are you going to do for the upcoming tuition of your kids? What about the gasoline money?” These voices make you restless. “The economy for next year looks grim. What are you going to do?” “Should we reduce the missionary support? We should reduce the whole budget in the church.” That’s all work of Satan. In our church we are going to soar high in 2009. We will see the rich work of God more than we can imagine. I say this all the time. If the church becomes poor because the economy in the world goes bad, then that’s not a church, but a business. The church can never be that. When the world is darkened, the church will be richer.

I read on the newspaper that fortune tellers are having a great business because things are gloomy with the worsening economy. Fortune tellers are seeing revivals and the churches should see the revivals as well. Don’t you agree? The church that has the

living and active word of God should see revivals. This is an indication that the word of the church is weaker than the words of fortune tellers. This is so sad. It makes me very upset to see the power of God's word powerless compared to the word of fortune tellers and tarot readers. That's not supposed to be. The reason this happens is because of a gradual build up of living a faith life focused on the deficiencies led by Satan. Continue to focus on the riches of God. I say it again that if God doesn't do it, I never do it. However, when He tells me to do it, I will lay down my life for it.

For example, with \$100,000 we purchased a \$1 million church building. At the end it costed us a total of \$1 million with the interior decoration. As I look back I notice that if we hadn't saved \$500,000 we wouldn't have finished the interior decoration. Look, with a half million we have we are waiting for the work of God that would be more than \$50 million. Is it easier to dream of \$1 million when you have \$100,000 or to dream of \$50 million when you have \$500,000? It is former. We had bigger faith back then to dream of \$1 million with \$100,000 in our possession, to purchase \$1 million church building with 30 members, and to spend \$60,000 for missions. Our focus should be on the riches of God.

3) Appropriateness in Circumstance

How does God speak to us with regard to circumstance? We sometimes think "what if there wasn't suffering, what if I hadn't met him/her, or what if I hadn't done business with him." We even say that out loud. However, those thoughts are mostly not the voice of God. Why? Because either God generated that particular circumstance or opened it up although He didn't allow it. Not even a sparrow falls to the ground without the will of God. Likewise all my circumstances and relationships are either allowed by God or opened up by Him. That's why any voice that utters regrets with regard to the circumstance or situation is not the voice of God 99% of the time. God's way is how He will lead us to triumph in the present circumstance through His dignity over the regret of "how better it would have been to meet so and so." God's voice is not about despair or regrets of the current circumstance.

John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress was written because John overcame hardship. If he had had despair and frustration, then there wouldn't have been The Pilgrim's Progress. If Apostle Paul had complained sitting in the jail "this is what happens to evangelists," then we wouldn't have the work of the early church. The perspective of God with regard to circumstance, suffering and people are like thorns to a child of God; "What is the benefit to my soul that God would allow them?" That's the voice of God. Someone in the church can turn into a thorn and pierce me. "He is a bad man deserving of so and so!" That's not the voice of God. You need to ask God, "Why is he being such a thorn in my neck?" "Why

am I suffering? The voice of God speaks the benefit of the hardship/suffering to my soul.

In Psalm 60:8 the psalmist says, “Moab is my washbowl.” I read this a few times before and my reaction was that they probably have a good hot spring. That’s when God said, “Stop.” Moab is my washbowl. Why? Because Moabites afflict Israel and through their affliction Israel is purified. From that day on my perspective on suffering totally changed. Moab is my washbowl. That’s the voice of God. The voice that leads to despair and disheartening about suffering in current circumstances is not the voice of God. God always gives the word to our soul what would be the benefit of suffering and receiving thorns. However, Satan always deceives us with a wrong interpretation to afflict the fear of suffering in us. As a result we fall into despair and are disheartened.

4) Appropriate Understanding

I am not saying that we can understand through reason and rationality. But rather we can understand according to the depth of our faith. “Leave the household of your father!” Abraham could understand that. “God spoke it to me.” He left immediately. However, some people could never understand that. They might say, “Why would I leave my father’s house? Are you crazy?” God speaks as much as one can accept His word. If someone doesn’t understand and God spoke to him, then he can only recognize it as the voice of Satan. Why? Because he doesn’t have the depth of faith to receive God’s word. However, God does not speak to us knowing that it is useless to speak to us about that. Do you understand that? God always speak to us to the extent as much as we can understand according to the depth of our faith.

When you hear the voice of God, according to the depth of your faith you can understand His voice which leads you in further detail, gives you more faith and confidence. For example, Hannah is barren, so she doesn’t have any child. She is in sorrow because of that. While she is praying, she hears the voice that says, “I will give you a son.” She believes that by her faith and her face shines brightly. However, for some people when they hear the voice, “I will give you a son,” they don’t understand it for lack of faith. How can they bear a child?

Let me give you another example. We are beginning our church building project. God says, “Minho, wait. I will fill it.” When I hear that voice, I have no doubt about that and believe according to the depth of my faith and clearly understand what kind of work God will do. Let’s suppose God says, “Go and get a loan of \$10 million from a bank.” Is that a voice of God or not? That would be the command of God that the depth of my faith cannot understand. Most likely that wouldn’t be the voice of God.

Are you getting this? I hope it is not too difficult. It is difficult because I am trying to turn a subjective matter into an objective matter. The important thing is that you develop an unique style through consistent fellowship with God. What is that style again? In fellowship with God, you develop a certain way. I said this earlier that when I call my son “Chungman,” he does not doubt that is my voice. It is the same principle. When God speaks in a certain style, you know it is God and accept that without any doubt.

I used to speak to my children, “Study hard.” Now, they have grown up and when they mature, I will speak to them about our family, further about the spiritual matters, and further about this nation. As they mature more, our conversation of style will be wider. Likewise as our depth of faith deepens, our understanding of God’s voice will increase.

When I hear the voice of God, it is not blurry in the depth of my faith. It is very clear. I know what God exactly means when He says, “Minho, wait. I will fill it.” I wait without any doubt. I do not try to make something happen with my effort. I patiently wait until He fills it. However, when He says, “Get a loan for \$10 million from a bank,” I know immediately that’s not God’s way.

5) Appropriateness in His ways

Finally, what I mean by the ways of God is that God performs miracles not magic. Satan told Jesus to turn the stone into bread and jump off from the pinnacle of the temple. That’s not the way of God. That’s not how God works. God performs a miracle of feeding 5,000 men with five loaves of bread and two fish, but He does not turn stone into bread. That does not mean that He can’t do it. It is not that He can’t turn stone into bread. It is just not His way. There are ways of God that I can accept. Specifically, I catch the ways of God. God is a God of knowledge. That means God is experiencing me and I am experiencing Him at the same time.

Do you get that? So far I have talked about accepting the ways of God from my perspective. In this final section, we will see how we can catch God’s level when He works. If God tells me to turn this stone into bread, then I know that’s not God’s way. I also know that jumping off the pinnacle of temple is not God’s way. God is a God of knowledge, so God experiences me and I experience Him at the same time.

Conclusion

This is a lot to handle so I will address the practical matters later. Please do not worry about it, too much. The important thing is that God speaks to us appropriately with regard to circumstance, resource, understanding, time and in all His ways. Satan focuses

on the past and the blurry future whereas God is eternal present. Satan tries to get us to focus on the past and then on the deficiency. God's focus is on His riches. If we say that 200 denarii is not enough to feed as Satan's strategy, the work of God is to feed with five loaves of bread and two fish to manifest His riches.

With regard to appropriateness in circumstance, despair and frustration stemming out of suffering, pain, and thorns in circumstance is not the voice of God. How the suffering and thorns will bring goodness to my soul is the voice of God. That's always the case. Moab is my washbowl. Pastors, if a certain member in the church is a thorn under your skin, there is a reason for that. You should repent instead of coercing him and of talking bad about him. Don't fall into Satan's trap. Most pastors including me easily make this mistake by talking bad about a person who causes much trouble. Please don't say that you haven't done that. We all need to repent. "Oh, God, this is a thorn to me." Moab is my washbowl.

Is this helpful to you? I hope you can discern this. You should continue to put all this in your brain to the point that it will immediately come out. The most important thing is that you develop a style in your fellowship with God. Unless you develop that style, this will be difficult for you. As I turn this subjective matter into objective matter, please accept God without any doubt and deepen the depth of your faith. God speaks as much as your depth of faith. Abraham had the faith of resurrection, but not until the age of 130. God could not speak to Abraham to sacrifice Isaac until 130 years old. That's because Abraham's depth of faith was only so much. We want to deepen the depth of our faith. If the depth of your faith is shallow, all you will hear is "wah, wah" Continue to grow to live a faith life listening to God's plan and providence moving the histories of nation and world. May you hear the voice of God!



Listening to
the Voice of God

Listening to the Voice of God 4

One thing I want to stress is that it is not a work of God to manufacture something you already don't have. When you accepted Jesus as your Lord, all the functions of the Kingdom of God came inside of you. I hope that you don't just understand out of epistemology. In reality as you live with the Holy Spirit in your faith life you will experience that God has given you all things. You will come to understand and see how beautifully this will start to function as we deal with the false things within us.

Listening to the voice of God is the same. When God came upon you, listening to the voice of God is one of the functions of the Kingdom of God. It naturally came to you. The question is why doesn't it work? It's because your structure of mind and spiritual system are broken down. As they are healed, the Kingdom of God naturally comes upon you. The beatitudes are a spiritual system embracing the Kingdom of God. The poor in spirit, those that mourn, the gentle, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, and the pure in heart become peacemakers to gladly choose the persecution for righteousness. This is the spiritual condition of those that have embraced the Kingdom of God. When your spiritual system and structure of mind are restored, it becomes natural to hear the voice of God. All the structures that the Bible talks about are like this.

When it comes to healing the spiritual system and the structure of mind, the important thing is what you are looking at. Depending on what you look at, its influence will affect you. If you are looking at the world, worldly influence will affect you. If you are looking at some person, their influence will affect you. That's the reason we should consistently look to God and focus on Him. I don't look to the world intentionally while I am looking to God. However, when I have high saturation of the Kingdom of God, it will not be diluted despite looking at other things periodically. Rather, I recognized a device that turns the worldly things into things of the Kingdom of God. This is what I call spiritual-reverse osmosis. Osmosis is the tendency of a fluid which flows from a higher concentration to a lower concentration equalizing the solution. But in reverse osmosis, there is a semi permeable membrane that allows the flow of the fluid from a lower concentration to a higher concentration. Our faith life should be like that of spiritual-reverse osmosis.

That's the life style of a man whose spiritual system and structure of mind are normalized. There will come a point where the corruption of world can no longer corrupt him. People like him won't look to the world intentionally, but as he is exposed to the world, he would not be defiled at all.

That's why we continue to focus on God and extract the false spiritual system and structure of mind. The most important factor in that process is to establish a truth system through the church. I will talk about this again that the establishment of the truth system

through the church is all important. When it comes to listening to the voice of God, His voice does not deviate (swerve) from the word of the Bible. One important part of the training in listening to the voice of God is to open up the Bible and lift up the words of God in prayer. It is repeating the words of the Bible through my mouth.

I spoke to you in the first session to respond to God. You respond with scriptures. That's the most important training. Once you embrace this spiritual system and the structure of mind, you can listen to the voice of God. Please remember, the ability to listen to the voice of God is one of the inherent powers of God. As you focus on God and keep looking to Him, uncover all the defiled and corrupted systems in your unconsciousness and continue to extract them. Such corrupted systems formed out of wrong and false truth. Such corrupted systems in you will affect you to choose a wrong action. That's how a life starts to go down the hill.

Why do you try to force something when it comes to the work of the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit moves according to the truth. Since you do not have the truth established in you, you force things. You don't need to do that if you know clearly what the truth is. For the Holy Spirit will work according to the truth. So, clearly establish the spiritual system and the structure of mind which will in turn firmly establish the Kingdom of God in your soul. When the Kingdom of God comes into you, you will naturally hear the voice of God. You no longer have to force thing anymore.

The discernment of the voice of God is unnecessary for people who are already living it out. Those that can clearly hear the voice of God and live with God don't need discernment. They've got it. For others, however, I am encouraging them to discern what is false and extract or remove that to make things simple and beneficial for them. I am sharing this word for them to benefit from such extraction. Well, in reality it is not that beneficial. That doesn't mean you don't need to hear it. Please keep listening and the essence is to focus on God and restructure the mind and spiritual system the way God intended them to be. In the process we need to discern what is false and extract it.

In the process of discernment, the difficult part is that there is no defined form. What I mean by that is if there is 6.5 billion people on the planet, God applies His own style for each person. So my style with God is different from someone else's style with God. His style with God is different from another's style with God. That's the power of the Creator. Man cannot do that. However, God can pour out all the glory of His only Son to all of us and love each and every one of us. Creator God is able to pour out all the glory of His only Son to love each one of us. That's the reason we develop a unique style in our fellowship with God and recognize His unique approach to us.

In short, continue to dialogue with God and develop a style with Him. As you deepen the depth of your faith your style with God will go deeper. You were talking to God in baby sounds and heard the Father's caring sounds like "wah, wah" and now hear the voice of God that moves the histories of the nation and the world. You felt the love of God that fills your needs, and now you truly understand the everlasting love of the Father who gave up His own life for you, and the depth of His love deepens ever more. This style will continue to increase in you. Although it is difficult for me to objectify what is subjective, my desire is that you will develop a style with God after hearing the outline of this message. I know it will be helpful to you in this process. Why? Because I already went through the trial and error and I am offering what I have learned so far, so that you won't have to make the same errors I made.

In discernment of hearing the voice of God, there is no defined form. Nevertheless, it is essential for us to have a continuous fellowship with God as our faith deepens. Now, you recognize that it is a time to move away from a monologue prayer to a prayer that you hear from God and talk to Him. When you shift from a monologue prayer in the fellowship with God, your faith life moves up to the next level. That's why you have to listen to the voice of God.

Discerning the Voice of God by Contents

In this last sermon message, it was difficult for me to objectify what is subjective. Today's message is challenging because of its sheer volume.

Does anyone believe that in my conversation with my wife I only talk about food? Probably not! My wife and I talk about a lot of things like about the church members, about faith, about our children, and our nation. We talk about a variety of topics. Likewise, God and I talk about many different things. If we try to discern whether that's God or not only by the content of the conversation, then it will cause a bad headache. Nevertheless, I will still speak on this matter because you will develop a certain understanding with regard to the content.

I realize that as I mature in my faith, my topics of interest becomes similar to God's. When I was immature, I was concerned about myself and about God, like "Who am I? Who is God? Who is mom?" God would teach me in regard to questions like those. As I matured in my faith the content of our conversation changed like about other people, national history and world history as well. In the beginning stage of your faith life, what you hear a lot is about you and about God. As you mature, you will hear about your sins. After that you will talk about other people.

Do you want to hear about other people while you are in the beginner's stage? As a part of the training you may hear about others. God will speak to you because it is a training, but most of time God won't speak to you about others personally. Furthermore, if you don't know how to intercede for others, God won't mention other people to you. The reason God speaks to you about others is because He desires you to intercede on behalf of them. God won't speak to those that do not know how to pray. When you don't intercede for others and God told you to speak something to a person, that's a total lie. That's the voice of evil spirit. God tells those who have the structure of mind that can intercede about the matters of other people. In the beginning stage of my faith life, I developed a habit of praying for all the members in the church. So, God has been telling me about other people a long time. However, God does not speak about others when we don't intercede for them. There is no point for God to tell those whose concern is over only themselves and their children. Widen/deepen your prayer for your nation, for your people, for missionaries, and for histories of the nation and the world.

1) We can discern through the Word about God Himself.

There are seven types of discerning the voice of God through content. First, we can discern the voice of God when He speaks about Himself. Like I said earlier, in the beginning stage, God speaks a lot about Himself because it is important. Because wrong and false concepts of God lead to a false spiritual system and structure of mind, God speaks in the beginning stage to clearly teach about Himself in order to build a healthy spiritual system and structure of mind in us.

When I met Jesus 20 years ago, in the beginning stage, I don't remember anything else but Him talking about Himself. Of course God periodically showed me His great visions and spoke that He was going to use me. That was rare. The vision He is showing me now is not comparable to what He showed me back then. It is like God showed me a boulder back then, but now the boulder is almost a perfect statue of David. Since God had shown me the boulder, He chiseled it for the last 20 years and now the statue of David is almost completed. God is speaking to me about the vision so much like Michelangelo would sculpture muscles and veins on a statue. The main topic of the conversation is about me and God Himself.

This is important because our misunderstanding of God would lead us to make a critical mistake spiritually. In other words, the proclamation of the word of God to Christians will determine their eternal outcome. I said this before that there is very little consequence when one inaccurately prophecies or incompletely heals someone. When I say there is very little consequence, I mean that it will affect us or anyone just a little bit nega-

tively. However, the consequence of falsely spreading the truth will affect everyone for 2,000 years. If Paul hadn't precluded other gospels at that time and hadn't established the truth God had given him, then Christianity would have been localized in the small country of Israel as a small and insignificant religion. The truth transcends for 2,000 years.

You hear of who God is through the church or learn through the truth. You want to clearly understand the scripture about the stories of God and about yourself. This is an analogy of a false concept of God and His character. When a baby bird breaks out of the shell, she recognizes the first thing/person she sees as a mother. Likewise in our beginning stage of faith life, if we misunderstand who God is, it will have a lasting impact on us. That's the reason you want to know His voice well.

We can say a lot about God, but God says that He is our Father to us a lot, especially at the beginning stage. "I am your Father." "I am your Bridegroom." He is God and I am His people. "I am your friend." God speaks this, but over 90% of the time, He wants us to recognize Him as our Father. In this image of a father, what is the most important image to us? How does God appeal to us? God speaks of His holiness and love to us more than anything else.

Satan's strategy is to expose just one side of the whole matter. For example, I have just sinned, but Satan shelves the holiness away and says, "It is all right. You couldn't help it." God is stern when it comes to sin. However, Satan says, "That's ok." That's not the voice of God. Christians want to be comforted when they come to the church. However, the pastor does not have to console them. When they repent of their sin and God forgives their sin, even if they don't want to, God will comfort them. They still haven't resolved the problems of their sin and still live wickedly in the world. Yet, they say, "Pastor, it is so challenging to live in the world, so speak to me the words of comfort and messages of joy and hope." Even if I don't preach a sermon over joy and hope, once they form a right relationship with God He will be a God of hope to them. They don't have to worry about. "Preacher, please comfort me!" That's like volunteering and saying, "I am going to live in wickedness." Why does one not rejoice? Because he is not righteous, so he can't rejoice. Why does not one have hope? Because he is not righteous. Satan totally disregards the holiness by saying, "That's all right. I will be with you." God does not say that He will be with you when you haven't dealt with the problem of sin. I love my children and I am pleased with them. However, I do not hug them when they have feces all over their body. I first clean them up and hug them next .

Furthermore, God is a God of love. Reversely, "I will never forgive you. You will be punished," is not the voice of God. Of course, God is stern about sins, but God doesn't say

that He won't forgive your sin. There is a balance of holiness and love. On one hand, God is love like a Father's love, but on the other hand God is stern and strict. God never lets go of the matter of holiness when it comes to sin. At the same time God is a God of love. That's what the cross is...

I say this all the time that the cross resolved the conflicts of God's holiness, righteousness and love. God must punish sinful humanity. God must annihilate them. That's the characteristic of God's holiness. At the same time God is a God of love. He stills loves you regardless. The conflict of love and holiness was tremendous for God and His Son. Jesus, standing next to Him, saw this conflict and said, "Punish me on their behalf to satisfy Your holiness and love." That's the event of the cross! Pushing Himself is the event of cross. That's why we have the phrase, 'Amazing Grace.'

