



Sunday May 12, 2019
Receiving God's Guidance
Part-2 : His Holy Spirit

REVIEW

We mentioned that there is no set formula on how to discern God's guidance, we must understand what God's Word reveals on the various ways through which God will speak His counsel into our lives.

In this series, we are covering:

(1)The Word, (2)The inner witness of His Spirit, (3)The voice of the Holy Spirit, (4)Gifts of the Holy Spirit, (5)Dreams and visions, (6)Prophecies, (7)Angels, (8)Godly counsel, (9)The renewed mind, (10)Times and seasons, (11)Circumstances and divine orchestrations.

Last Sunday, we saw how God guides us by His Word, the written Scriptures:

- 1) The Instructions In God's Word
- 2) The Quickened Word
- 3) The Word Preached
- 4) The Inner Voice - The Voice Of Our Conscience

Today we will cover the work of His Holy Spirit, in guiding us.

We will specifically cover:

1) The inner witness of the Holy Spirit

2) The voice of the Holy Spirit

and make brief mention of the

3) Gifts of the Holy Spirit (will not address this in detail, as this has been done in the APC Publication and through weekend schools).

THE INNER WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Lord Jesus promised to send us Another Helper, the Holy Spirit, who will be to us all that Jesus is. The Lord Jesus as our Shepherd is our Guide. The Holy Spirit is our Guide. The Holy Spirit speaks to us what the Lord Jesus our Shepherd is speaking to us.

John 16:13-14

13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.



The word 'guide' in verse 13, means to 'show the way'. The Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth. Since the Holy Spirit guides into all truth, He can and will also guide us personally into all that is pleasing and acceptable to God in all the decisions we need to make. He will also reveal things to us ahead of time. He will take of what Jesus is speaking to us and communicate that to us.

1 Corinthians 2:9-16

9 But as it is written: "EYE HAS NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NOR HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.

16 For "WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD THAT HE MAY INSTRUCT HIM?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Verses 9-10 : The things that God has prepared for us, He reveals them to us by His Spirit. The Greek word for 'revealed' ('*apokalupto*') means to take off the cover, to unveil, make manifest, to disclose what before was unknown.

Verses 11-12 : It is only the Spirit of God who knows the things of God. We have received the Spirit of God so that we will know the things that God has freely given to us. This of course will include all that God has prepared for us to walk in as individuals (Ephesians 2:10). The Holy Spirit make these known to us.

Verses 13-15 : These things have to be understood spiritually. Those living only in the natural will not be able to understand and comprehend the things that the Holy Spirit will reveal to us. As spiritual people, we judge (examine, investigate) everything before we accept them.

Verse 16 : Because the Holy Spirit reveals things to us, we have the mind of Christ. We can know what our Lord Jesus thinks about a given matter.

There are several different ways through which the Holy Spirit reveals the things of God and the mind of Christ to us. We will cover these in individual chapters as we address : the inner witness of the Holy Spirit, the voice of the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, Dreams, Visions, and Prophecies.



Let's understand first about the inner-witness of the Holy Spirit.

The Inner Witness Of The Holy Spirit

Romans 8:14-16

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

The sons of God - the people who belong to God's family as His sons and daughters - are characterized by this fact that they are led by the Spirit of God. We therefore, have the privilege of being led and guided by the Spirit of God. In fact it is the Holy Spirit, Himself, who has made us sons and daughters of God. He is the Spirit of adoption. He bears witness (literally meaning bear joint witness, to testify by joint evidence, to corroborate by concurrent evidence) with our spirit that we are the children of God (vs 16). This verse is teaching us that **the way we know we are children of God - the inner conviction, the inner knowing, the inner assurance - that we are children of God comes through the inner witness of the Holy Spirit.** Therefore, we conclude that the Holy Spirit uses the inner witness as one of His primary ways to not only confirm our adoption as sons and daughters, but also to lead and guide us, now that we are sons and daughters.

The inner witness comes to us through conviction, knowing, assurance, impressions, feelings and sensations which the Holy Spirit gives to us in our spirit. You can imagine these to be **a gentle touch, a gentle tap, a gentle nudge or a gentle nod** from the Holy Spirit.

It is important to understand that these are not the same as what we feel in our own emotions. We must be careful not to confuse the inner witness of the Holy Spirit with our own thoughts, desires and feelings that we have in our soul.

1 Corinthians 6:17

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

One of the things that has happened to us spiritually after we've been born again is given to us here in 1 Corinthians 6:17. We have become one spirit with the Lord, or spiritually one with the Him. Our spirit is joined, one with Him who His Spirit. Hence this is where He communes with us and we with Him. This is where He speaks to us. One of the ways He speaks is by the inner witness of the Spirit.