So, we hear the most about His holiness and love. God continues to speak to us about His attributes. God speaks, "Minho, I dislike your such and such sin in you." Seriously, God is very stern. Moreover, God many times speaks, "I love you. You are my precious." In the beginning stage, God expresses His love to us a lot.

In Ephesians 5, when we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we sing to God with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we become a singer and a poet. When we live with God, we become romantic. Whether you believe me or not, I am very romantic and noble. The truth is I wasn't like that. As I had met God and had fellowship with God, I became romantic, gentle, and kind. We have to become people like that. When we continue in our fellowship with God deeply, God speaks of how much He loves us. God speaks of the God of love. However, when it comes to holiness, God is stern about it. God speaks to us about His kindness as our Father and His seriousness toward sin. I will follow up more on that later.

First, God is our Father. God speaks to us about Himself and about many other things like what He likes and dislikes. "I like such and such aspects of you or I dislike such and such." He speaks to us like that a lot of times in the beginning stage. I heard from my wife say about child psychology that it is good to define clearly what is allowed and what is not allowed early on in a child's life. I do not know anything about child psychology nor do I know anything about the author of such a book, but I know that the author had the same heart as God. So when we are like a child, God speaks to us about what God likes and what He loves because of who He is. Of course, we still continue to hear about those things as we mature.

Second, continue to know the Bible. In Hosea 4:6, it says, "My people are de-

stroyed for lack of knowledge.” We shouldn’t become such people. Open up your Bible, chew on the scriptures and regurgitate them over and over. I have shared how to read the Bible before. When you begin a day, you ask God, “What book of the Bible should I read?” If God says “Galatians,” read Galatians from chapter 1 to chapter 6 in one sitting. We need to train to eat the whole book of the Bible and that’s where life comes from. Please don’t divide the books in the Bible. You don’t know how impoverishing Bible Study is to our spirit! We don’t study the Bible! When you dissect a life form and cut it up, it dies, doesn’t it? We should eat the whole life. Train to eat the Bible as a whole to understand the characteristics of the Father; what He likes, what He dislikes, what He thinks about me and so on. If you comprehend them through the Bible, you don’t need the discernment of the voice of God. You naturally know “oh, this is the Father or not.” People are deceived by the evil one because they don’t know the Bible at all and fall to the heresy.

2) We can discern through the word of the Bible

Discerning the voice of God through the Bible or through the spirit of the word is most important. It rarely gets out of the boundary of the Bible. Even if it does get out of the boundary of the Bible, when you examine it, it is still biblically sound principle. When you listen to the voice of God, He does not speak beyond the boundary or the principle of the Bible. It seems like it is not the word of God at first, but upon careful examination it is from the Bible. As a child of God you have to be a professional more than anything else when it comes to the Bible. I am not saying to you to become a theologian.

Suppose I am a very powerful pastor. The dead comes back to life, evil spirits are cast out, and all the sick are healed. However, I don’t have the word of God. How long do you think the church members will obey a command of God that He gives through me? For a year? Yes. For two years? Yes. For three years? Yes. For four years? Maybe yes. However, at the end the church members will not lay down their lives for the words that come through me. The reason Christians lay down their lives is because of the truth that comes out of a pastor’s mouth. The followers of apostle Paul were great men in their faith life. Yet, they were willing to give up their own eyes and their own life for Paul. How could they? Were they willing to do that for the person Paul? No! They would do that because they saw the glory of the truth through apostle Paul. That’s the reason they were willing to die for Paul. Let’s suppose I tell our church members to give up their life for me. Does that mean they are going to give up their life for the person named Minho Kim? No! I mean they would give up their life for the truth of God they received through me. That’s possible! When I say, “Go to the place of martyrdom through the church,” they go. The reason they go in obedience to the word is because the truth is proclaimed.

In short, if we don't establish the truth system through the church, it is useless to focus on how to listen to the voice of God. We really don't need to do that. I am preaching on this topic of "Listening to the Voice of God" on the presupposition that all Zoe Ministry Network churches are willing to die for the truth. I should have preached on this topic of "Listening to the Voice of God" seven years ago. The reason I waited until now is because we needed some time to be confirmed in the truth through the Zoe Ministry Network. Although this is basic stuff, the reason I am preaching on this now is because the truth has not yet been proclaimed to them. When people who haven't established the truth system try to listen to the voice of God, they will become a spiritual guru. They will only talk about whether it is a "golden ax or silver ax." (They will be interested in only discerning matter.) They will be just like a "Jesus shaman." There will be no difference between them and fortune tellers. We lay down our life for the truth absolutely!

Therefore, there is no reason for us to speak to people who do not have the truth. There is nothing to talk about with those who have not established the truth system. That's why I do not talk to churches outside of Zoe Ministry Network. What good is it to minister to them or prophesy for them? That's the reason I try to refrain from prophetic ministry to those that come the first time. That's the heart God has given me. So, please come to Zoe Ministry Network and train for two or three years. Afterward when you have established the truth system, I will do prophetic ministry. That's when it will be beneficial to you. If you ask our church members what I say to the people who join our church at the beginning, they will tell you "not much." There are a few that I speak to however. There is no need to wait. Why? Because they accept the truth that comes through me and live accordingly. So I do not prophesy at all. It gets easier for me.

As we discern the content of what God speaks to us through Scripture, realize that God applies these principles when He engrafts the Bible. What I mean by that is the principle is wide. We want to look at the forest. Moreover, the principle means application of His character and personality. However, Satan always applies the evidence.

For example, in Matthew 4:1-15, Satan tempts Jesus to jump off the pinnacle of the temple in Jerusalem. When Satan said that, he applied the verse out of Psalms. However, Jesus replied, "Do not tempt the Lord Your God." In short, the application of Jesus' word is principle whereas the application of Satan's word is evidence. Satan said, "Look, in Psalms it is stated like this, so jump off." Satan spoke of the evidence. However, Jesus spoke of the principle of all the words, "Do not tempt the Lord Your God."

In short, the church must establish the truth system that can portray the forest through the trees for the church members. In my preparation for expository preaching I

pray for three things I want to see: The forest; the relationship of the main text to the all 66 books in the Bible; and each tree. In my expository preaching this is my most important prayer to God.

Korean churches fall down easily by heresy. The New Heaven and Earth heresy upset and swept through the greater Kwang Ju area and onto the rest of country. I sent our church members to the New Heaven and Earth heretics to rescue those souls out of it. I am not saying this out of my personal pride, but we are about to go into them. This happened because we kept them from seeing the whole forest. They did not see the whole truth through the church. They were too saturated with topical sermons. These sermons are full of preachers' intentions like "We need to raise money for the building project. We really need the money, so preach for more giving." Sermons must be preached not out of a preacher's intention, but out of God's intention. We can say, "You will die if you continue to live like that" because we preach out of God's intention. Preachers try to save themselves from most trouble by preaching out of their own intentions. "He will be tempted if I say this in my message!" How can we do that? If God speaks to us, we must speak it regardless of the reaction of hearers.

We must preach with the intention of God. God's intention is to speak His principle. God's intention is speaking the whole matter. Please remember that Satan always presents the evidence. Look at the heresy, Christian Science, which focuses on 1 John 1:2 "Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers," and contends that Christians should never be sick. They say things like that. People say that a lot by the way. Anyway, they distort this text as evidence and this is very scary. Satan always uses evidence text. In order to prove a particular point of view, they isolate and distort words out of the Bible and use that.

I say this again. Power comes from God's character. His form comes out of existence, so God always reveals who He is through revealing His character. He is big and wide. For example, Satan may say, "Why are you suffering when what God gives is peace?" "You must have sinned!" Is that true or not? Of course suffering comes as a result of sin, but applying the suffering to the soul as a result of sin in a narrow sense is a principle of Satan. Please listen to me carefully. God is stern about our sin and points it out to us. However, God doesn't say, "All these sufferings are the result of your sins, so go through frustration and despair." God is much wider than that in His character. God does not say, "You have sinned!" God says something like this, "I don't like your such and such character/personality. I am not pleased with that." That's how God speaks to us and He always leads us to repentance.

In James 3:17 James says, “But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.” When we hear the voice of God, the holiness is revealed in me first and then peace, gentleness, and reason. We develop a heart of holiness, peace, gentleness and reason when we hear the voice of God. Why? Because God shows us the whole picture. “The reason I died on the cross is for your holiness.” So, the whole thing is holiness and purity. Purity is the trait of holiness. When the voice of God echoes in my ears, the whole picture is revealed to me. That’s the principle. It is not a fragment.

As a result, we don’t live a life that justifies the means for the results. I mean it is not the will of God to steal to help the poor. God would never say that. Do you think God would say, “Stop your job at work to pray?” Of course, there are some people that God wants to concentrate in the course of spirituality for a while. That’s only for a while. I want to make this clear that God does not say, “Do not work so you can pray!” That’s not the voice of God. The goal does not justify the means. God also does not say to lie so someone won’t get hurt. God does not say that. “Neglect the worship service because of ministry!” God also doesn’t say that. Sisters in some churches skip the worship service because they cook in the kitchen on Sundays. You know they are playing with Satan. I know they need to cook. However, the worship time should be abided. You become susceptible to the temptation of Satan when your faith life becomes legalistic to further your passion about the work of God. That voice does not point to the whole picture but to the fragments. Many times you will see Satan pulling up a text of evidence. There are numerous examples but in conclusion God sees the forest through the trees. He talks about character and principles. That’s the reason you need the ability to picture the whole Bible.

In short, unless you establish this truth system you will be deceived. There is no way you can fall for the heresy. People who easily stumble and fall to heresy do not understand the principles of Scripture and fall searching for evidential text. They don’t understand the principle. Look at people who fell to the Salvation Sect. They say, “You are not saved because you do not know exactly what year, month, and day you were saved.” Does it matter when you do not know exactly what day and month you were saved? No! God knows it already.

The important thing is that you want to be blessed with the truth through your church. I just have shared the principles with you. Satan applies the verse in Psalm “fall down,” God replies “Do not test the Lord Your God.” Like God sees the whole forest, we should balance the Bible within us. When we establish the truth system in us, Satan cannot trip us up with distorted evidence text, like 3 John 1:2 that Christians shouldn’t get sick.

That's what Satan uses to trip us up, but as long as we have the truth of the Bible clearly established in us Satan will fail.

3) We can discern through His leadership.

A. God touches on character over circumstance

Let's take a look at how the content of the word of God is related to His leadership. God speaks to make our character complete more than to bless our circumstance. What does that mean? From the perspective of a big picture, if God spoke some words to us, His focus is on uniting us and Jesus Christ as one. Whatever God speaks to us, His concern is to unite Jesus and us as one. We are to mature to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ like Paul said in Ephesians 4:13. God's will for us is to imitate the head who is Jesus Christ. Whatever God speaks to us, the end goal is for us to unite with Him. Paul said imitate Christ just like I imitate Him. Likewise we want to be one with Christ.

I am used to saying this, but we should be just like Jesus to the point that people cannot tell who is original or imitation. We also do not want to tarnish God's masterpiece. When you gaze upon the painting "Mona Lisa" you notice she doesn't have eyebrows and you take the liberty to draw them on the painting. What will happen next? Nothing good! Believe that you are the masterpiece. The masterpiece of God! You are unique in the whole universe. So if you are a girl, you are 'Miss Universe'. If you are a guy, you are 'Mister Universe'.

God speaks to make our character perfect more than blessing our circumstance. Do you think God would give money to someone who hasn't dealt with his greed, knowing that he will corrupt? No. Suppose someone receives so much money and yet corrupts. If that's the case, that was absolutely not from God. If I am going to corrupt when God blesses me with authority, God will not bless me with authority. What about wisdom? God will not bless me with wisdom if I am going to corrupt because of it. If I received it, then it is not from God. People who haven't dealt with greed or fame will crash whether they receive it or not. Whether they have money or not, they will crash. This is a scary thing. Life is all like that and yet, people are not aware of it. "I am happy because I am rich!" That's a great strategy of Satan. "I am unhappy because I don't have much money" is a strategy of Satan, too. That's a false input. Extract false inputs from you.

God leads us to rely on Him to triumph over circumstance. It is not God's intention for us to rely on Him to escape from some problem or situation. If you have suffering or tribulation, it is not God's intention to resolve any of them. Of course, if you are like a new born baby Christian, then God will have no choice but to help you out. However, when we

are talking about mature Christians, God's will is not to remove the suffering from your life, but to help you to endure the suffering. The voice of God is uttered from that perspective, so God allows suffering to cultivate our character instead of changing the circumstance. The response of a voice of approval to our prayers to change the circumstance may not be the voice of God much of the time. This is not an absolute and an understanding of this will depend upon your depth of faith and character. God does not say, "I will remove it from your circumstance! Since you don't have any money, I will give you money!" most of the time.

I have shared this story with you before. While seven young adults and I were passing through a great financial difficulty over a period of a year, God used to say this to me, "Minho, I will take care of it." And I was thinking God is going to provide me with enough money the following day. Since I believe in the Almighty God, I expected to be struck with a lightning bolt of money. However, nothing happened the next day and yet God continued to say to me, "I will take care of it." Having gone through such times, now financial deficiency is no longer a problem in my life. God has widened me in such a way that now I can take on the financial burden of millions of dollars. That was God's providence. In the midst of a voice saying "I will bless you with lightning bolts of money," that's not God's voice. God may change the circumstance or not. However, in most cases, unless you are a baby Christian, the voice of God is to lead you to endure to overcome the prearranged circumstance instead of removing it.

For example, someone is being a pain in the neck at work. Your prayer is either, "God, get me away from him," or, "God, get him out of my life!" As an answer to your prayer, you hear that God will move you to a different department. Is that the voice of God? No. In our church we have cell ministry and we have the same incidents. "Pastor, I am so miserable because of him/her, please put me in a different cell group!" Of course I can move him if he is a baby Christian. However, that's neither my genuine intention nor God's intention. If I change the circumstance he is in, then he will run into the same circumstance in the course of his life. That's the spiritual law! The problems that you do not overcome in your life will come back to you repeatedly. You got to remember that because that's the spiritual law. God brought the problem into your life for you to suffice the time of suffering once and for all in your life.

I said this before "embrace 100% the meaning of suffering when God gives you such suffering." Why does the same suffering come? Because you haven't clearly analyzed your life in regard to the suffering. For example, God made you broke. Then your response is to be totally broke. Completely be poor and be a beggar. The beggar that does not lose

the glory of God in his poverty is a true child of God. Dogs licked the wounds of Lazarus, but he went to the house of the rich to beg for food. Lazarus did not lose the pride of being a child of God even though he was a beggar. That's what I call the spirituality of a beggar. From a human perspective, Lazarus is living a life of a pauper, but he is justly eating the portions of God. We want to be totally humbled when it comes to the suffering of God. Let's suppose that God has given you poverty. The reason your life is so miserable is because you are making \$1,000 and trying to maintain the lifestyle you had when you make \$10,000. If you are making \$1,000, then live by \$1,000. If you don't make any money, then just stock out your thumb. However, know that deep within you, you are eating what belongs to God. That's true. All things in the universe belong to God and I am eating what is His, aren't I?

These days, I am so grateful for the things I receive from others. However, when I was in my early training days as a seminarian, I received all sorts of things that I needed from others, especially from my mother-in-law. Yet, I rarely spoke a word of gratitude. The reason behind that was I thought God was providing for me. My mother in law said, "Pastor Kim must be coming today!" when she had had extra portion of rice. I intentionally did not say "Thank you" to those who gave to me. Now I look back and I think God did not want me to get hurt and protected my self-esteem. I never wanted to cadge although I might live as a beggar! "I am rightly eating what belongs to God." That was my attitude while I was going through training. Consequently, when I help others now, I do not think that I give what belongs to me. I am thankful for that mindset. Our church gives a lot and I do not think I am giving what's mine. That's for real. "This belongs to God and He said to give it to you." My part is over after I give it. I do not remember it afterward. I rarely ask them what happened after I gave. I have been taken advantage of numerous occasions in things like that. Because I do not expect to receive the money I lend to others, they do not pay it back to me. I am not talking about what I gave away freely. They didn't pay me back even when it was a loan. That is all right with me because that's how I have been trained from early on. When someone gave things to me, I thought I was eating God's portion. Consequently, when I give to others, I don't think I am giving what's mine but God's. Because some of us are not trained, we have a stiff neck, and are proud when we have some that we think it is ours. Conversely, we cringe when we don't have any. That's not how Christians should live. The voice of God is focused on that. When it comes to the circumstance and the thorns, know that God's intention is to touch upon your character. That's how you want to hear the voice of God. "I will extract it! I will change the circumstance!" That has a high probability of not being the voice of God.

B. God touches attitude and mind over actions.

Yes, secondly God touches attitude and mind over actions. It means the same. Like God touches the character over the circumstance, the voice of God touches the center of our heart. Actions are the indication of the condition of soul. We know who you are based on how you react as you go through suffering. If you are comfortable, then we don't know who you truly are.

Suppose I have gold here. We don't know whether it is a pure gold or not. It may be a mixture of metal or have impurities. However, if we grind the gold into powder and put it through the fire, the impurities surface to the top and the pure gold sinks to the bottom. Just like the pure gold is separated from the impurities through the fire, your authenticity will be revealed by suffering. When you are full of living water, whoever pierces you or whatever sufferings come, you will bleed the living water. When you come under suffering, your selfish desires and wickedness will immediately be revealed to you. Form comes out of existence. The fact is that actions come out of the heart. God is interested in the center of your heart. Like hatred is the root of murder, you sin because you are a sinner. You are not a sinner because you commit sin. God speaks to us about what lies in our hearts.

Satan's focus is on the action. "You do not receive blessings because you don't serve." Satan does not say, "Don't pray," but he says often enough that the cause of whatever you suffer is the direct result of lack of prayer. However, God touches our essence and says, "The greed in you caused that to happen. It was your rage and evil." Those are some examples of the roots God touches upon. Satan's strategy is to focus on the actions such as the wounds inside and hatred. Satan says, "That happened because you didn't do so and so." When I counsel church members who say, "Why did this happen, pastor?" "I am serving in the church choir and in so many other ways. Why am I suffering?" That's what their focus is on! My reply to them is, "That's because you serve too much." They don't understand me and I get frustrated. Does that mean, "don't serve in the church?" They shouldn't serve "to keep up appearances" for a while. Turn from action oriented service to relationship oriented fellowship with God. We are too focused on the result of actions whereas God speaks to us about what's in the center of our heart.

The abbots of prayer mountains tell people to fast for 21 days or 40 days all the time. They say that's the voice of God. No, that's not true. In my 20 years of living with God and listening to His voice, He never told me to fast. Not even once. You may say, "You are chubby because you never fasted." That's not true. I fasted for 40 days and 21 days. God does not say to fast. I fasted because I couldn't help myself. I was in a situation in which I could not go on without fasting. It was my choice. God doesn't say to fast. Of

course there is God's providence behind all this to instigate us to fast, but He didn't say to fast not even once. Every time I come across someone who says that God told him to fast, I question that God was the one who told him. He may mean that God put him in a situation where he can't help but to fast. That's how I take it. Did God really tell him "fast?" I don't know. He might have found himself that if he doesn't fast, he might die. That might have prompted him to say that God told him to fast. In summary, God's focus is not on the center of actions because actions are not God oriented. God speaks with regard to the center of our spirit.

C. God leads by "yes" or "no."

The Lord leads us by "yes" or "no." we hear this often in the beginning of our faith. It is like my two year old son, Youngkwong, who needs his mom and dad to make decisions for him. "This is OK and that's not OK." Right? We don't say to a two-year-old to pick out your own cloth for the day, do we? They might wear a short sleeve shirt on a cold winter day. Like parents decide "yes" or "no" for their children, for those whose spiritual maturity is low, they will hear "yes" and "no" from God quite a bit.

I think it was about five years ago that God stopped talking to me like "do this," or "do that." God speaks to me more like "I respect you. Do according to your will. Do according to your faith." When God says, "Do according to your faith," it may mean something like, "It is not My desire, so do it according to your faith." So, we need to discern well.

God said, "Go to Canaan, but I am not going." What does God mean by that? Does He mean that He is really not going? God leads us with "yes" and "no" even in this moment. He does not speak to us to do something that He is not willing to do. So when God spoke to Moses, "Go to Canaan, but I am not going." Is that the voice of God? No. God answers with "yes" or "no" and He does not command us to do something that He does not do. So, that's not His voice.

That's the difficult part. When we are mature, God says, "Do according to your faith." We have to discern His voice whether He says that out of His pleasure or displeasure in giving us the option. It is style we develop over the course of fellowship with God. Moses knew that was the test both for him and Israel. When God said, "Go to Canaan, but I am not going" to Moses, he knew that was out of His character. The difficulty lies in not knowing who spoke in a certain situation. Was it Satan or God? This can be discerned through the style we develop in our fellowship with God and the style comes through our maturity of faith. God never commands us to do something that He does not do. Do you think God tells us to pray when He Himself does not pray? Do you also think God tells us to love others when He Himself does not love? Do you think God tells us to serve others when

He Himself does not serve? No. Therefore, we know that God does not speak to us to do a certain thing when He Himself will not do it. When we hear such a voice, that can be either God's test or the voice of Satan. God clearly speaks "yes" or "no".

Let me give you an example about holding a conference. One must go to the conference, so they listen to the voice of God. Suppose the voice utters, "My husband does not want me to go to the conference." Try to discern it. Is that God's voice or not? How do we know? There are people that can't come to the conference because of their husbands. Let's suppose there is another utterance, "You have a lot of things to do." You hear that as you are preparing to attend the conference. Is that the voice of God? Most of the time God does not lead us to make a decision of "yes" or "no" based on our reason and rationality.

Please listen carefully. Some may say, "My husband does not like me attending conferences." That's your reason and rationality and not from the heart of God. From God's perspective this conference is very vital and, yet, would He tell you not to come because of your husband's dislike about conferences? That voice appeals to your reason and rationality. Do you see what I am saying? When you first start to listen to the voice of God, you will make many errors. Fortunately, when you develop a certain style with God after a while, it will get easier. What I am sharing with you will help minimize such errors. After a while you will hear God's voice and get good at it, and you will say to me, "Hurry up and finish your sermons and let's go and have lunch." Nevertheless, there are some of you that need to hear this message. God does not speak to us to stimulate our reason and rationality to discern a decision of yes or no.

For example, if God speaks with regard to attending a conference, He would say something like, "I would like you to attend it," rather than, "Your husband does not like you to." Most of the time God leads us to make a decision of faith. "Reasonably speaking your husband does not like you going to conferences and you have a lot of things to do, but I want you to attend the conference." That's just an example to demonstrate that God wants you to make a decision of faith. The result is that you would obey out of your faith to attend the conference despite your husband and your busy work.

Let's suppose you have heard the voice, "I would like you to stay behind and pray rather than attending this conference." This happens a lot when we hold oversea conferences. You can travel to attend the oversea conference or stay in the church to pray for it. God would speak to us like that because intercessory prayer is more important from His perspective. We can choose "yes" according to God's will suppressing our desire to go to an oversea conference. Again, God does not speak to make a decision based on our reason and rationality. Please remember that. Another example is that you want to go to the con-

ference but God speaks, “I want you to stay behind this time and pray.” If God says that, then you embrace it in faith and make a decision. This is how you listen to the voice of God most of the time. God does not speak like “Your husband is displeased with you attending conferences,” or, “You have much work to do.” Is this making things clear for you? God speaks for us to make a decision of obedience or disobedience in the early stage of faith life. God does not speak for you to make a decision based on broad reason and rationality.

4) We can discern through our sins.

God speaks to us about our sins. Sometimes we feel guilty but fail to discover the sin to confess to God. What do we do then? We pray often like this, “Oh, loving God, forgive everything I did that I shouldn’t have done, things that I didn’t follow through with, and the wrong things I did.” In other words, forgive all the sins I do not remember. We pray like that sometimes, but the problem is that such prayer does not originate from God most of the time.

You can’t tell whether the guilt comes from God or Satan. It is hard for you to differentiate that. The problem of discerning if guilt is from God or Satan is subtle. However, the conclusion makes all the difference between heaven and earth. One of the reasons that the riches of God are not revealed in your life is related to guilt. If we live our faith life with this guilt, we don’t have the sense of freedom. Many of you have guilt, don’t you?

I say this once again. Whether the guilt comes from God or Satan, the problem we face is that it is hard to distinguish them. It is almost impossible for us to make a distinction in itself. Another factor is that God does not ignore our sin. If we have guilt, that means we have sin in us. The reason we feel guilty is because we have sin which is the reason we lose the riches of God. That same sin brings division among us, alienates the holiness of God, disrupts deep fellowship, and breaks down ourselves and others. That’s the characteristic of sin. That’s the reason God does not ignore the sins we have. So, we want to clarify where our guilt came from; God or Satan. We also want to clarify what happens next?

First, if the guilt is from the Holy Spirit, then the characteristics of it are stern, clear, and detailed. When David had sinned, Nathan clearly, sternly, and accurately revealed the sin of immorality. However, the guilt our enemy brings upon us is unclear and vague. You feel guilty, but can’t distinguish a particular sin. For example, God would speak to me, “Minho, you hurt him.” It is stern and clear. “Minho, I would like you to ask him for his forgiveness.” God is firm about the hurt I committed and the hatred I had in my heart against him. “I do not desire you to point out such things to him.” God speaks clearly how much I hurt him. “Do not say that he did such and so wrong first. Go and ask for his

forgiveness unconditionally.” Furthermore, during the maturation process when I was so sensitive to sin, God condemned me for the sins that I didn’t even commit. I knew it came from God and it was clear to me. Why? After my repentance, I felt full of freedom. When the guilt comes from God, it is clear, stern, and detailed. After repentance, you definitely feel very free.

In comparison, Satan is unclear about the sin. For example, I still pray because I feel guilty although I do not exactly know what the offense was. “God, please forgive me all the sins that I am not aware of.” However, there is no freedom after much prayer. That’s how we know it came from Satan. When we repent of the guilt from God, we experience freedom.

We can recognize the guilt from the Holy Spirit. I clearly know what to do. It is possible to recognize that. When we have guilt, it means we have sin. If we have sin in us, we need to recognize that. But the reason we can’t recognize it is because we don’t have the determination. The lack of determination of repentance over sin and disobedience to God’s desire over a long period of time have led you to what is not transparent. Whenever God points out sin, recognize and obey Him, and be determined to repent. When you respond immediately to what God points out to you, the guilt will become transparent. Furthermore, you will know exactly what to do. It is possible to recognize it, but the reason you can’t recognize it anymore is because you have been ignoring it for such a long time.

What do you do now? You have to find them out one by one and deal with them. Nevertheless, one who has ignored sin for too long must round them all up and resolve them. That’s what we call fasting. When we are strapped down spiritually to a point where we can’t break through, we need to lay them down before God and fast. God is not telling me to fast. When a thread tangles up, you have to lose them one by one; however, when it is all tangled up in a ball, then you got to cut it off. When you feel guilty, it should be stern and detailed. Not only is it recognizable, you should obey and repent according to the voice of God. This are from Holy Spirit. If it is not transparent with regard to sin, then it means you have not received it from God.

Like I said earlier when you hear God saying to you, “Forgive him,” He speaks very accurately. “If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.” This is how detailed the voice of God is. Leave the offering at the altar to make a reconciliation because if he has hurts or wounds, he would just return home with the offering in his hands. However he will return to the altar if he leaves the offering there. This is

how specific God is. If you don't acknowledge or recognize it, it will be vague. If you hear "be reconciled," then reconcile and acknowledge that you are a sinner. However, you say, "What did I do wrong?" or you may say, "That could happen." When you just pass through them, then your guilt becomes more vague and it starts to pile up. "How can we always be thankful? We are human beings and we can't be grateful sometimes. Do we have to be thankful all the time?" It is unclear/vague and not transparent. We don't recognize cognitively. We are not aware of things like "in my life there are moments I am not joyful or grateful. That's not a sin." This state or unawareness continues on and thus make things vague. Now we need to untangle things for we have a lot of knotted stuff. Our disobedience to repent over the sins that God has pointed out to us over a long period of time has led to a state which we don't recognize.

It further leads us to imagine sin and to focus on the past. "It could have been true in the past. What if it goes wrong again if I continue on like this?" Satan fixes the guilt on the past and the future. This happens because you are not cognitively recognizing sin. The guilt from the Holy Spirit provides a solution. "Do like this and freedom, peace and perfect joy will fill you." However, the guilt from Satan does not go anywhere. You may pray "forgive me," but things don't change because it is vague.

5) We can discern through our self-image.

We can discern the voice of God with regard to what He speaks about our self-image. God is truly concerned about uniting our self-image with the image of Jesus Christ. God's plan for us is to be like God. God speaks to us from that perspective. In short, God speaks to us about who we are in order to teach us to imitate Him. If we don't listen to His voice, we will have a problem imitating Him. It is like the question I presented on the first day: Do we need to hear the voice of God since we have Bible? People who ask such a question do not understand the weight of difference between the Author verses and the Book. It is true that we have the Bible; however, if we do not hear what the Holy Speaks to us, the Bible does not become rhema to us. The bible talks about great characters; however, if you do not apply them to yourself, it is impossible to imitate the characteristics of God. That's the reason why we must receive instructions about becoming like the image of God. Continue to listen to what He speaks to us.

Consequently, when we clearly hear about who we exactly are, then we don't despair as much. Despair, frustration and discontentment of who you are the characteristics of not clearly hearing the voice of God in regard to who you are. These are two things that are clear when you meet God. First, you realize that you are a sinner. You also realize that you are hopeless. You further realize that you can't do anything. Second, you realize God

still loves someone like “me.” These two things are very clear to you. You start to hear the voice of God about how precious you are from that day on. You really want to hear that God created the whole universe for you. Do you know how precious you are to God?

That’s the reason God does not see your failures surpassing your worth. If you hear a voice that considers your worth as equal to your failure, then that’s the voice of Satan. We are God’s inheritance. We are His sanctuary. We are His heir. How priceless we are! If you hear “you are a so-so,” then whose voice do you think that is? Satan or God? That’s clearly Satan. “You are so useless! You are nothing! You are ugly! You are an old miss! Your husband can’t do anything! Your children can’t do anything. They are horrible!” This is the voice of Satan. The consideration of your worth compared to your failures and your condition is the voice of Satan.

God does not speak like that, especially when it comes to trial and error, he doesn’t bring up your mistakes. In addition, when God addresses your wickedness, He doesn’t directly say, “You are finished.” God would speak, “I do not like your such and such character. I do not rejoice over that.” That’s how He speaks. “I want you to give up this character. I want you to change your such and such character.” That’s how God speaks. Satan says, “You are done!” God does not consider your worth the same as your character. When you hear that, it’s the voice of Satan. Are you encouraged?

I spoke of this story of Mike and Nancy (imaginary names). Mike breaks this priceless ancient china while his father is away. Nancy starts to persecute Mike since his father is on a business trip. “Mike, sweep the front yard!” Mike replies, “Why should I sweep?” Nancy would say, “You know why!” Mike immediately starts sweeping the yard. Why? Because Mike treats his worth as same as the mistake he made. “I have sinned against father. I am finished.” That’s why Nancy phrase, “You know why!” will render Mike powerless. “Now, it is time to do the dishes!” “Why should I?” “You know why!” That’s all Nancy has to say to get Mike to do whatever. Soon Mike’s father returns home and his father forgives him. The next day Nancy say, “Sweep the floor!” “Why should I?” “You know why!” Mike says, “What the heck are you talking about? My father forgave me!” Does this mean Mike did not sin? No, but he is a forgiven sinner. You should have a confidence in your worth. Like I said earlier poor Lazarus begged for food, but he had self-confidence like “I am a child of God!” Lazarus did not consider his worth as the same as begging. “I may beg for food, but I am a child of God!” It is like a story “The Prince and the Pauper.” “I may be like a pauper outside, but I live as a prince!” That’s what God is speaking to you.

It is accurate to say that when you are deceived about your self-worth, you no longer hear the voice of God. If you despair about your self-worth, you can’t hear the voice

of God. Why? Because you can only hear the voice of God when your status as a prince is equated with the King. If you lose your status as a prince or a child of God, you can't hear the voice of God. that's why you should never doubt your worth. You are exceedingly precious. "I can't do anything!" That's the voice of Satan. It is true that you can't do anything, but when God is with you, there is nothing you cannot do!

6) We can discern through relationship with others.

We hear the voice of God through what He says in regard to our relationship with others. As you mature in your relationship with God, you will hear more about other people. You should discern when you hear God's voice about other people. How well you recognize this about other people is a key to your success when that voice is spoken. I don't know how you define the word success, but when you succeed in relationship with others, your life will be successful. What if you successfully develop relationships with other people in your life? What will happen to your life? It will be tremendous. Material authority comes out of personnel authority. In short, when you clearly recognize what God speaks to you about others, you will live a glorious life.

Suppose someone attacks you, so you evade him. However, you shouldn't estimate him based on the fact that he attacked you; you dislike him and he disdains you. In our spiritual discernments, the discernment of people is most important. God helps us to clearly discern others. Usually, when someone attacks you, most people would say they are bad. Ordinary people recognize others as good people when they do good and as bad people when they do bad. A man that does good to you can be righteous, but at the same time he can be evil to others. That's not for us to decide. A man that does good to me can turn around and stab my back and a man that does evil to me can be good inside. That's the reason we should clearly hear the voice of God to discern accurately. This is especially critical for the pastors.

In conclusion, we don't discern others with a purpose to either to reject them or to accept them. The purpose is to help his prayer life. In reality, if a pastor cannot discern his church members, it is not easy for them to change. When a new person chooses a home church, God shows the pastor everything about him for a while. The pastor then prays for him with regard to his hurt, the spiritual environment he is in, and the spiritual flow. "Why does he attack me? Oh, he is wounded. He is attacked by evil spirits! He is in a circumstance where he can only exist as a thorn to me!" The voice of God should be clearly uttered to us.

The reason we hear the voice of God about the condition of other people is to

intercede for them to prevent their misinformed recognition from breaking up their relationships. We should never gossip about them. If we do, we won't hear the voice of God in regard to others any more. When someone attacks you, God would say, "He is wounded. Understand his pain and embrace him. Go to him and ask for forgiveness." God leads us to ask for his forgiveness. We really want to recognize God's voice clearly; otherwise it is not easy to embrace them. As we mature God speaks to us about others.

Let's suppose you heard a voice, "He doesn't like you." That's absolutely not the voice of God. I know some people who heard that voice before, but God does not speak like that at all. There are some people who would try to kill me by stabbing my back and God sometimes speaks to me about them. God spoke to me yesterday about someone and I immediately realized that I was under attack. Although God speaks to me, "Minho, be careful. He is going to stab you in the back," His intentions are first, to protect me spiritually and second, to pray on behalf of the attacker's wickedness. God does not speak to me about another's evil so as to destroy them. How much more God cares for those in your life than you realize? "My husband is my worst enemy! He is hopeless!" That's not the voice of God. "My children are done and they are hopeless. They can't do it!" That's not the voice of God, either. God leads me to embrace those with whom I have no relationship whatsoever and those who try to kill me. Do you think God will just condemn the loved ones in your life and say that they are finished? No. "He/she does not like you. He/she holds a grudge against you." That's never the voice of God because God does not speak that way.

In Galatians 6:1-2, Paul says, "Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you, too, be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ." God wants us to restore them and, in order to restore them, we should share with them a spirit of gentleness. Next, we should look to ourselves and see whether we have instigated in any way their behavioral trespass. We should examine ourselves and fear lest we be tempted. Furthermore, bear one another's burden. If you treat people thus, won't you succeed in your relationship with others? Please do not think that this is impossible. That's the law of Christ which is His love. That is our ultimate goal!

In Matthew 7:1, Jesus says, "Do not judge lest you be judged." In Matthew 18:22, Jesus also says, "I do not say to you (to forgive), up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven." How is that possible? Because as long as we realize that he is wounded deeply, we can forgive him over and over. That's why we should develop a perspective to see through the eyes of goodness. It is very dangerous to see first the weaknesses of others. We want

to see their strengths first. Be careful with those who have the gift of prophesy because they first see the weaknesses. We definitely want to progress from the gift of prophesy to prophet hood. We should be able to prophesy in the stage of love. That's the reason we need to endeavor to see others through the eyes of goodness. See the strengths first!

In our community, we should be cautious of division. Let us stop judging, criticizing and hearing the voice, "He/she does not like me." In 2 Corinthians 5:18, Paul says that God gave us the ministry of reconciliation. That's right! You have the ministry of reconciliation! Wherever you go, reconciliation should take the place of strife.

7) We can discern through the faith.

Finally, we should discern the voice of God through the content of faith. As you continue to hear the voice of God you will grow as a man of faith. One evidence of hearing the voice of God is through the growth of faith. When you hear the voice of God, you become a man of joy. If you hear the voice of God and you are depressed, then you are not listening to the voice of God. Making judgment and criticism while you hear the voice of God means that you are not truly hearing the voice of God.

Satan resurfaces and reminds you of negative incidents in your past. God does not speak to you about your past failures and unpleasant experiences. God speaks to you with regard to what's going on right now and the work of faith that will take place in the future to mature your spirit.

Beyond the 12th chapter of Genesis, we see that Abraham hears the word of blessing from God and blesses others. However, we also see that Abraham does things that are not exemplary of the father of faith and continues to fail in his life. In spite of that, God continues to confirm His promises that we see in chapter 12. God furthermore reconfirms His promise to Abraham in chapter 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 and extends His blessings to Abraham's descendants. Abraham failed in his life, fell into despair like when he sold away his wife, but God continuously confirmed His promise to him. God worked to deepen the faith of Abraham. That's the God we have! Man cannot do this! We may speak to a man everyday, yet they continue to despair, fail and does not change. When they do not change after telling them for so long, we are bound to get frustrated. We can't forever speak the word of faith; however, God can.

I am pondering at the moment whether I would be standing right here had God not spoken His words of faith. I don't think I would be here if God had not reconfirmed His words of promise over and over. While I was undergoing training in my ministry, I said to God "I am not doing this anymore," I would have quit had God said, "Go ahead and quit!"

However, God held on to me and said, “Minho, I need you.” Do you think God really needs me? No! That’s how precious we are to Him. God doesn’t need me at all. When I wanted to quit ministry, God could have just let me go easily. When God said, “I need you,” He instilled faith in me and led me to an illusion “God needs me? Then I will stay for Him.” Even through deep inside I knew I couldn’t even afford to buy a plane ticket, I bluffed to travel to England to study. “God I am going to England to study and I am not pastoring any more.” I couldn’t even afford the airfare. However, whenever God says, “I need you,” faith fills my heart. God speaks to mature your faith continuously.