We list several different ways the inner witness of the Holy Spirit can be communicated to our Spirit. This list is not exhaustive, but covers **some of the common ways we receive the inner witness of the Spirit.**

- 1) Quickening of Scripture
- 2) The Assurance Within
- 3) The Desire Within
- 4) The Knowing Within
- 5) The Prompting Within
- 6) The Stirring Within
- 7) The Foreknowledge Within
- 8) The Warning Within

Other than the quickening of Scripture, for the remaining seven inner witness, **we must have proper checks to validate what we are sensing in our spirits.** We will discuss this towards the end of this chapter.

1) Quickening of Scripture

We have discussed this in the previous chapter. The Holy Spirit can gently remind you of a specific Scripture in relation to a matter you are having to make a decision. The Spirit of God causes the Scripture to come up in your spirit. This quickening usually happens so gently that we can tend to miss it, if we are not sensitive in our spirit.

2) The Assurance Within

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:15

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Both these Scriptures are teaching us that the believer should be walking with the peace of God in their hearts and minds. When we release things to God as in Philippians 4:6, we can then experience the peace of God so filling us that it actually stands 'guard', Greek ('*phroureo*') meaning to be a watcher in advance, that is, to mount guard as a sentinel, to hem in, and to protect our hearts and minds. Peace stands as the guard keeping all disturbances out!



This peace from God also plays another important role in our hearts. According to Colossians 3:15, it serves to 'rule' in our hearts. **The word 'rule' in Greek ('brabeuo') means to be an umpire, to decide, to determine, to direct, to control, to arbitrate, and to govern. So the peace of God acts as directing, determining, deciding factor in our hearts.**

So the presence or absence of peace (stillness, calmness) from the Holy Spirit in your heart, when you are considering a certain decision, deciding on a course of action, or in the middle of a situation serves as an umpire, a directing, determining and deciding factor. We refer to this as the assurance within, brought to us by the inner witness of the Holy Spirit.

If we live in the Spirit, we will walk in the Spirit and be led by the Spirit (Galatians 5:16,18,25). When we walk in the Spirit, yielded to, under the influence, under the direction and led by the Spirit we will have the fruit of the Spirit which includes joy and peace (Galatians 5:22-23).

So as you go about your decision making, see if you have the inner witness giving you the assurance through the peace and joy that comes from the Holy Spirit. If you have His peace and joy, proceed to do what you determined to do. If you fail to have peace and joy, but feel otherwise, troubled, disturbed, etc., pause, don't proceed yet. Wait. You may have to not move ahead on the decision or wait for a better time.

3) The Desire Within

Psalm 37:4

Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

The word 'give' has a very broad meaning and includes to put, to make, to cause, to bestow. So as we delight ourselves in God, He puts, makes or fashions the desires of our hearts. **As we walk in obedience to God, He inspires and shapes the desires that spring up with us.** And then of course, He causes them to come to pass and bestows the fulfillment of these desires on our lives as well.

Proverbs 10:24

The fear of the wicked will come upon him, And the desire of the righteous will be granted.

John 15:7

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.



These Scriptures seem to be like a "blank cheque" when it states that we will have what we desire. However, we must notice the qualifiers of "the righteous" or of us abiding in Him and His Word abiding in us. As we walk in this manner, the Holy Spirit, through the inner witness fashions, puts, and creates the right desires in our hearts. We must recognize these godly desires birthed in us by His Spirit and then follow God into seeing these happen.

October 1981 - Earliest Desires

In my own life, the Lord touched my life in a very simple way in October 1981, just about a month before my Thirteenth birthday. One of the earliest desires that came alive inside me was to share the Gospel. No one told me to go share the Gospel. It just came up within me. I followed this desire and started evangelizing leading many of my young friends to the Lord. Soon there came a desire to teach His Word and I followed that desire and started doing so. I started preaching and teaching from the age of thirteen. At that time, I did not have any knowledge of God's call on my life to be a pastor or a preacher or a teacher. I was just following the desires being birthed in my heart, which eventually helped me discover God's direction and purpose for my life.

Since that time, many of the things I do, often originate from a desire birthed inside by the inner witness of the Spirit, as I delight in Him.

1985-86 - The Desire To Be A Professional And Serve God

December 1992 - Missions to Eastern Europe

While I was a graduate student in the USA, around September/October of 1992, I felt a strong desire to go to Eastern Europe on missions to preach the Gospel. Beyond this I had no information, no contacts and had no idea how this desire would even take place. So I shared this desire with one of the leaders in the local church I was attending at that time. They were in touch with a missionary couple who had recently gone into Albania. And with this connect, I was in Albania in December of 1992, preaching the Gospel in some remote places. Interestingly Albania was a strong communist country and had only in 1990, started opening up.