Therefore, we can’t have any words of limitation in any circumstance of our life. “That cannot happen! There are too many obstacles! You don’t have it, do you? You tried, but it didn’t work.” All these are the words of Satan. Please take note. They are all words of Satan. God has never spoke to me in that manner. You can continue to fight for the triumph of your faith.

You may think this is tough. There is no stereotype to easily objectify this message for you, but it will help you start hearing the voice of God. You will get very close to hearing the voice of God as you make discernments. Please take time to study this message and chew on it. We will continue this series and talk about this practical aspects. Again, please continue to focus on God. Be fully submerged in the Holy Spirit. That’s the only way you can hear the voice of God. When your spiritual system and the structure of mind are cleansed, you can naturally hear His voice.



Listening to the Voice of God 5

Today we will discern the voice of God through results and this is closely tied to what we just have looked at which is through the content of the voice of God. In other words, if God spoke such and such through the content, then there would be obvious results that stem from it. So, there is not much to preach today. The important thing is to discern the voice of God through results and know that you have had a fellowship with God. It is a good measuring stick. Again, if we had such and such fellowship with God through His voice, then we will have a certain result. Let's begin the confirmation process and finish it up.

1) The voice of God encourages us.

First, the voice of God encourages us. Like I said earlier when you hear the voice of God which leads you to despair and frustration, it is not the voice of God. "You can't do it!" That is a good example that leads us to despair, so that is not the voice of God. The voice of God is more than an encouragement and the word "encouragement" is not the best word to use. When God justifies us, if it is like what we have studied or experienced, then it is not genuine. God's justification is not what you can acquire through studies or experience. The depth of furor is beyond your imagination and you can't help but to live in tears every day. Grace is something that we can't help but to live in excitement and joy.

If the love of God is similar to your husband's love or your wife's love, then that is not the love of God. It is a love that you have never experienced in your life. That's the reason when you receive His love, you become willing to die for it. When a man and a woman fall in love, they can die for each other. Human love compels one give up one's life and, yet, when it comes to God's love, it is worthy of pouring everything out.

In our spirituality, love and glory meet at certain point. In the beginning of our spirituality, we may describe love and glory differently, but as we mature we will see that they converge at a certain point. If you love perfectly, glory will be perfect. If the glory is perfect, love becomes glory. That's how they converge. The characteristic of glory is that it will reveal the glory even at the cost of melting itself down. That's why we desire to give everything we have for the sake of the glory of God. It is worthy of giving up even the last piece of cloth you have on. In Isaiah chapter 20, Isaiah got naked and ministered for three years. Look at the people in the entertainment industry! They see the glory of their fame and they are willing to get naked for it. In kids' eyes they are naked and they aren't really dressed. When we see the glory, it somehow instills in us a desire to give even at the cost of consuming our body in a flame for it.

That's the nature of glory! When you see the glory of God, you get jumpy or jittery

and you can't sit still at all. You get so excited and worked up! The spirit of Baal is the spirit of settlement whereas the Spirit of God moves us to a point that we don't know what to do. There is a vast difference between the spirit of Baal and the spirit of God. Please take a time to examine whether you are full of the spirit of Baal or the Spirit of God.

Once I ministered to this sister in Christ and she was experiencing despair because her unbelieving husband was a great man of character. I realized that she had despair because she had felt inferior to her unbelieving husband. So, I laid my hand on her for anointing and said, "Sister, God is speaking to you at this moment. After the anointing, listen to what God is saying to you." I use this technique frequently. With the anointing I encourage others to listen to the voice of God! Going back to her story, she shed her tears in a matter of seconds. I asked why she cried and she shared with me that God had told her "I love you the most!" From human perspective one may seem better than another morally or ethically, but from God's perspective, whether one is the child of God or not is what matters. There is nothing in this world that can despair and frustrate the child of God. You may not be as great as some people morally or ethically, but the difference between a believer and a nonbeliever is like the difference between heaven and earth.

Suppose we have a rat. You may bathe it, clean it up, put a red ribbon on it, and put moose or gel on it, but the rat is still a rat. Is there any girl that would kiss it? No, I do not think so. No matter how noble and moral a man of world is he is still a rat in the eyes of God. You may be wearing a rag and be filthy dirty, but Cinderella is still Cinderella. Once you take a bath, you are Cinderella. When Cinderella comes out to the hall, the music will start playing and the prince will fall in love at first sight. God called you "the praise of glory." When you come out, the praise will sound in heaven.

God never gives you despair; rather He encourages and comforts you. Here is our misunderstanding of God's encouragement and comfort. Suppose Nancy cooked for me, but it doesn't taste good at all. The comfort is not to say, "Nancy, you cook so well. "Where did you learn to cook this well?" That is not encouragement or comfort. It is not "lifting up/praising" what one does not do well. It is to look through the eyes of God. When we look through the eyes of God's goodness, we see the good things about that person. Nancy did not cook well, so should we say that she cooked well? No! We can encourage her by saying, "Nancy, the fact that you cooked for me is precious to me!" We can praise that and encourage her. Another example is "although you don't look anything like me, your toe is just like mine!" If you see through the eyes of goodness, you will see other's strengths.

Looking at Peter, there is no strength or positive aspect about him and yet Jesus

saw the potential. “You are the rock!” Peter became the rock according to the expectation God had on him. That is encouragement! We don’t need to praise by making things up. When we see through the eyes of God’s goodness, you can hear and see how precious one is to God.

One of the problems we have is that we expect to be comforted by men. Please don’t do that. As much as you seek man’s comfort, you will lose God’s comfort! Long for God’s comfort, God’s praise, God’s recognition and the like, and don’t long for men’s praise.

In 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, Paul mentions the comfort of God several times “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” The word “comfort” is mentioned five times in those two verses. Paul faced severe affliction and he is considered to have received the judgment of the death penalty in the second book of Corinthians. In such circumstances, how could Paul have been so dynamic and great in the ministry? The reason for that is the comfort of God filled Paul.

Be filled with the comfort of God rather than the comfort of men! There are some people who get disappointed when others ostracize and disdain them. That’s because they have been wounded! If you are easily disappointed, please seek the healing of your wounds/hurts. If you easily feel left out, please heal your wound. It is important. Remember you are a child of God and an heir!

The comfort of man is rendering you powerless. If you have heard the voice of God, you would be clearly full of comfort and encouragement. You would feel the love of God and the fullness of love, and then you would be encouraged and lifted up. However, if you feel deflated after listening to the voice of God, then that is the voice of Satan. When you clearly hear the voice of God, you will be comforted, encouraged, and excited.

When a man and a woman fall in love, there is no reason for them to feel bad. There is a saying that when people fall in love, endorphins are released in the body. I know what it is like to fall in love. When my little sister fell in love, she would try on a dress four or five hours before her date. She was incredible and more so than the brothers. Ladies just go crazy! When people fall in love, they go crazy and how much more so when we fall in love with God! We would be full of comfort, encouragement, excited, and just feel so good. Praise comes out of our mouth all the time. Upon hearing the voice of God, comfort and encouragement fill us. We just feel good and have hope. That’s what happens first.

However, upon hearing the voice of God, if you are filled with despair and frustration, then you did not hear the voice of God.

2) The voice of God gives us peace.

Second, the voice of God gives us peace. In the Kingdom of God there is absolutely no worries or anxieties at all. Please do not treat the word of God that says, "Do not be anxious!" lightly. Those that live full of anxiety thinking that's how we are supposed to live on earth and treat it as a normal lifestyle disobey the word of God because they haven't been living a faith life by embracing the truth. When God says, "Be thankful," and we are not thankful, then we should consider that a sin. Our complaints after hearing "be thankful" should be treated as sin. The faith life that embraces the truth and yet treats the truth lightly is because of a legalistic faith life. No one can make it through the Law, so you have despair over the word of God.

That's the reason Jews became hypocritical. The truth does not yield despair. I can't acquire the truth on my strength. I can't live by own strength. Grace is living by the strength God supplies. Through grace the truth lives in me, so the truth is surely achieved. God tells us to be thankful because He knows that we can live with gratitude in our lives. Not desiring or trying to live in gratitude is our problem. In this message of "Listening to the Voice of God," the problem is rejecting the idea of living a life of gratitude because you have already decided that you can't live it out when you haven't even tried it. Your decision to reject it results in despair. The reason the word of God is recorded is because it is possible for us to live like that. God speaks to us that our essence is to live that lifestyle of gratitude.

When God says, "Do not worry," that's the plan He has for us to live and that's the essential life God has in mind as well. The reason you worry is not because you don't believe in the Almighty God, in His intention to intervene to fulfill His word, or in His faithful relationship with you. The true reason you worry against God's will is that you have a false characteristic in you that accepts worries. The result of a life that doesn't choose God and that doesn't live by God alone is one of anxiety. No matter how evil the circumstance is if you choose God, you will be in the stillness of God. Isn't that the experience of spirituality? If we worry because our spouse causes misery, because kids become pain in the neck, or because the circumstance is horrible, are we truly serving the Creator God? Of course we can worry temporarily due to humane weakness, but the men of God can immediately turn from it and drive their souls to joy.

The foundation of living with God is the result of Jesus Christ's propitiation for our

peace. Shalom! We have complete victory! The war is over! The state of peace should be easily visible in our life. Your life is to live by the authority of Jesus that proceed out of His mouth determining the outcomes because the war is over and the victorious Jesus has taken His seat up on the throne. Ephesians and Hebrews 4:17 say that you are to draw near to the throne of grace with confidence. You have earned the qualification to live by the word of Jesus who has achieved his complete victory. Therefore, we can't worry! We should have nothing to do with anxiety in our life. The peace or the state of shalom is the essence of our life and it should be very clear and visible in our life.

What if we hear the voice of God and do not have peace? That is the voice of Satan. However, if you hear the voice of God and do not embrace it and continue in sin, you will have fear. If you make a decision to obey God and are willing to die for the very word of God, then you will have peace. That's the reason every martyr's face exhibited peace in the face of martyrdom. Once you make a decision to embrace the word of God and to die for it, there is nothing to fear.

The authority of the word of the Creator transcends time and space; therefore when you embrace His word, the Kingdom of God immediately comes upon you. That is the authority and power of the word. You may not have much money and you are anxious because of that. However, when God says, "I will surely bless you," then His riches will immediately come upon you. That is the characteristic of the authority of the word of God. Your kids cause you grief and your husband is still a pain and nothing has changed. When God says, "I will be with you," and at the moment of hearing it, comfort and encouragement will fill your life. That is the characteristic of the truth of God.

If that does not happen, then you have not heard the truth through the voice of God, but through comparative righteousness. The kingdom of God does not come through comparative righteousness. Those that live with God must have peace. There are people that worry because of money and they may think that they can't help it. That is the way of the world. Whether it is money or any particular circumstance or situation that makes you worry, that is the way/standard of the world. The reason those things make you worry is because the Kingdom of God is not entering your life. Do you think you will stop worrying if you have money? I can confidently say that you will have other worries, so don't you worry about that! Do you think you will stop worrying if your children or husband stop causing misery in your life? I can confidently say that they will cause you misery. Don't worry about that! Worry and anxiety in life are supposed to be endless. Therefore, do not think that circumstance or condition is the source of your worry. The reason you worry is because the Kingdom of God is not upon you right now. That is the life of a saint!

When you hear the voice of God, peace will fill your heart. “I give you My peace...” Amen!
Stay within the stillness of God.

In the 19th chapter of 1 Kings, powerful wind tore the mountains apart, earthquake shook the mountain, and fire covered the mountain in which Elijah was standing. After these the voice of God came in the stillness. In the turbulent moments God speaks in stillness. That’s the characteristic of a spiritual man. Some may take 10 hours to do a job, but the ten minutes a spiritual man offers to God can be enough to bring about a great work of God. God does incredible miracles by what He receives from us like five loaves of bread and two fish into enough to feed thousands, whereas millions of dollars cannot achieve anything. This is the motion of stillness. People living in the stillness of God should always be peaceful. Live in peace and maintain it.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit brings you peace. When one is filled with the Holy Spirit, he should be at peace. When one is at peace, he should be filled with the Holy Spirit. As long as the Holy Spirit is controlling me, I can be at peace any time. In short, peace and being filled with the Holy Spirit are the same thing.

We can be at peace when the world goes through turmoil and the evil spirits try to rock us. When Martin Luther was sleeping at night, a sudden rocking of his bed woke him up. He opened his eyes and looked and saw evil spirits rocking the bed violently. Here is what he did! He said, “Oh, it is you again,” and just went back to sleep. The evil spirits were so shocked by that, they fled. This is the image of a man who has the peace of God. We should be like him! “Oh, it is you again,” and just go back to sleep. We don’t want to go crazy when even a single evil spirit comes upon us. That’s why evil spirits poke us even more, because it is so fun for them. Can we do this? The people of God should have such peace. The reason we don’t have peace is because we do not listen to the voice of God.

When we hear the voice of God, peace must come. Please remember worry does not come from circumstance or condition. Worry comes to us because the Kingdom of God has not come to us at that time. Peace is relational not conditional. Peace comes from the relationship with God. Peace is a complete victory. “The war is over!” This is the life proclaimed to you. Jesus says, “When you were saved, you were seated on the throne with Me!” That’s who you are. You are not going to be seated on the throne of God after you die. When you were saved, at that moment you were seated on the throne of God. That’s why we can be at peace. We can’t comprehend the fact that our body is on the earth and, yet, we are seated in the throne of heaven. That’s the power of the Kingdom of God which transcends time and space. Believe that victory is already achieved! Please do not try to look at what the Bible says from the perspective of epistemology. It will only

lead you to a misunderstanding. I am not epistemological. The authority of the Kingdom of God with regard to this sermon transcends time and space at this moment. Suppose you know about peace. You shouldn't just know epistemologically. You should truly address the relationship with God, let the Kingdom of God come, and accept the word of God. Subsequently, peace will come upon you.

You are still stuck in the matter of epistemology. You accept epistemologically because your spirit has not yet opened up. When your spirit opens up, you can experience the coming of the Kingdom of God. This is not about your circumstance or the condition you have. The Kingdom of God should not be embraced epistemologically. If you embrace the Kingdom of God at this moment, peace will come upon you immediately. Do not be anxious about anything!

In Colossians 3:15, Paul says, "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace." You exist to live with peace and proclaim it in the world. That's why in the Beatitudes Jesus calls the peacemaker a son of God. That's your true mission and Hebrews says that God gave us a mission for to make peace. God gave us peace, so we can proclaim it. This is not epistemological.

Do you think God spoke to us to be at peace because He did not know the weaknesses, circumstances and conditions we have? No! I am not talking about an epistemological approach. This is the characteristic of the Kingdom of God. In midst of all our problems, trials, pain, and weaknesses, if we accept the Kingdom of God immediately, we will have peace. God called us for the purpose of peace, shalom, and He also gave us the mission to proclaim this peace to the world. Jesus called the peacemaker the son of God and Jesus is calling you out to commission you for that purpose.

3) The Voice of God helps us to understand/see from other's perspective.

Third, the voice of God helps us to see from other's perspective. If you hear the voice of God, you will change from a selfish man to unselfish man. However, if you still remain selfish after hearing the voice of God, then you did not hear God but your own voice. Some of you are still having difficulty discerning between the voice of God and your own voice. You can discern the voice of Satan without much difficulty, but you are confused about whether the voice is God's or yours. Why? How do I know that? If you are still selfish, then you are listening to your own voice. In short, when you listen to the voice of God, you will become a totally unselfish person.

As you mature in listening to the voice of God with regard to God Himself and you, you will start hearing his voice about others next. The main reason for this is for you to intercede on their behalf. The next reason is that when you succeed in relationships with others, your life will be a success. So, God leads you to discern other souls to prevent you from getting hurt.

Suppose someone attacks you and you hear the voice that says, “He does not like you! He hates you!” That’s the voice of Satan. However, the voice of God speaks to teach us about his pain, hurt, and condition, so that we can be more understanding of him. That’s the reason God speaks to us to help others so we wonder how we can be of help to them. Those that hear the voice of God frequently lift up a prayer, “God, how can I help him? What can I do for this brother?” They don’t pray, “How can I eat better?” We should ask God, “How can I help him? What should I do to make life more joyful for him? Paul said that with regard to everything he had done, the reason he was joyful for others was to save other souls. Likewise, we want to share the benefit of God with each soul.

The saint as an unselfish man does not live his life for his own happiness, but as much as he is mature he will live a happy life by making others happy in their life. That’s what gospel is! Jesus spoke to Peter, “When you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go!” What does that mean? The mature do not live for the benefit of his own life, but rather allows others to control his life for the sake of others.

That is the characteristic of the mature and those that live with God can live such a life.

As we live with God, it applies to the church as well. Korean churches are hyped up about the size of the church building. How big the church building is or how many people attend the church is irreverent before God. The way God defines the greatness of the church is by who is cultivated in the church and how much the church is helping others. If we, Yulbang Church, had saved up for about a year, then we would have bought land and started construction by now. Currently, we still have a debt that has been carried over from the foundation of this church. That’s because early on we have decided to help others as a part of the ministry of God. If God desires, I would still like to pastor in the same business building. I am fine as long as God acknowledges us as a big church. The big church God acknowledges is the true church. It’s possessions or how much the church has does not determine the size of the church.

It is about existence. As much as we listen to the voice of God we should become unselfish. “How can I help him?” The voice of God speaks more about that. When you mature to a certain degree, you will hear, “He/she is wounded. He needs so and so. He needs to do so and so.” It leads to asking God questions like, “What should I help him with? How can I help?” Unless you become unselfish you will be judgmental seeking the faults of others. You will naturally be judgmental and critical of others unless you become unselfish. Let us become unselfish!

A saint is a being who becomes happy through the happiness of others. A saint is a being that does not seek his own happiness. That’s the reason he continues to empty himself and it is the same reason I tell the church members to empty themselves. This is the same reason I ask the church members not to leave any inheritance to their children. That’s not the way of saints. I could threaten the church members to give all they have instead of passing it down to their children by submitting their notary of will to the church, but I am not that kind of a pastor. This is only a strong suggestion and I wouldn’t follow through with it. How can I? I believe they will all do what is right. When I say things like this and the people reply with a loud “Amen” are the poor folks. However, this is what the true church is. What can I say? In the Book of Acts, everyone in the church sold their property voluntarily and gave it to the church. That’s what the Kingdom of God is like. You don’t contend for yourself.

When the Kingdom of God comes, one does not contend for their self. Those that contend for themselves are still bound to their own kingdoms which is the kingdom of destruction. My own kingdom is an inheritance that will burn up in ashes. When the Kingdom of God comes, none of my inheritance remains any more. Furthermore, when we continue to listen to the voice of God, we become unselfish. We want to give up our possession and admit that our possessions are no more. Admit that my way, my experience, and my goal are no more! We want to do away with our possession. This is how we live by the Kingdom of God! When we do not pass on inheritance to our children but pass on our faith to them, our children can’t help but do well. They cannot turn out bad. It is such a precious heart to bequeath faith over perishable things. May God bless you to continue to become unselfish!

We want to become beings that bless others and that’s the reason God chose you. What’s the misunderstanding of the Israelites? “We are great people!” Yes, they are great, but why did God make them great? They were made great from many nations in Palestine, but they misunderstood they were great for themselves.

That’s what gospel is like. Gospel always gives glory. That’s the reason Apostle

Paul says, “Gospel of glory” in the 1 Thessalonians. Those that have received the gospel of glory have the responsibility of it as well. It is worthy of life. Those that have received the glory shall give their life as well. That’s the reason Paul said that He is willing to give his life up for the Thessalonians. If you have understood the truth and received glory and the Kingdom of God, you have the responsibility to give your own life. However, if you do not have the responsibility to do so, then you have not seen God’s glory, yet. If you have seen God’s glory, you will give your life up for it. You are responsible to give your life as well because you have received the gospel of glory. Once you receive God’s glory, you will definitely become unselfish. The reason you hear a lot of your own voice is because you are still selfish.

Is this a will of God for him to marry her? When you look closely, the ladies guys tend to marry are all pretty. That’s the result of hearing their own voice. Guys should be willing to marry any lady if it is the will of God including those not so pretty. Isn’t that true? What is the standard of who is good, not so good, great or not so great? Is the standard our looks? Absolutely not! When one listens to his own voice a lot, he is selfish. Please examine your faith life closely. “Am I still selfish?” “Am I immediately responding to give up?” If not, you are not listening to the voice of God, but your own voice. As we listen to the voice of God we are confused whether or not we are listening to the voice of God or our own voice. However, when we look at the result, if you don’t become selfish, then you are clearly not listening to your voice, but the voice of God.

4) The voice of God gives hope

Fourth, the voice of God gives us hope. Those that listen to the voice of God become people of hope. Whenever I see them I can feel overflowing hope and this is the characteristic of those listening to the voice of God. Some are oppressed; therefore, they live in the sense of despair and frustration. They are not listening to the voice of God, but to the voice of deception. They hear “you can’t do it” a lot of times. “You tried, but it didn’t work!” This voice makes you dwell on the past, particularly on past failures and the uncertainty of the future. However, those that listen to the voice of hope never fall into despair in any circumstance.

Like Joseph who did not despair or complain in spite of great confusion and hardship, we want to take one step at a time toward the Kingdom of God. Hope is the power of your practical life. Those that listen to the voice of God are full of hope. Hope is your power to withstand any wicked circumstance to carry on the work of God and His plan.

We have the tendency to want something without paying for it or receiving it

pain-free. So, we think, “Let’s skip the step of hardship and go around it.” That’s not a right thinking. God purifies you by having you pay your dues and make an investment. In Psalms, there is an expression that God put steel inside the body of Joseph. What that means is that Joseph became a powerful man through his suffering. It is God’s plan for us to pay a price through suffering, so we become people that God can use. We do have a bad habit of trying to get something done without paying our dues or without suffering.

Suffering produces perseverance, perseverance produces character, and character produces hope according to Romans 5:3-4. Hope is not achieving some good thing without going through some suffering. Perseverance means spiritual muscle. Spiritual muscle is strengthened by perseverance. Next is character through which we imitate the character of Jesus Christ. When we have character through perseverance, we receive vision from God.

You must pay the price in order for God to use you. You also need time to unload/remove the false things from your faith life. Fortunately, it is not proportional! For example, if you have lived apart from God for the last ten years and have just come back to God, please do not think something good will happen immediately. As tenacious as your life was apart from God for the last ten years, you need time to release yourself from that in your faith life. It takes some time to do that. This is not always proportional to the time apart from God. I have observed those who came to Yulbang Church and left after a while. Their attitude was to just go with the flow for some time in the church, and then things would go well although they had lived a terrible life totally unrelated to God for so long. As a result, they get frustrated and the sense of despair hit them hard, so they left the church. They did not hope to pay the price. When I first believed in God at the age of 29, I thought I would be happy if God uses me when I’m about 50 or 60 years old. God is my witness! I was diligent in my faith life with that goal. However, God started to use me way before my projected time and I am grateful for that. That’s because I paid my price and God released me from bondage.

Like in Ephesians 4:11, we can serve to build up the church after we are equipped in the system. We shouldn’t allow unequipped people to serve in the church. The standard of equipping is always perfect. However, God should at least be moving in us to the point that we should be willing to die for the truth. It gives us a headache when they try to do the work of God.

What is prosperity? This word revolutionized me. When Joseph was sold in to slavery, God uses this word “prosperity.” I could not understand why. One doesn’t just prosper like everything goes smoothly, but it requires a price and suffering through which

the plan of God for him is fulfilled. Please remember that hope comes with a price. The hope is fortified in us after we pay the price and release the false things out of us. It is hope that enables us to accept and embrace hardship and suffering which further molds us to be men of faith. It does not mean everything will go well such as “You will be struck with a large amount of money tomorrow” when we are full of joy. We must embrace the fact that it requires a certain payment and follow through with making that payment. At the same time we should have no doubt about the plan of God for our life.

In my 20 years of training, God Himself raised me up in the midst of great oppression. In addition, whenever God sets fire on the visions He has given me, I can get back on my feet like a spring. When God speaks, “Minho, I will use you,” then I get right up. Does that mean all my suffering and worries disappear after hearing that voice? No! God who has given me hope also gives me power to bear the suffering and persevere. When I open my eyes, it is still dark. But when I close my eyes, the vision and hope are already realized in my character. That’s what makes me keep going. Having the hope of God doesn’t mean you will be struck with a lightning of money. That’s not going to happen to you or me. I expected to get struck by a lightning bolt of money the next day, so I opened just one eye and waited, but nothing happened. Everything was the same. The bank still called us to pay our bills and they were kind enough to give us both morning calls and night calls. Nothing changed! That was not even my personal debt but church debt. I thought it was a little unfair. Nevertheless, God continued to speak to me, “Minho, I will do it. I will do this.”

As I was reading Psalm 77 I told God, “I refuse to be comforted.” Asaph, the author of Psalm 77 says, “God, my soul refuses to be comforted. So please stop that God!” You know God is so great. God still said that He is going to do it. When I look back, God really did it. Yes, He really did it. Not that He paid off the debt, but God gave me the power to bear much greater things than that. \$400,000 is no longer a problem for me. Now, I can take on \$40 million. I was going to buy the building for the vision center and remodel it. I thought about buying the land for \$20 million and calculated the monthly payment including interest which turned out to be not too much. The reason we didn’t go forward with this plan was because I realized that it was not the right time. Later, I also thought about buying the whole building and remodel it for \$7 million, but did not follow through it because the location was not good. The place was full of worldly spirit and the spirit of immorality. It had a swimming pool, too. Initially, \$400,000 was painful to bear, but now God has given me a power to bear anything. I am not talking about just money. I am prepared to take out any loan for God and give up anything for other souls. That’s the process of hope God is bringing us through.

That's the hope you should have. When you suffer, let it totally cover you. If God is putting you through the suffering of poverty, don't try to go around it or over it. Just go straight on ahead and live like a pauper/beggar. Suffer the lowest and the harshest until God says, "This is the last suffering in your life!" Ordinary people try to dodge any suffering and cry about it. Not me! Just suffer exhaustively and cry out to the Lord!

When I was under severe oppression, I heard my wife's prayer which just sucked life out of me. How difficult is it to go through suffering? My wife didn't intercede for me, but she prayed, "God, totally break him down!" When I first heard that prayer, I had absolute despair and frustration. When you look at me, you think I may be dreadful. No, I am a gentle lamb. My wife is ferocious! I am who I am because of my wife. You laugh at me now, but put yourself in my shoes and hear such a prayer when you can't even breathe and see how you feel. You get goose bumps. When God allows you to suffering, charge straight ahead with regard to the meaning of the suffering He is giving. Please don't try to dodge it. Don't try to escape it. If you are to be poor, be poor to the bone.

5) The voice of God creates faith and maintains it

Fifth, the voice of God creates faith and maintains it. If you have heard the voice of God, you will mature as a man of faith. However, if you get despair and frustration, you have heard the voice of Satan. You are bound to grow in your faith if you are hearing the voice of God. When you hear the voice of God, your reliance upon God will continue to increase instead of relying on the things of the world. That is the characteristic of those that hear the voice of God. As much as you hear the voice of God, you become more obedient. Furthermore, as much as you deepen your fellowship with God, you become more relational with God. That is faith and that is grace. You will pay more attention to the relationship with God. That's the result of hearing the voice of God.

If your old faith was like a small sailboat, after listening to the voice of God for several years your faith would be like the Enterprise. We should desire for a pure faith which helps a man of faith to keep up and mature. When you are listening to the voice of God and your faith is being weakened, then you are hearing the voice of your reason and rationality. Faith always works to remove reason and rationality. Hence, when you hear the voice of God, you live by faith not by reason and rationality.

The voice of God utters according to the portion of possession. If you have a buck and you hear as much as the buck you have, then that's not the voice of God. You can understand the voice of God according to the depth of your faith. The deeper your faith, the deeper your understanding of the voice of God! When God told Abraham to leave his

father's household, Abraham's faith was deep enough to accept that in the circumstance he was in. It is the same with you! You can understand as deep as your faith. I could not understand at all in the past and it was beyond me as well. However, as my faith matured the depth of my understanding deepened, accordingly. God will lead you to understand the things you couldn't in the past as your depth of faith deepens. You will have clearer understanding of the things of God as your faith matures. Next, when you enter into the bride stage, you can discuss the history of peoples and nations. Like God said He does not proceed with His plan without first sharing it with His servant prophet, you will start to understand the mysteries of God. In the slave and servant stages you don't know the plan. You just do it because that's your level of understanding. However, as the depth of faith deepens, you will start understands the things of God. As you listen to the voice of God you will become more obedient and as you become obedient you will have deeper understanding of the things of God. Through this message of Listening to the Voice of God hope you will become a man of faith.

6) The Voice of God leads to gratitude

Finally, God's voice leads us to thanksgiving. It is clear that if one complains while listening to the voice of God, then that's not the voice of God. When one hears the voice of God, gratitude overflows. You can't help but to give thanks for all the understanding of matters. Like in 2 Timothy 3:1, the people will be ungrateful in the last days. That's what Satan is trying to make us do, to complain instead of being grateful. The big reason Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years was because of their ungrateful hearts and complaints. Like their complaints led them to 40 years of wandering, complaints will anger God. If you look closely enough, there is nothing in the world that we should be ungrateful for. I say this again, but some think they have nothing when they don't have money. I mean money is the only thing they don't have. However, people complain "God, I don't have anything." They have everything except money. Of those old misses here, you have everything except your husband. It is Satan's strategy to trick you to think you have nothing when you lack only one thing.

Take time and see how many things you have to be grateful for. There are so many things to be thankful for. It is a blessing to have such a handsome guest speaker and you should be grateful for that. In my case, I have good kids, a good wife, truly good members of the church, and good parents that I am truly thankful for. There is nothing to throw away when you receive with gratitude. Be thankful for everything! It is so good to hear the voice of God!

How exciting is it to hear the voice of the Creator God? Let's suppose some of you meet the county clerk every day, some of you meet the mayor of your city every day, some of you here meet the governor of your state every day, and some of you over there meet the President of your nation every day! How will these four people change a year later from a human perspective? Generally speaking, who would live the most glorious life? The one that met the President, right? From a human perspective, when one meets the President of the country every day for a year, his life would be changed tremendously. Moreover, how much more glorious one's life would be if one meets the Creator God and have daily fellowship with Him?

When we meet God, we have this excitement. Like the bible says we have earned the right to approach the throne of grace, you have earned the privilege to approach the throne of grace of God where He created all things and decides the histories of the nations and the world. That's the zealously of hearing the voice of God and that's what we need. How amazing is it that the Creator God speaks to a creature like me? How amazing is it that He gives us the privilege to approach His throne of grace? "God, how can I not throw everything to you and live by You? My desire is to live by You alone! I want to change my spiritual system and structure of mind and focus on You, so I can live by You alone. Seize me oh God and reign in me!"

Tomorrow the message will help you to accept the signs of God. In short, we receive His resonance. Please come with a yearning to enter into the stillness of God. God sanctify our spirits and may the Kingdom of God come!



Listening to the Voice of God 6

I would like speak with you regarding the topic of Accepting the Sign of God. God speaks audibly, but like I said earlier, it is not uncommon to hear God's voice audibly in the era of the indwelling Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit gives signs to us, we want to catch His resonance. You may ask why God doesn't communicate in our language to make it easy on us. That's because there is a limit on how to communicate the things of the spiritual world to the human world through a direct language. You all know Pastor Hoon speaks English well. Regardless of how good he speaks the language, he has a system in his brain to translate the Korean words into English out of his mouth. It is the same concept. There is a clear process of expressing the signs of the spiritual world into the human language. That's the reason we use the word "catch."

I don't think there is anyone who disagrees with the idea, that there is a "relationship" between the physical world and the spiritual world. How much are they related? There is a deep relationship between the two. It is not an over statement to say that all your behavior or action is determined according to the influence of the spiritual world. You all came to this conference and although it may seem that was your decision to come here, it was actually the influence of the spiritual world that brought you here. We call that the world of idea philosophy which is the transparency of the essential world. In order to live well in the physical world, we must know the spiritual world well. Why? It is because the physical world is greatly influenced by the spiritual world.

Of all the influences in the spiritual world, the main ones are God and Satan. It is either the influence of God or the influence of Satan. On one hand, if the influence of Satan is present, then the influence of God is not in the same place. On the other hand, if the influence of God is present, then the influence of Satan is not there. These are the two influences from the spiritual world that are affecting our life.

Is there anyone who has experienced Jesus coming to, hug, kiss, and say, "I love you?" to you? Does anyone still bear the mark that Jesus gave you on the cheek when he kissed you? Moreover, is there anyone who was forced by the hand of an evil spirit to steal something? You did not want to steal, but the evil spirit dragged you to a store and forced you to steal something. Is that what happened? No!

How does the spirit world influence our reality? It is through our minds! The evil spirits use our minds just like how God does. Hence, it is the same thing when it comes to hearing the voice of God. When your mind adheres to the evil spirit, you are listening to the voice of the evil spirit. When your mind adheres to God, you are listening to the voice of God.

The first thing that we want to know is that the spiritual world and the physical world are very closely related. It is closer than words can describe. It is like when you fill this room with oxygen, other gasses and molecules will leave this room. That is like the relationship between these two worlds. They have a reciprocal relationship. Your action and attitude are decided by your mind. Of course, your mind is pre-determined by the condition of the spiritual world. Your fear, love, anxiety, peace and other emotional states are not just your emotion in and of themselves but they are pre-determined in your mind.

For example, you are in a fear-free situation, and yet you are fearful. The reason for that is because your mind chooses to fear. Reversely, you are placed in a fearful situation, and yet you are bold. You chose the boldness in your mind over the fear in that circumstance. Your mind determines your action. There is a space of time between the thought and the action. Our enemy controls us to fulfill its goal of taking over our mind. When he succeeds in controlling our mind, it always leads to death.

For example, when Eve ate the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, Satan did not force Eve's mouth to open so he could shove the fruit down her throat. The only thing Satan did was entice Eve's mind through his smooth talk. False information in our mind will bring so much grief. "Having lots of money will make us happy!" If you think that money is everything in your life, then you will spend your entire life trying to make money until you die. The fatality rate of men in their 40s is the highest among Koreans and the reason is that they work so hard to make money; if they don't, they would rather die than have no money. When you have false information thinking that money is the determining factor in finding happiness, it will lead you into doing such action. If we have such false information in our minds it will lead to commit much sin in our lives.

1. The process of the world of mind

I would like to address the three aspects that process in the mind structure; power of memory, power of intelligence, and power of induction. Let's go over some of the basic terminology before we go any further. First, there is the spirit. Our spirit has a function which is the ability to forget. I am talking about the function of the Spirit of God not the spirit of man. When your spirit is filled with the Spirit of God, you live just like Him and thus you don't remember the old pains and wounds from your past experiences. Here I am speaking about the spirit of man which is like a black box of an airplane. Let me explain that.

In a typical church, you hear about a trichotomy: man is made up of spirit, soul, and body. The Bible does not address this trichotomy to describe how the human being

is separated, but it describes its function. That was the intention of Apostle Paul. Where is the spirit? Where is the soul? The body is the body, but soma does not refer to the flesh. Spirit, soul, and body refer to the whole being and when the being functions, the functions of spirit, soul, and body follow it. Therefore, I do not use spirit, soul, and body, but refer to them as the function of spirit.

The spirit has the functions of intellect, emotion, and will. Is the spirit substance or not? Yes, the spirit is substance. Our spirit goes to the Kingdom of God because it exists even after we die. Isn't knowledge, emotion, and will substance as well? They are not substance by themselves. However, there is a structure in the brain that controls them and it is called the hippocampus. As such, knowledge, emotion and will are the functions of the spirit. God has given us functions divided in two parts; true intellect and intellectual power. It is the same for the power of emotion and will. There is true emotion and emotional power. God also distinguished between true will and will power. Intellect, emotion, and will combine to produce the mind/thought.

When I am thinking to hold this water bottle in my hand, my knowledge, emotion and will are at work. There is my knowledge of the water bottle. Then there is my emotion of thirst. Finally, there is my will to hold it in my hand. Through my knowledge, emotion, and will the thought takes form in my mind. What does this thought decide? It determines the action. Repeated actions lead to forming a habit which leads to character development which further leads to destiny. Our focus is on this thought.

As much as the spirit of man is seized by the Spirit of God, therefore being filled with God, his true knowledge increases. That is the way the function of the Spirit of God works! It is evidenced by Adam when he was in the Garden. When God brought all the animals to Adam, he named all of them before the fall of humanity. Adam did not study in school to learn the animal names and he did not get confused with so many names. He didn't call the pig an elephant! If Adam called the pig an elephant, we would have had so much confusion in zoology. That's living by true knowledge. When God created man, He already put the true knowledge in him. It is pre-installed in man. When you buy a computer, all the necessary programs are already installed on the computer, aren't they?

It is the same with love. When Adam first saw Eve, he said, "She is flesh of my flesh and bone of my bone" to express his deep love for her. Before Eve was created, Adam had never loved a woman. He had neither experienced nor learned what love is. God put true love in man at the creation.

Will is also the same. When God forbade Adam and Eve from eating the fruit from

the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they had no desire to eat it. Their capacity to oppose God was zero. They just obeyed the word of God. That's true will and God put that in man when He created mankind. If we live by the Spirit of God 100%, true knowledge, true emotion, and true will will make up our mind. That's the characteristic of a man seized by the Spirit of God 100%.

This is how man was originally intended to live. God didn't stop there but also gave man free will. When man stops living by the true power God put in them, free will immediately kicks in. Man uses the power of knowledge which is to gain knowledge through labor. Man will use the power of emotion to love others through labor. Man will also use the power of will to obey through labor. The problem with this is that unless the mind itself is focused on God, it is still under the world spiritual influence. This power is inherent and yet it invites the power from outside. When our mind is fixed on God, what we invite from the outside will have the right to influence our spirit. But if our minds go straight out into the world without first going through God, we will receive wrong and dysfunctional information in our minds which lead to the corruption of the spirit.

When we are saved, we have a new man who opens the door for us to go to God. As the new man prospers our mind focuses on God more and more and gathers the right information. Otherwise our mind accepts what is filthy and corrupt instead of gathering what is pure and right. Furthermore, when we store up this corrupt information in our subconsciousness, it starts to exert its influence in the opportune time. Whenever our minds are fixed upon God, the structure of our spirit always opens up to the desire of the Holy Spirit which prospers the new man even further. There are different degrees of how much a new man is seized by the Holy Spirit from 0 to 100%. In short, when we focus our minds on God, we will always have the desire of the Holy Spirit, and thus, the new man prospers. Who is this new man? It is the one who has a structure that responds to God.

The other side of the coin is that when my spirit is fixed on the world, the desire of the flesh always takes over me and the old man prospers. That is the spiritual order. This is the spiritual battle that takes place in our spiritual system and the structure of mind. It makes things so much easier if the old man completely dies upon encountering God. How much the old man dies upon salvation is different from person to person. For example, when Paul met the Lord on the road to Damascus, more than 80% of old man died and he became selfless. The new man in Paul started to prosper and there was not much resistance to obey the will and plans of God. Nevertheless, Paul spent 17 years in an Arabian desert because of the remains of that old man living by the Law. There are some people whose new man is restored only 10%. That's why they are attending only Sunday worship

service, but that's ok. They can begin at 10% and continue to focus their mind on God, continue to prosper the new man, be seized by God completely and essentially live by true knowledge, true emotion, and true will. They lead to the right mind resulting in right behavior which further results in right habit and life. We want to be seized by the Spirit of God at least 50% or more so when our spirit utilizes the power of knowledge, the power of emotion, and the power of will, we would still fix our mind on God and gather the right information.

Originally, we didn't need to live by the powers of knowledge, emotion, and will, but because of our corruption we have been choosing the non-truth and the things of the world. We don't have any choice but to use these functions reversely. It is necessary to renew the once corrupted structure of mind and spiritual system as much as we have accepted the wrong things and non-truth in the past. In short, we need to extract them or eradicate them. What is removed from the water bottle if you fill it with water? Air is removed. We need to fill ourselves with the truth in our mind in order to push out the wrong and corrupted things in us just like the air comes out of the water bottle. That's the process of repentance and eating the word.

I want to talk to you about three powers. The mind makes decisions via knowledge, emotion, and will. Moreover, the mind has the power of memory, the power of intelligence, and the power of induction. By these powers we want to accept and understand the truth and become a man that can be measured by the ways of God. All these powers are neutral. When these powers focus on God through the desires of the Holy Spirit, we will gather the information which in turn will prosper the new man. On the contrary, if these powers focus on the world, by the desires of the flesh the old man will prosper. The power of memory, the power of intelligence, and the power of induction can accept the truth of God, but they can also accept the wrong things. The wrong things can be stored up in the mind ultimately resulting in the corruption of the structure of mind because the mind determines behavior based on the wrong and corrupted information.

For example, like I mentioned earlier, if one thinks money is the best thing in life, his belief will result in a behavior demonstrating his willingness to die for it. Psychologists call it subconsciousness. It includes the structure of mind, the three structures (powers), and the situations they develop. However, we prefer to use "function." When the truth that abides with God rises up in me in the midst of fearful and painful circumstance, I can make a decision resulting in an action that is fearless.

This function works according to information. When the function is filled with the truth completely, then we can always make a decision according to the will of God. With-

out the right information, can I make the right decision? No. With corrupt information, one cannot succeed in life. With false information, in the structure of the mind, whether he has much or little he cannot succeed. If we know this, it is clear for us to focus on God 24 hours a day. This is how Adam lived in the Garden of Eden. This is living according to what God intended for us. As much as we are seized by the Spirit of God, all the things that God put in us will be revealed. As much as the Spirit of God stimulate me inside, what God originally created in me will be revealed.

If that does not happen, we must develop intellectual power, emotional power, and will power in spite of true intellect, true emotion, and true will. Although we are seized by the Spirit of God, partly we live by the intellect. Some of us use it more, some of us use it less. So we use both the true intellect and intellectual power mixed. We think ourselves through intellectual, emotional, and will power, but we want to focus on God, accept the truth of God and turn those powers to true intellect, true emotion, and true will.

So we want to shake off what our spirit is limiting in the Spirit of God and allow the Spirit of God to seize us completely. There are many parts in us that are corrupted and are filled with false information and so the Spirit of God does not seize us. For example, the fear we have in our personality is an example of corruption which does not originate with God. In short, we can't hear the voice of God as much as we have defiled desires. If we hear the voice of God saying, "I will bless you with materials," yet we have not dealt with greed, that's the voice of deception. God cannot give us his personal authority when we have not dealt with immorality. Accept the right information to allow the Spirit of God to seize you.

When we understand this structure, we know what to do with our spirituality. Whatever information you accept in your mind will determine what character you will have, which will also determine your destiny. So we know how important it is to focus our minds on God. If we watch T.V. carelessly, it will unknowingly lead to the formation of personality. So, when you watch T.V. the desires of the flesh open up and not the desires of the Holy Spirit, and it prosper the old man. This wrong information builds up in our mind unconsciously and contributes to certain action/behavior.

How dangerous are movies and T.V. programs? They clutter our minds with false information. For example, there is a movie entitled "Deep Impact." There are many movies regarding the destruction of the Earth. In those movies, man escapes from catastrophe at the end by man's efforts. These movies give us false information, they communicate that God never destroys the universe and they can create paradise by man's effort. They continue to input these kinds of information in us.

We don't know how much these things contribute to humanism. I talked about this in my message about the doctrine of church. I mentioned that Martin Luther's reformation was not about the corruption of the system but about the corruption of man. He was supposed to deny them in full scale; instead he accepted humanism out of necessity. The church's acceptance of humanism rendered the church powerless. There is no doubt that Martin Luther was a great man, but he completely denied the Jews. The reason that Martin Luther denied the Jews was because he agreed with Hellenistic thought and rejected Hebraic thought. That is why they call the book of James "the epistle of straw." That is the result of accepting humanism. What is the God's original structure of mind? It is Hebraic thought. The Hebraic mindset is not accepting the word of God by the agreement of the knowledge that man has but accepting the word of God by faith. It refers to the true intellect. When Martin Luther accepted the humanistic ideals, it broke down the Hebraic mindset. The Nazi Holocaust was the result of the influence of what Martin Luther had done. When many Jews were annihilated, the true intellect system was also destroyed.

When we think about the information we accept into our mind which determines our life, we don't want to accept the false information and the things of the world. Don't even think about that. The success of life depends on how much you fill your structure of mind and spiritual system with the things of God. That's the how we picture the true system in Zoë ministry. When we think of the book of Ephesians, we should memorize it, so we can communicate what we have pictured from chapter 1 through 6. That is what we are training in ANBI. When we think of the book of Romans, we want to be able to cover everything from chapter 1 through 16. We want to picture the whole book. Why do we do this? Because this was the function we had when God first created us.

In the end, we want to live by true intellect, true emotion, and true will. We want to continuously accept the truth of God and remove what is false through repentance. We need this process of removal of false things in our subconsciousness.

What am I explaining to you? We are studying the power of memory, the power of intelligence, the power of induction, and the system in the structure of mind. I came to a realization, "This is what this is," through experience, scriptures, and working with the Holy Spirit. I would have gotten a PhD if I had studied for it or had used my own efforts. This is a topic that many philosophers and theologians are still researching and arguing over. How can I conclusively say this? I came to a realization, "Ah, this is right," by reading the scriptures, by my experience of living with the Holy Spirit and the conclusive life He showed me.

In short, we should live by the original powers for us when God created us, by

removing the false information from our minds and spiritual system. We have understood from the book of Colossians that when we become a new a man, we are renewed in the true intellect. That means we become a person who operates this structure of mind. In the past, we could not operate in such a structure. But when the Spirit of God saved us by seizing us, a new man came alive, and the function of true intellect was restored. It is our intellect that is being renewed, but God reveals to us what is in us and uses that. Listening to the voice of God is not learning a new power or technique. Listening to the voice of God is the essence of the kingdom of God, so when the kingdom of God clearly comes into us, it just opens up.

Why are you going through the training? Because you have not been living the way you were supposed to and you still don't have a clue on how to listen to the voice of God. So we train to confirm it by combining it with the knowledge you have inside. God does not give us something new, but God reveals something that we have inside. God speaks in the past tense concerning about the things He has given us. So we need to change our approach in our faith life. We are not approaching what is new, but we are approaching to reveal what is inside. In order to do that we must loosen and extract the true intellect that God has put in us at the creation. We do not even use 5% of our brain power, but we live by the power of intellect not by true intellect. If we use 5% of our brain we would be called geniuses. If we consistently live by the true power that God has given us, and continue to nurture that, we can do great things. It includes what we call "superpower" and they are all included in this function. The power of God includes healing, prophecy, power of memory, etc.

When we restore the true function of the brain that God has given us, we can become powerful men and women of God. According to 2 Kings 18, Elijah outruns the chariot of Ahab pulled by 16 horses. Does it sound like a cartoon? I believe without any doubt. The reason for that is that when we loosen the true power that God has given us and when the Spirit of God seizes us, we can live like that. While Deacon Phillip was preaching the gospel in Samaria, suddenly he was taken to Gaza to witness the gospel there. His body suddenly disappeared. How would you interpret that? Sounds like a cartoon to you doesn't it? I have experienced this. It is possible when one lives by the power that God has given, he can overcome the limitations of his body. When the Holy Spirit came upon Peter, an ignorant person, he preached amazingly. The Jews and scribes thought Peter was an ordinary man, but where did that power of intellect come from? I experienced this as well. When I preach I am surprised because it is like a tape is playing inside of me. It does not come out from the knowledge that I have or studied for. I am talking about a life that is operated by true intellect and true power.

So when we say we live by grace, which means that there is no deficiency, it really means living by the power of God that created us. When we live by our own efforts, we are deficient. In spite of this, we still need to use this function reversely, use the power (intellectual, emotional, will) to receive the true information repeatedly and go all way to true intellect and true power. Allow the Spirit of God, instead of hindering Him, to seize you 60%, 70%, and all the way up to 100%. In order for the Spirit of God to seize us, we need to wrestle against the desires of the flesh and extract non-truth. That's what the revolution of being is. The current structure of mind is no longer the old type from where you used to live by your own efforts. Now, you live by the true things God placed in you and not by your efforts.

Churches both in Korea and the world know that discipleship courses and programs cannot change people. The question is how about Zoe Ministry. Is Zoe Ministry Network doing anything new? No, not at all. There is nothing new under the sun. Our hope lies on the word of truth and God Himself. There is no hope besides God. Only God can change people and nothing else works. This is how it can. Let the people receive the truth and reveal what God created in their souls through fire and anointing. The truth is souls don't change, but they reveal what God created in them at the beginning. The reason for the failure of the discipleship and programs in the churches is their attempt to renew the churches by changing people.

Everyone changes in our church although it varies from person to person in terms of time. What is that change? We are not offering something new or different to the church members. The only thing we do at our church is keep feeding the word of God and help them to live fully submerge in the Holy Spirit 24/7 as much as possible. There is no other way to restore God's essence. This is the solution at the wake of failures of discipleship and other trainings. Coming up with new stuff and teaching the people with this and that are not working. It may seem to work at the beginning, but it does not last. Our focus is not on coming up with something new, but on revealing what God created in us at the beginning. The paradigm is different. For example, we do not receive the spiritual gifts; God reveals what He already given to us. It is revealing all the possibilities we have in the Holy Spirit.

When you sow corn seeds, do you get wheat? No. In the corn seed there is only the possibility of corn. The principle is the same. We just need to reveal the possibilities of the Holy Spirit. This is not just an idea, this is being proven in Yulbang Church. We can call it a clinical test in pastoral ministry. When the result is 50%, we can call it a success. However, the members of Yulbang Church change over 90%. They go through a revolution of being.

How does that happen? The focus of our ministry is on revealing what God created in us at the beginning. Today, I am going to focus on the structure of mind.

You cannot choose not to think. The living being or person must think. As long as he lives he thinks. When he stops thinking, he is dead. The point is we think all the time and we should think about the right things and choose the right things. Another point is that we can't choose two things at the same time. It may seem that we are choosing two things at the same time, but in reality we are choosing things in quick succession. We can't think about two things at once, so we should focus on God and learn to think by God. We call people who think they can choose more than two things at the same time distracted. We are not distracted only when we are focused on God. We can choose what we think by the free will we have. It is a blessing and it can also be a curse.

In the middle of worship service, if you choose the blessings through the sermon, then you will be blessed. If you also choose the pastor is handsome and his spirit is pure, then it will be done according your choice. However, if you choose to think that he is so-so, then it will be so-so. Why? Because the thought in the structure of mind pre-determines the action.

Your every thought faces the decision of choosing either what is true or what is false. Things from God are true. When we choose the things of God and think, the Holy Spirit accompanies us and leads us in all truth. Reversely, if we choose what is false or the things of the world, Satan will exert his influence on us. When we choose what is right in our mind, we can choose what is true in our action. In James 3:2 James says, "For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well." This is proven medically that the language center in the brain controls the nerve system in the body. Therefore, what we think pre-determines our action. Action comes out of the mind because the language center controls the nerve system in the body. If you choose the truth with the right truth and think of the truth, it will lead to the right action.

Therefore, if we are filled with the truth of God in our structure of mind and spiritual system, we can choose the right action which further leads to the right character and life. We can decide our action based on three things; memory, induction, and intelligence.

If I put noodles, ice cream, and a check for \$1 million before my 3-year-old son, what do you think he is going to choose? He will pick the ice cream. Why wouldn't he pick a check for \$1 million? He does not have the power to recognize it in his structure of mind. It is the same with us. We need to be filled with the truth in our structure of mind, so we

can choose the truth. We want to be filled all the way to the point to be able to operate the true power. So, when the Spirit of God seizes us, His truth can determine the action.

In 1 Peter 4:11, Peter says, “Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever.” Not only should the power of God move us when we pray but also in our whole life. That’s what we should strive toward. When we do that, we no longer experience exhaustion or despair. We don’t have depression in the Kingdom of God. Neither do we have fear in the Kingdom of God. There is no despair in His Kingdom.

1) The Power of Memory

Let’s first look at the power of memory. Suppose you meet an old friend whom you haven’t met for a long time. The first topic would be about an old time you share with him. In the conversation, you would use the memory from old time. We have truth, lie, partial truth, false, and other things dormant in our subconscious. When we encounter an event such as meeting an old friend, then we draw them out, use them in the conversation and actions. Man’s power of memory is called the subconsciousness. Everything you have accepted in your life is within your mind specifically in the subconscious whether you remember them or not. So when something happens, you always draw them out and use them. Therefore, it is necessary to draw them out through inner healing, repentance and continual acceptance of the truth to remove them.

Please remember non truth, partial truth, hurt, and lies in your subconsciousness affect your everyday action. Creating conducive atmosphere and circumstance for a person full of non truth cannot turn him around to succeed in his life. In another word, giving a lot of money to someone who is full of lies won’t make him happy in his life. Will one, who is filled with false truth, hurts, false and corrupted thoughts, succeed in life with a good helper? No! What we do here in Yulbang Church is to keep drawing out the false truth and non truth and eat the word, repent, obey and pray. That’s how we arrive at the inner healing and the work of repentance. It is necessary, especially for those who have eaten the false truth in other church for 30 or 40 years. It will take a lot of efforts to remove them.

Man has a power of memory. Man voluntarily does things that do not please God through the corrupted memories. If you are truly owner of yourself and thus can do anything, you can make all the money you want, you can study all you want and become smart all you want. That’s possible if you are truly owner of yourself, but you can’t do that. Why? Because you have put limited information and power that prevent you from doing

that. We can do anything when the Lord, who is infinite in wisdom, power, and resource, moves in us. The revolution of existence leads us to a different world. What do I live by? This makes a world of difference. We have a power of memory.

2) Power of Intelligence

Second, we have the power of intelligence. The power of intelligence is not fixed. It continues to be affected by new information. It can gather new information like a computer that you can store information. This is a system that can receive a new idea as information or combine it with existing information and produce new information. You can also reject the new information as it conflicts with existing information or replace the old with new. The free will works in this process of intelligence. When you receive the new thought and it is embraced, it is recorded in your subconsciousness.

All these informations are being stored in our life. It is a good thing to store / gather truth and right thoughts. However, storing false or non truth will lead you to walk down on wrong path. The more non truth you have inside, higher the probability of choosing the wrong action. So, it is clear what we should gather and store in our system. Stop gathering anything but the truth. That's how we please God. In Romans 12, Paul says, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will." We are to accept God's good and pleasing will. God is pleased with the truth and we are to embrace it. Some of you receive new information from me and some confirm the information. Once you agree to the new information, you store it in the subconsciousness. In addition, you gather and store up information from T.V., radio, and newspaper. You can infinitely store up information in the brain. It seems that you have limitation because it is slow and difficult to recognize and use the information in your mind. However, you can gather information infinitely. The important thing is that the information you have in your subconsciousness will influence your decision of action.

3) The Power of Induction

Third, let's look at the power of induction. It refers to the ability of making prediction with the gathered information in our structure of mind. Which brand of bottle water would I choose to drink? There are Bluemarine, Samdasoo, Evian and etc. Based on the information I gather I make a decision of what brand of water I drink. This is induction. Evian is French water, so they would probably have a good filtering system. Samdasoo is our national brand, I probably should drink it. Bluemarine is a new brand it is supposed to be good for the body. I weight them out in my mind and I choose Bluemarine. This is the power of inducting. We choose something by this power of induction. Again, we use

the power of induction by retrieving the internal information that was already processed by the power of memory and power of intelligence. Now, we have three functions in the power of induction.

a. Expectation

First, we have expectation when we run into problem or meet someone. “What was I going to say when I meet him? Now I have this dreadful problem. I am going to die! It is my lucky day!” When we have expectation in the Spirit of God, we call that faith and hope. Whatever we do, if we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we can see through the eyes of faith. That further leads to determining the action. When Israelites saw Goliath, they saw a giant that is 3 meters tall. Their expectation was that they are all going to die. However when one by the name of David was filled with the Holy Spirit, he saw the same giant and said that “I am going to eat your lunch.” When we are seized by the Spirit of God and see the things and circumstances, our expectation differs. What we see like people, problems, phenomena, and conditions are not the essence. With our limited perspective we can't clearly see them, especially with limited non truth. Only by the truth of God and His power can we clearly see things and conditions.

For example, how is it possible for Abram and Sarah to have a baby when Abraham is too old to have a baby and Sarah is barren. Their internal knowledge of God made it possible. Otherwise, normal people would just laugh at the idea. The truth leads us to choose the essence in the midst of the circumstance. However, with the information of non truth and when it is gathered in the boundary of self limitation, we cannot choose faith and hope, especially within the system of reason and rationality.

What you fill inside of you determines how your life turns out to be. The life of faith is tremendously different from otherwise. There are so many things for me to testify of with regard to the faith in the last seven years of Yulbang Church or Zoe Ministry. It seemed impossible for all people but the faith and hope chosen by the faith in me has led us so far. It was not a possible ministry from my own perspective. This is all grace. Filling the truth in me, making faith and hope, and living in the power that God has given me; they are what I call grace.

b. Interpretation

Next, we want to look at the interpretation. Of course, we don't want to make interpretation based on the wrong information. It only leads to say that it is impossible. “Even with 200 denary, it is impossible to feed everyone...” It leads to a false interpretation. In 2 Kings Chapter 6, Samaria is besieged by enemies, so there is nothing to eat. The head of the donkey costs several thousand dollars and foods cost so much money. Elisha

says that they will be dirt cheap by tomorrow and the officer of the king replies, “Look, even if the Lord should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?” The officer has the wrong interpretation so he sees it happen but can’t eat any of it. The false interpretation comes through the false information. So, he is stampeded.

Living by the power of God shows us how futile it is to judge by the phenomena of the world. What we see is not everything. When someone pierces us as thorns, he is a bad person according to the phenomenon or what it appears on the outside. That’s because of the limited information we have internally. However, if we are in the truth, we can see the essence like “oh, he is wounded or God is trying to strengthen me in such area with the thorns.” Therefore, we do not hate him. With your limitation you will hate him. If someone is good to you, he is a righteous man. If he is not good to you, then he is an evil person. The reality is that when someone is good to me, he can be the wicked. Moreover, when someone is not good to me, he can still be the righteous.

Therefore, the function of thinking about a certain individual, a certain circumstance, or a certain incident is not so important. When David sinned against Bathsheba and Uriah, he said he sinned against God alone. What did he mean by that? David sinned against people and why does he say he sinned against God only? David’s focus is on God alone. He is sorry that he sinned against them, but he is not sorry to others. Obviously, he has potential to sin against others. There is only one God in the whole universe. When I sin, God feels the pain of sin more than anyone. David knew the essence. He can’t commit sin against the same Person/God. That’s the reason he said that he sinned against God alone. He didn’t commit sin to anyone afterward as a result.

From human perspective, I can be sorry to sin against so and so and I have the potential not to commit sin against them again. But this is not always true. I might have sinned one type of sin against them, but there are many other sins I haven’t committed against them that I don’t feel sorry for. I am sorry to ripping someone off for money, but I haven’t hurt him in other ways. That’s a typical example of the corruption of man. David’s confession of sin against God alone means having an understanding of the result and essence of sin is death. Furthermore, it is also understanding of the heartache I cause God when I sin resulting in never again committing the sin of any kind. What has seized your structure of mind? How much can your eyes see the essence in every circumstance? It is unlimited. “Love your enemies” is in the same context. How can one love the enemy in the world of phenomena? The enemy should be killed. It is the same thing being able to see the essence. How is that possible? You build it up with the truth you have inside.

c. Conclusion

We have just seen how we can interpret and now we move on to how it leads to the conclusion. According to the interpretation the conclusion is determined and we respond according to the conclusion. “Goliath, you mess with me. You are dead.” That’s the conclusion and Goliath is killed. There are three functions in the Induction; expectation, interpretation, and conclusion.

Let’s summarize this. We think with the power of memory and the information of memory stored in the subconsciousness determines the action. We also have the power of intelligence, so it can collide with the existing information in the memory. It can further combine the new information with the existing information and produce better information or replace the existing information with the new. Our part is continue to receive the truth and replace the old and false information; thus, deleting them. That’s what we call the process of repentance.

In this process of repentance, the power of the blood of Jesus comes upon us and it cleanses us giving us the confirmation of forgiveness. God further deletes the false thoughts and memories in us. The free will plays an important role as we receive the new information we call the truth. God says, “Give thanks always!” How can a man give thanks always? We can’t and yet it is the life style of the Kingdom of God. We should repent and give up old life style. God also says, “Rejoice always!” How can we rejoice all the time? Yet we should think “rejoice regardless” and extract all the corruptions we received in the old system full of limitation. Furthermore, with the right information we interpret right and naturally decide the right action.

2. The Process of Meditation

What is the process of meditation? The mind goes through God to open up the desire of the Holy Spirit and prospers the new man. When the mind goes through the world, the desire of the flesh opens up and it further opens up the old man. The process of meditation decides whether the mind will go through God or the world. When we accept the right information through the process of meditation, we can understand the will of God. “Ah, that’s what God did!” We realize that’s the filling of God. That’s the reason we should choose the will of God and the right things when we encounter any incident.

It is the same with the meditation of the word. Application of the word of God in my life is the meditation of the word. For example, when your child does not come home until 2 am or so, you would worry about her thinking “is she lost? Did she run into a car accident? Is she kidnapped? Did she go to her friend’s house?” What should you do first if you want to meditate in the direction of God? You should acknowledge that you are in

a situation you can't do anything about. If you don't, you will start thinking or meditating in the ways of the world. If you want to meditate in the direction of God, you must admit your limitation. "I can't do anything!" This is the first response. In short, every moment in life is the process of meditation.

For example, we have this bowl of black bean noodle. We don't think twice about this noodle when we eat it. But in reality we already initiate the process of meditation. "When I eat this black bean noodle, I will have strength and with this strength I will serve God." We have already gone through this process and we eat the noodle. But nobody thinks about that for long and eats the black bean noodle. That's the reason meal prayer shouldn't be long. The truth is we are already meditating everything in our structure of mind in our life. We eat the meal so we can serve God for His glory. Our focus is on God even as we eat. It is just that it doesn't take long.

Some meditations take a long time to reach the conclusion of God and some can be immediate. Everything is meditation in life. We meditate every moment whether we are going to think from God's perspective, my perspective, or worldly perspective. This training is in the Listening to the voice of God. That's why we should ask God in each moment of our lives. People that live with God should ask Him all the time. My wife shared with me earlier this morning, "Honey, I have changed the subject of every conversation to Jesus ever since you told me about that." When we say, "What's wrong with him?" then who is the subject? I am the one that's thinking. If we change the subject to Jesus, it would be like this "Jesus, what's wrong with him?"

When we supposed a child comes home late, the first response would be acknowledging our limitation in the circumstance. We are worried something might have happened to her but she comes home without any scratch. Nothing happened to her at all. Now, we experience despair and frustration like "she is a total failure. This is not the first time..." All the negative emotions start to come up inside. That's because we have stored false informations in us and when the opportunity is presented, they all come up at once like "why would she do that? She is a total failure. I am not a good parent..." Those thoughts come to our mind because we put those false information in our inner world. At that point we should repent, give up, and seek the truth immediately.

Third, when you seek the truth, you are ready to hear the voice of God. You can now hear His voice. God always speaks to us. First of all, you will fail if you meditate on the world instead of God. Let's talk about the child that came home late. Your admission of the fact that you don't know what is exactly going on shifts back your focus on God. If you are angry and filled with the sense of despair although she came home all right, then you

are not meditating on the ways of God. However, when you admit your limitation, repent of all the non truth in you and seek for the truth, then your mind is focusing on God. You can now hear the voice of God.

Then you start hearing the voice of God. “She is lonely and isolated. Forgive her this time and let it go. Let her wash up and go to sleep.” God may say, “Discipline her or spend some good time with her and have a nice meal with her.” When you hear God’s voice, important thing is to just do it. She has no idea why her father/mother is treating her with a nice meal when she is clearly at fault. However, if she repeats over and over of coming home late, then it is time for disciplinary action instead of a nice treat. When God says, “Discipline her,” then you discipline her. When you do that, there is no rage in side. When I discipline my children, I say, “You deserve 10 times” and I discipline her with a smile. This is an example of the process of meditation.

When someone hurts you and you meditate in the worldly ways, you may have rage inside or think like “he hates me, he is rude, and so he is a bad man.” What happens when you start meditating in the godly ways? Your premise is that you don’t quite know about the person that just hurt you. Furthermore, your next premise is that you don’t know what to say about the injury since you don’t really know about him. This is the most important thing. In the second stage, you start seeking for the truth like “there must be a reason he hurts me like that.” When you seek the truth, you will hear the voice of God. God may say, “He is hurt by others. He is under the influence of evil spirit. Your internal thorns pierced him. Talk to him. Buy him a lunch. Ask for forgiveness.” God even told me to ask for forgiveness when I didn’t do anything wrong. You will hear God’s voice like that and you just do what He says. Talk to him when He tells you to. Give when God tells you to. Pray for him when God tells you to. The important thing is to obey the words of God when you hear Him.

This is meditation. You can get used to it quickly. You can immediately hear the voice of God in a given circumstance when you are not under a spiritual attack. Otherwise, you need the process of meditation. It is the same to meditate on Psalm 60:8 which says, “Moab is my washbowl.” When I came across this verse in my reading, I thought there must be a good hot spring in Moab. God said, “Stop,” and He explained what it means. He asked me, “What is Moab?” You would probably look up commentary, right? Moab is a nation that brought misery on the nation of Israel. “The thorns and suffering you experience are from Me to purify you.” I hear the voice of God and interpret the Scripture. So I no longer fear the suffering and thorns, or irritated. Now I welcome the suffering as God’s way of molding me because I know He is trying to restore the twisted image of my ego.

The Moab should become the washbowl but for some it becomes the toilet. We have many people whose Moab are the toilet. The suffering could never kill us, but it has totally ruined some lives. This is done through meditation.

3. The dangers in meditation

1) The danger to take advantage of God

Let's look at the dangers in the meditation. We definitely want to avoid taking advantage of God. The reason we meditate is to have a fellowship with God not to use Him. Sometimes the desire arises in us to use God to succeed in ministry and to fulfill our personal goals. If we do, we can't feel the presence of God immediately. We shouldn't meditate when we have such desire. Please do not meditate on God for your goals and needs. God is always the everything to us.

2) The danger to go beyond the boundary of the Bible

When you hear the voice of God directly, His word may not be found in the Bible. In the end you know His word does not go beyond the boundary of the Scripture. It is good practice to avoid the danger of going beyond the boundary of the Bible. When you hear the voice that goes beyond the Scripture, first admit that is not the voice of God. You need to dig it up and see, but it is safe to consider it not the voice of God when it goes beyond the boundary of the Scripture. Let's look at the revelation. Many Korean churches and denominations exhibit allergic reaction when I say the word "revelation" in Zoe Ministry because many people were ruined using the word. One of the most frequent words in the Bible is apocalypse. It means revelation. What is revelation then? How come Korean churches do not use this word when Bible uses it so often? They are not used to or train to live by the true power of God and they are also influenced by the humanism.

For us, The Yulbang Church, the revelation is very important as it was for Apostle Paul. We want to reveal as the true power of God at the creation comes upon us in our life. We deny the revelation because we try to make something with our own power in life. In short, it is because of the humanism. People say that there is no revelation and some also say that the revelation is useless. Why? Because they do not live like that, but it is relation for us. Our life is to reveal the essence God has originally created by His Spirit.

Nevertheless, what is revelation? It reveals something. What is the revelation through the word of God? It is the reinterpretation of the word of God in that circumstance, at that time, and in that person. In short, when you meditate on God in your circumstance, you hear the word of God. We call that Rhema. One caution is that you don't

want to make this revelation too spiritual. The reason the Korean churches are corrupted is because they considered the revelation as a spiritual gift. The revelation is not a spiritual gift. It is the revelation of God to one whose goal of life, process of life and the motivation of life are of God alone.

When the revelation comes to the church, the wisdom which is the way of embracing the revelation comes, too. In short, without revelation there is no wisdom. In another word, without the revelation we become all foolish. When God is not revealed, there is no wisdom God gives. God must be revealed to give His wisdom. We may have a wisdom that comes out of our own limitation, but we won't have the wisdom of God without the revelation.

This is how we should understand the revelation and we do not want to go beyond the boundary of the Scripture. In conclusion, all the circumstances are the reinterpretation of the word of God. I can't say that is 100% because there are few that can be argued they do not fall within the boundary of the Scripture. However, in the end they all come within the boundary of the Scripture. 99% of the time the voice of God is uttered within the boundary of the Scripture.

Therefore, when we train to hear the voice of God, we train to pray with the Bible opened up. Open up the Bible to the gospel of John or Ephesian and pray according to the principles in the book. You can have the fellowship with God when you lift up the word of God to him from your mind. When you hear the voice of heaven and speak the word of heaven, the heaven is opened up. When you hear the voice of the earth and speak the voice of the earth, the heaven will not open up. The Scripture is the voice of the heaven. When you lift up this word of God to God through your mouth, God responds to you. When you first train to listen to the voice of God, please pray with the Bible. Bible should always be right next to the place of prayer. This is a healthy faith life. I am not preaching Hearing the voice of God from spiritual perspective. You cannot have any problem as long as you do exactly what I spoke to you. You will have this fear of speaking after you listen to the voice of God. "God told me to say this!" That has ruined the Christianity. No one should take this lightly. How clearly can we hear the voice of God? It is different from person to person. If you train according to what you have heard this week, you will hear the voice of God clearly.

3) The danger of knowledge without application

We want to be cautious with the knowledge without the application. When you hear the voice of God, you must act accordingly. If you do not obey His voice, then God's

voice will immediately cease. So, it must be obeyed.

4) The danger of hearing the voice of God on behalf of someone

I would like to make this clear that there is this danger of hearing the voice of God for someone else. When God speaks to you about someone, He wants you to pray for him. However, sometimes God tells us about other's business, disease and personal matters to tell them. In that case, we must tell them what God spoke to us. Again most of the time God wants us to intercede on their behalf.

Although you may communicate of what God spoke to you to others, they are supposed to hear the voice of God. What if they can't hear the voice of God? That's the reason God speaks to you, but they basically know the will of God already. When you hear the voice of God on behalf of another person and tell him, it is not something new but it is a confirmation of what he has already heard. Nevertheless, there are instances God speaks us to tell those who can't hear the voice of God. In the beginning of my ministry when God told me about 30 things about each individual, I would communicate all 30 things to each one and no one decided to attend our church. Now, I may communicate one thing out of 30. What I need to confirm is confirmed through the messages. So, there is not much for me to tell the church members. All I do is hear the voice of God and pray for them. I know all the aspects of church members' life, their personality, character and their spiritual flow in which I intercede on their behalf.

5) The danger of requesting others for the leading of God in your life

Please do not fall into the danger of asking other people for the leading of God in your life. Those that meet God through fasting tell others to fast. That's not the way. God is so rich and funny. The way God approaches you is yours and it is unique. For other people they have their own unique approach. It is also dangerous to say the same thing in their ministry. It is the evidence that they are relying on their thoughts and experience. God speaks differently to others.

6) The danger of treating what God spoke to me as eternal

From the same perspective, please do not think what God spoke to you will last forever. It is so true when it comes to prophecy. When you obey, the prophecy will be fulfilled. When you don't obey, say goodbye to it. There are some people who heard the voice of God 10 years ago and still try to live off it. That's not the way. Of course, there are things that are eternal as the strategy of the word of God but the tactics change every day. Strategy can be eternal but the word of tactics that God has given you changes all the time. The circumstance, the time and the moment change. In short, whatever you hear

from God, it is important to obey continuously. Do not disobey God and do not live off the old time.

Receive the new word of God as you mature in new ways. For example, God at first told me about the relationship between me and Him and how much He loves me. Now, He tells me about the nation and people and the history of nation and world. Enter the maturity stage. Remember what God speaks to you is not eternal. Nevertheless, always focus on God.

7) The danger of ignoring the route of authority God appointed

Please do not disregard the route of authority God appointed. If you have just started hearing the voice of God, you are like a crying baby that has just been born. When a mother says, "I will give you milk," you don't know what she is saying. You are just responding to mom. Baby shouldn't ignore people that can understand what the college professors say. When you listen to the voice of God, you will be holier. Moreover, you become a man of faith as you listen to the voice of God.

If you become arrogant, you haven't been listening to the voice of God but the voice of Satan. Our church members hear the voice of God, but no one is arrogant about hearing the voice of God in front of me. If your neck is stiffened, then you have been listening to the voice of Satan. The stiffened neck can be broken.

Acknowledge the authority of pastors, cell leaders and other leaders. Those that hear the voice of God are acknowledged by the highest authority wherever they go like group or organization. They are recognized by the pastors of the church and the president of the company they work for. This is the short cut to success. Ultimately, they are recognized by God. When they are recognized by God, they are also recognized by the pastor. That's always the case. Some may say, "I am not acknowledged by God but I am acknowledged by God." That's a lie. That does not happen. Suppose it really takes place like 1 out of 1,000 that God recognizes you and the pastor does not because he is not spiritual, leave that church immediately. It is the same with Yulbang Church. You are faithful and the pastor does not recognize you, then leave the church right away.

What I am trying to say is how much God and the authority He raised up work in unison. In another word, those that are recognized by pastor are also recognized by God. I am not saying that you leave good impression upon me. I have been serving the leaders like this manner and I was recognized by them. That's the will of God and that's how I am trying to live even now. That's how you are supposed to live as well. That's the characteristic of those that live by God.

Conclusion

Hope this message has not caused you headache. Now you realize how terribly the non truth and corruptions affect your life. They determine your life in subconsciousness every moment. The reason you are miserable and suffering is because of this. This is not the matter of epistemology. This is not epistemological matter but spiritual matter to the man who has the Spirit of God. When God says, "Live in peace." How is that possible when I have no money and kids are causing so much trouble? The peace immediately come up on you when you open up your heart and receive God's word. The circumstance and situation do not matter to the word of God. Even in the circumstance you can't help but to worry and have anxiety, you can enter into the peace and stillness God gives.

Problem lies with the humanism and the faith life with epistemology. We should live by the true power God has given us. By the Spirit of God what God has given us be touched and chosen, so that we live by God's provision. This is not the matter of epistemology. Continue to focus on God. This is the model of spirit we are drawing up and training in Zoe Ministry. This is proven in my 20 years living with God. God has given me every power. Now we need to reveal them in life by living with God.



Listening to the Voice of God 7

1. In Scripture Reading

When do you hear the voice of God most frequently in your life? When you read the bible! Now, as well as, in the past, I hear the important voice of God when I read the Scripture. I think this is true for you as well. Why do I hear the voice of God the most when I read the bible? Isn't the bible itself the word of God? Many of you may say that. There are several reasons why the word of God is so weakened in the Korean churches and the churches all over the world. The biggest reason I have found as I have been listening to the voice of God is the lack of reinterpretation of the word of God through revelation. Our attempt to interpret the word of God by just reading the commentary and that of people is the reason the word lacks authority. Interpretation and application of the word should come through revelation and all this process should come through hearing the voice of God. The basic reason the men of faith before our time had such a strong authority of the word in their messages was that they concentrated on hearing the voice of God for the interpretation and application of the word. Their message was powerful because they heard revelation from God.

Please do not misunderstand me when I say that I prepare a message for only 15 minutes. I mean that it only takes 15 minutes to write down the message. How can I prepare the whole thing in 15 minutes? I meditate on the text, listen to the voice of God, and pray throughout the week. One prepares the message listening to the voice of God throughout the week. Many other pastors prepare the message out of books like commentaries. Who do you think God will use to do His work? We all know the answer. When the main text is set, I start listening to the voice of God concerning the word on Monday "Lord, what is Your will? What is their need? Why is this word recorded so and so?" I listen to the voice of God for the interpretation of the text, revelation and application. In the last stage I look up commentary. Although it takes a short amount of time to write down the sermon message, it is not an overstatement to say that I prepare a message during the whole week. I am not saying this to show how hard I work. I am saying that I deliver the message according to God's will. In short, when you read the Scripture, you are supposed to hear the voice of God most frequently and experience how powerfully God appeals to you as you hear His voice.

Many of us pass up through Psalm 60:8 without paying much attention to it. However, when I heard the voice of God with regard to "Moab is washbasin," my attitude of suffering totally changed. So, when someone turns into a thorn to pierce me and I hear the voice of God, first thing I do is to reflect on myself. Instead of concluding he who hates is me is my enemy, I first ask a question, "What is causing him to do that?" Beginning with that question, I start developing mercy on him and he seems precious to me. Ultimately, I

can love him. It happens when we hear the voice of God and understand the word of God. Otherwise, the word of God is uttered as all other words and you just pass through it. The 66 books in the bible were first given to the people at that time as long as 3,000 to 4,000 years ago. Because the word of God was given originally to the people at the time, when it is uttered in our time it must be reinterpreted according to His voice and revelation. When the revelation is dead, the word itself is dead. Those that say revelation is dead do not realize they are saying that the word of God is dead, only in a different way. When revelation is dead in the church, the wisdom of God no longer remains in the church. Apocalypse is used so many times in the New Testament! That's an evidence of how important revelation is in the New Testament, and the point is to say that the word is the living word. If the revelation is dead, the word is just a recorded word. The word of God should be alive and move around. In order for that to take place, the word of God should be reinterpreted according to the voice of God.

I heard the voice of God 20 years ago starting with a vision, His plan of ministry and about me. There are several Scripture verses which are the main verses our mission centers around like Revelation 7:8 and Malachi 1:11, through which God spoke to me about my mission. All these verses are building up the system in Yulbang Church and the Zoe Ministry Network. I have heard the voice of God about my mission through those verses. I have heard the voice of God about all the vision of my ministry through the word of God in the bible. This is to say that we don't want to take lightly of the fact that God's voice is uttered through the bible. When we hear His voice through the word of God, we will be revolutionized.

For example, in Genesis 39:2 we see, "The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master." This is the story of Joseph who was sold as a slave to Potiphar and here is something here we want to look at. Joseph's brothers kidnapped him, physically separated him from his beloved father, and sold him as a slave. How is that prosperity? When I first read this, I said, "What kind of prosperity is that?" You can't exactly call being sold as slave a prosperity! That's when the Holy Spirit said, "Stop!"

When I was reading through 1 Kings 18 about the story of Elijah outrunning the chariot of Ahab pulled by 16 horses, I said, "Scripture lies, too!" That's when the Holy Spirit said, "Stop!" He said, "Can you imagine the life you will live when you live by the true power when I first created?" After He spoke this to me I started to believe what kind of person I will turn out to be once I live by the true power God created in me. When I came across Elijah outrunning the chariot, I thought the bible exaggerates things and lies. When

I also came across the teleportation of Deacon Philip, I thought the bible has stories like a cartoon. God said, “Stop!” I saw money that is not pleasing to God disappear right in front of my eyes. When the word of God is confirmed through the voice of God, I just believe it without any doubt. I become willing to die for the word.

When I was reading the story of Joseph, I thought, “What kind of prosperity is being sold as slave?” The Holy Spirit said, “Stop!” He started speaking to me, “Do you want to be prospered?” What could I say to Him? So, I was hesitant. God further said, “Is prosperity from My perspective and My benchmark or from your benchmark?” When God asks like that, He has intention and I know God wants to use His benchmark, so I didn’t say anything. His voice continued, “Is prosperity based on time and materialism or is prosperity based on the soul and the value of the soul?” Isn’t that common sense? So, I remained silent. The Holy Spirit further said, “In order to give you prosperity I am saying that I must take away the prosperity the world defines. Do you still want prosperity?” At this point, I was starting to think differently. Up to this point I confessed, “I will live my life for You God. I don’t need anything else. I will only live for You.” I made that commitment over and over before. When He said, “I will take everything away. Do you still want the prosperity?” Of course, I confessed it many times before that all I need is God and He can take all things. But, when He asked me that question, I felt awkward and I could not answer Him. More time passed and the Holy Spirit said, “The prosperity people in the world talk about can be bought with money. You can be more comfortable, cozy, and beneficial. Is that the prosperity you desire?” At that point, I said, “Lord, You know!” God replied, “In My Kingdom prosperity means a pure spirit, an eye that can see what is eternal, an ear that can hear, a powerful faith, a man that’s filled, a practical hope, and pure fellowship. For them is it OK to take away all the worldly prosperity?” Now, I started repenting of the times when I lightly confessed. When God asked me to take everything away and do you want the My prosperity, I realized I had been taking advantage of God. I used God! I desired the prosperity of the world deep inside of me by taking advantage of God! I started to repentant a little bit and started to cry “Lord, I have been trying to use you.” I began to repent through His word and God started to comfort me, “Minho, I will give you many things, but rejoice that you are living with only Me.” I replied to God, “God I will never try to be famous and I will never use You for the prosperity of the world in my life!”

As a pastor I never try to be famous. I am not working for the honor of my name. Ever since God redefined the meaning of prosperity through the word in Genesis, that’s what happened to me. Daily I open up the Lord’s Prayer message and pray “Lord, don’t let my name be elevated. God, remove my name and let my honor fall to the ground. Only Your name be lifted up!” That’s what I pray daily. Although you might have removed the

prosperity of the world, you should wrestle with the question from God, “Do you want My prosperity?” It is not something you can easily answer. I have confessed it so many times and have made commitment before God that I will live that life. However, when God asked me that question, I saw myself that I was using God. There are many of you who are trying to use God to succeed in ministry and to succeed in business and to raise up your own name. You just are not sensing it.

What is the evidence of this? You are trying to gather as many people as you can in your ministry. A pastor lays down his own life even for one soul. I preach for 4 or 5 hours even if only one person is present. It doesn't matter to whom I preach as long as I preach and God is pleased with me. Those that have been to the conference with me are witnesses. They know how I preach and how I minister in the conferences. They all came from the word “prosperity” in Genesis when I heard the voice of God. Since that time, I do not even dream to be famous. I have no desire for that and I do not even try it. There is no compromise with regard to that. I do not fear anyone taking all my earthly things or taking my life away, even if that's the will of God. I have nothing to lose. You will know whether you are really responding to the word of God when you hear the voice of God. I was so vocal about that up to that point, “God I will live for You alone.” Through the voice of God you can see your desire to use God and the greediness in you.

Those that have wrong motive, reason, and goal to serve God can never see the glory of God. One of the reasons Abraham had such a slow growth in his faith life was due to the many self-hopes in him. God acknowledged Abraham after he grew beyond 130 years old due to his many hopes. In short, if you have selfish reasons, goals and ambitions, you cannot see the glory of God. Today, you want to hear the voice of God, “Prosperity.” To pastors, “If I take away all your church members, will you still serve Me?” Instead of saying, “God, I don't have church members anyway,” can you really be willing to die for souls that are more precious than the whole world? This is why it is important to hear the voice of God. The embodiment of the word of God in you is truly revealed when you hear the voice of God. God's revelation of His love for us came as a shock to me from words in Isaiah, the parable of lost sheep, and “I have finished.” I was not knowledgeable of the bible, but when I started hearing the voice of God, He said turn to Genesis and turn to Revelation. Basically, God weaved the whole bible like weaving pearls. When you hear the voice of God about Scripture, the word is embodied in you.

After reading the Old Testament I began to read Matthew in New Testament. It should have been easy, but instead there was “begot after begot” and it was not any fun. So, I said to myself, “So what?” The Holy Spirit replied, “Stop!” He further said, “Pay atten-

tion to three women: Tamar, Rahab, and Bathsheba.” I said, “What is it?” He said, “Look, I did not come as God, but I was born in a sinful family like you, bearing the sins of all men.” Moreover, God said, “Turn to Hebrews 5:7 which says ‘In the days of His flesh.’ I came in the flesh.” Next, He said, “Turn to 1 John. I came with the same conditions as you” as the issue of Human Jesus was raised. Furthermore, He said, “Turn to Romans 1. I came as a Man, but by the Spirit of Holiness not by the Divine Attributes. I totally relied on the Spirit of God.” Things like that were uttered to me through the voice of God. Next, God led me back to John and said, “Those that believe in Me will do a greater work than Me.” God weaved all 66 books in regard to Human Jesus. That’s the reason I said, “One who does not meet Human Jesus has not met the God Jesus” as I preached through 1 John. Human Jesus became the model of my life. I can live a powerful life just like Jesus if I live like Him. That’s the Human Jesus. As I listen to the voice of God the bible is weaved like this. The messages I preach in the pulpit are the result of hearing the voice of God time after time.

When I came across Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me,” I said, “That’s right! God is the Almighty God.” That’s when Holy Spirit said, “Stop!” I said, “What is it Lord?” He said, “Do not pay attention to verse 13 but to verses 11 and 12.” “I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity. That’s what ‘I can do all things through Him who strengthens me’ means.” What does that mean? ‘I can do all things through Him who strengthens me’ means that I can reveal God regardless of circumstances. When God says, “Circle,” I become a circle. When God says, “Triangle,” I become a triangle. When God says, “Square,” I become a square. That’s what a man living with the Almighty God does. The whole concept of power is changed. Up to this point I was striving toward power. When I heard this from the voice of God, I went “Ahh.” The power of the Almighty God means He can make me to live a life God desires in any circumstance. Ever since I heard this voice, I stopped pursuing spiritual power.

Those that are strong from the perspective of spiritual gifts do not have the definition of the power yet. That’s the reason they are seeking after the spiritual gifts. Pastors say, “We need powers in the ministry.” The reason they say that is because the pastors before them taught it to them. I want to make this very clear that power does not belong to us and we do not pastor by personal power in our ministry. When I was serving in the first church, great power was demonstrated in the course of the spirituality which led me to believe that if I plant a church, there would be 3,000 people in one year. Now, I do not reveal them and God restrains me from revealing them outwardly. I now reveal only what’s necessary. In the beginning, I did not control it and revealed everything, like I prophesied 30 out of 40 people and cast out all the evil spirits. Believe it or not, no one remained in the

church. 50 Sunday school teachers standing before me all fell down. People still fall down when I look at them, but that's not the power. I dread the thought of what of succeeding in the ministry with such power. Pastoral ministry is love. If you categorize love as power, I guess you can, but it is embracing souls. The power of ministry is embracing souls. I am sorry for the pastors in Korea because they learned "we need power in ministry" from older pastors who were stricken with poverty. That's how I changed my understanding of power.

God also changed my mind set over leadership in Hebrews 13:8 that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forevermore. I said, "That's right! Your love, power, and time work the same in my life yesterday and today." That's when the Holy Spirit said, "Stop! Look at the verses from 1 to 7." We usually think of verse 8 as the unchanging love that Jesus does not change whether it is yesterday or today. When I read the first 7 verses in chapter 13, I realized the leader should be the same as God just like Jesus is the same. The leaders should set a good example. Leadership is not about demonstrating charisma, but it is about setting an example like Jesus did. Leaders should exhibit the same image all the time. In other words, the leaders should demonstrate uniformity and be filled with the Holy Spirit. They also should be ready to embrace other souls. They should be ready to minister all the time by being pure and clean. They should be the same.

When I was reading Habakkuk 3:2, "O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years," I conceded and said, "That's right! Revive Your work in a few years and I believe Your works will be revived." Then God said to me, "Minho, stop!" So, I said, "Why?" He said, "Read all of Habakkuk again," so I read it over. I came to the realization that Israel is about to be destroyed and the only way for them to live is to go through the time of suffering that the Lord is preparing. Habakkuk is saying, "Hurry with Your works of suffering!" That's what "O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years and in wrath remember mercy" means. In our churches we lift up this prayer "Lord, revive Your works in the midst of the years," and the churches see revival. In reality, many people prayed "Lord, destroy our church soon!" This is grace that God did not destroy their church when they prayed for this so many times.

When we hear the voice of God as we interpret the Scripture, we can clearly see how we have misunderstood the Bible. As I read upon the interpretation done by the scholars I am so surprised how accurate the voice of the Holy Spirit is. I am not talking about allegorical interpretation. I am amazed how clearly God interprets the Scripture for me as I hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. When I was learning Hebrew and Greek, I was also surprised how the revelation from God through His voice is so accurate theologically.

I heard the voice of God first and later looked up the interpretation only to realize how accurate the voice was theologically. Some people think hearing the voice of God refers to the spiritual interpretation, but that's not true. We want to listen to the voice of God for the revelation, interpretation and application.

I would like to address the application. When I was reading through John chapter 8 about the adulterous woman, I felt like I was being blessed with the word and I confessed to God humbly, "God, do not let me judge and condemn like the Jews. I was that Jew." Holy Spirit said, "Stop!" He asked me, "Who did you just say you were?" I said, "Jew." God further said, "You are not that Jew, but the prostitute caught at the scene of adultery." I was saying that I was a Jew out of humility and God called me a prostitute. He explained it, "If I didn't save you, you are just like the woman that was about to be stoned to death." When we apply that Scripture, most of us would say that we are Jews and pray "help us not to judge or condemn others." However, the Lord said, "You are the prostitute. If I hadn't saved you, you would have been dead." I could not help but to cry when God told me that. I was really the prostitute. I don't know why God shatters my self-esteem like this. This is how the word is applied through the voice of God and we experience the revolution of being. More word should be given to us further.

It is the same with the Lord's Prayer, the Beatitudes and Romans. The Holy Spirit continued to explain the words to my ears. This is how I studied the word of God in the last 20 years. I could not believe how accurate the interpretation, revelation, and application were from Genesis to Revelation theologically. There is very little spiritual interpretation in my messages. God taught me completely, clearly, and theologically.

When God told me to open up the Lord's Prayer, I had no knowledge of Greek language. God taught me the meaning of application in the Greek. God is so accurate. Although you may not hear the voice of God like me, you want to clearly hear Him with regard to the application of the word. In Yulbang Church, I have received clear revelation and interpretation, so you don't have to worry about them. However, when it comes to the application of the word, you want to clearly hear the voice of God. This is how we can hear the voice of God as we read the bible.

This is the reason I open up my bible and listen to the voice of God. This is how you can try at first. For example, turn to the first chapter of the Book of John and we have "In the beginning was the Word." The "Word" is somewhat difficult for most people. I ask God, "Why didn't apostle John just say, 'In the beginning was the Jesus?'" Then, I wait for the voice of God. Many people think of word as logos. If you don't know this, then you need a commentary because there are times when we need to know the historical

background even though we hear the voice of God. But that's not always necessary like in my case because there was no commentary around when I was reading through this text. Now, I hear the voice of God. He said to me, "The reason I used Word was to help the Gentiles who were living in a two dimensional world, to understand what it means to live with God alone." That's why I used the word Logos. That's not when I was going through theological training, but it fits right into the expository preaching of John. The thesis of the Book of John is to teach us how to live with monistic God. The problem is we are used to living in a dualistic world and thus we are under the influence of dualism. That's how we listen to the voice of God. That may be too difficult for us to understand. God said, "Using the Word is easier for the people, who are filled with worldly perspective, to understand Jesus." That's how much God would speak.

Next, read, "The Word was with God, and the Word was God," and ask God things that you do not understand. When you are focused, God would say, "Stop!" even though you don't ask any question. Other times, God may ask you, "What is this?"

You may ask me, "When can we do that?" You don't have to do much to that. It is just a matter of how much you focus on God because God is a living God. It is not a lie that David had such fellowship with God. God gave me an understanding instead of verbally speaking to me how to live by monism in dualistic world. That's when I went, "Ahh, that's what God spoke to me!" You just know it when He speaks. If you are experiencing a sense of despair because God is not speaking verbally to you, don't worry because God speaks in a different ways. God will give you "understanding" that when the time comes, you will go, "Ahh, God just spoke to me." You will catch the voice of God. Now, open up your bible and begin the training. It takes about a year and half to finish up the Book of John. Please do not give up before you even try and don't think it is just for pastors. You can do it, too, as long as you focus on God, live by Him and purify your spirit.

2. In Your Prayer Life

Please remember that when your prayer shifts from a monologue to a dialogue, your faith life advances up a new level. "Begin your prayer with the basics!" In most of your prayers you define what your needs are first and receive an approval from God. We should be cautious with that. In Judges 20, the one sentence of, "Shall I go up or cease?" costed the life of 40,000 men. We should train by taking up the basic things to God and receive His will instead of making the decision on our own and receive an approval from God. We need to cease such prayer now.

We no longer want to make a decision, "We will send so and so," and tell God

about it. We want to begin with “God, should we do it?” and ask, “Who shall we send?” and also, “God, where do we begin?” Continuously ask God such underlying questions in your prayer life. This is true especially for pastors. Prayer is not taking my personal will and desires to God, but going to God empty handed and receive from Him. I hope you understand this. Again, it is asking of God the elemental things taking nothing to Him. Ask like, “What shall I do? Where should I begin with this? Who should I work with?” Those are the underlying questions you can discourse with God. This will be difficult. You probably won’t hear the voice of God right away, but be patient until you hear His voice and clearly understand His will. If you continue to do that in your prayer life, God cannot help but to reveal His intention. God’s clear intention will be revealed and there will come a time where you will understand it.

Hold fast to faith that God has given you the ear to hear His voice, and continuing to cleanse your spirit. You will naturally hear the voice of God when you keep considering the ways of God and obeying the word of God. Please do not feel guilty because it is going to take some time. It won’t happen overnight. In short, when you shift from self centered prayer to God centered prayer, you can naturally hear His voice.

This is the prayer life I recommend to you. For a while you can pray in monologue, but set a time where you would listen to the voice of God in your prayer. Please try it out. Pray according to your pattern of prayer and set aside like 30 minutes to hear the voice of God, ask questions and listen for the answer. This should become the main stream of your prayer life. There are times that God does not answer you. If that happens, know that you haven’t been living according to the will of God.

3. In Ministry

How do we hear the voice of God in our ministry? Zoe Ministry is about obeying the will of the Holy Spirit.

For example, when you continue to rely on the Holy Spirit in ministry, you get used to obeying the voice of the Holy Spirit in ministry. When the Holy Spirit says, “Put your hand on this sister,” then God lets you know her spiritual problems. For example, God may say, “She is full of worldliness,” then you ask God, “Should I tell her of her condition?” If her faith can handle it, then God gives a green light, but most of the time God says, “Keep it to yourself and minister to her with regard to that weakness.” I continue in the dialogue, “What is the major root of her worldliness?” God may say, “It is the flow in her family, that’s because of her current situation, or that’s because of lack of prayer, or she has lots of interests because of wounds.” I then ask God, “Should I cast out? Should I prophesy

Your will? Should I admonish her?” God tells me what to choose and I do that. Suppose I use fire and cast out evil spirits, then as it is revealed something else can come up. If the hurt/wounds are revealed, then I begin inner healing. This is normally how we minister according to the voice of the Holy Spirit. When I don’t have much time, I focus on what God reveals to me. In our ministry we take one thing at a time, choose what we need to do, ask God again how to do it and so on. We minister according to the voice of the Holy Spirit in Zoe Ministry. This will also take a while, but it is very accurate.

I had an opportunity to minister to a sister in the city of Busan. When I put my hand on her, she was so wicked and I had no desire to talk about it because I normally do not address such an issue. However, God told me to bring it up, so I told her, “You are a single and you had abortions three times already.” She replied, “Oh, I only had it twice,” and a moment later she said, “Yes, it was three times.” This is how accurate the voice of God is. So, we proceed the ministry as we clearly hear the voice of God. In the early part of ministry I ministered to a cancer patient for 17 straight hours because the Holy Spirit continued to work inside me. This cancer patient was in the last stage of cancer, but he got up and ran around after the ministry. I have this confidence in the Holy Spirit. I believe that if I minister according to the Holy Spirit, a man that’s about to die can be well again. Lately, God has mercy on me that the voice of God stops after I complete the ministry on their main issue.

4. In Life

Listen to the voice of God in all aspects of your life such as what college to go to, what job to take, what to buy in groceries, and how to raise children. God cares for everything in your life. Expand the voice of God to all the aspects of your life. It will be so natural to hear His voice. You may say, “Doesn’t He have things to do?” Yes, God doesn’t have many things to do. He just sits on the throne and answers. He has all the time in the world in eternity, so please use Him freely. One of the reasons God created us is because He was bored. Therefore, bother Him as much as you can, so He wouldn’t be so bored. Ask all the questions you can and invite Him to come into your life, so you can live in His presence. Like the story of my wife, it is best to change the subject to “Lord” like “Lord, why am I like this? Lord, what shall I eat? Lord, what shall buy? Lord, where should I go? Lord, should I sleep now?” Please ask God all your questions to the point of bothering Him. Our God is a Person, so He will answer all your questions. You don’t want to ask God all your questions and then just run away before God answers them. Please wait for Him to answer and give an attentive ear to Him. You would be surprised how pleased God is. When it comes to application, it is endless. It is something you discover for yourself. This is not easy and yet it