The next three kinds of inner witness that we discuss - the knowing within; the prompting within; the stirring within - are very similar. They vary in their intensity and urgency.



4) The Knowing Within

Acts 7:23-24

23 "Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel.
24 And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian.
25 For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand.

When Moses was about forty years of age, something rose up in his heart that gave him an understanding that God would deliver the Hebrews through him. He may not have known how that was going to happen. But he just knew that this was his assignment from God. It was a knowing inside of him.

Similarly, **the Holy Spirit, through the inner witness creates a knowing to rise up within you.** You just know what the right thing to do is because that knowing has come into your spirit by the Spirit's inner witness.

1983 - Knowing My Life Assignment

Even before I was 15, I just knew that I was to establish a church in Bangalore city, and see India reached with the Gospel. This was more than just a wish. This was something that seemed to 'consume' me. It filled my imagination. I would dream about this. I would see myself going through the length and breadth of the nation preaching Jesus, raising up churches and impacting the nation. There were no prophecies, no angelic visitations, nothing spectacular. This came just as a knowing inside me until it 'filled me'.

August 1999 - Time Has Come To Move back to India

In 1990 I had left to the USA for my graduate studies in engineering. I knew that I would come back to India to fulfill my life assignment. How, and when was something I was yet to determine. All through my time in the USA, the vision of raising up a strong church in Bangalore, of impacting the nation of India with the Gospel, was burning strong in my heart. I would continue to pray asking God's direction and timing on when to step in to fulfill this vision. During the years that followed I travelled to India a few times and ministered in different places doing Gospel meetings and pastors conferences. In May of 1995, Amy and I were married, and although we were living in the USA, we knew we were going to move to India at the right time. In August of 1999, when on one of these visits to India, I just had a knowing rise up within me that it was time to move back. We had to give ourselves about a year to prepare to move back to India. This again came as a knowing within through the inner witness of the Holy Spirit. There was no other spectacular guidance for this major decision. I shared this with Amy, and we were in agreement. We began praying and preparing and made the move to India in December 2000.



5) The Prompting Within

The prompting of the inner witness is similar to having someone give you a little push or strong encouragement to do something. You feel prompted - a strong urge or nudging in your spirit - to do something. The prompting is stronger than the knowing, and it usually calls you to take action immediately. If we maintain sensitivity in our spirit we will recognize the many times the Holy Spirit prompts us. Sometimes it may be to call someone on the phone. He may prompt us to go visit someone or to do something. These nudges require attention or action.

November 2002 - Starting APC Bangalore South

In 2002 I was running my software company in an office in R.T. Nagar, Bangalore. We had one person, David, who was employed by the company, but would also help with the administrative work for All Peoples Church. After returning to India, we had started the company in January 2001 and the church in February 2001. So this was in our second year. One particular day in the office, it was the first half of the day, I suddenly felt a prompting that it was time to start a new church location in south Bangalore. There was nothing spiritual about the moment. I was going about my regular work in the company, but the prompting was strong and clear. I left my desk, walked straight up to David, and told him, to find a place in south Bangalore in the Jayanagar area, where we will start a new location for the church (we call this APC-South). Those days we used telephone books. So David opened to the Yellow pages in the telephone book, and the first real estate person he called, had a commercial place available, that could hold about 70 to 100 people. This was in a good location, in Jayanagar. The landlord was ready to rent it out for us to hold our church services. All this happened so easily and so quickly. A few weeks later we launched APC South in November of 2002.

August 2005 - Starting APC Bible College

6) The Stirring Within

Another way the inner witness of the Spirit is communicated to us is through a stirring in our spirits. The stirring within is something that is stronger than a simple prompting. It is a strong call to action.

We see several examples in Scripture where people were stirred up in their hearts and were moved into action.



Ezra 1:1

Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying,

Haggai 1:14

So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,

Act 17:16

Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked ("stirred" KJV) within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols.

Usually a stirring in our spirits is something we cannot miss. However, what we need to be careful is not to confuse an emotional response to a situation with a stirring that comes from the inner witness of the Holy Spirit.

August 1982 - Preaching at RTMC, Bangalore

October 1981, just before I turned thirteenth was when the Lord Jesus Christ touched my life, in a simple yet definite way. A new found passion for the Lord gripped my heart and I was passionate about sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Those days, as a family we attended the Richmond Town Methodist Church, in Bangalore. We used to attend the Sunday evening services at RTMC. Less than a year after experiencing Jesus, if my recollection serves me right, it must have been August of 1982, one Sunday evening, while sitting in the service, something began to stir up within me. I felt a strong stirring to go and pray. A passion for the lost seemed to grip my heart. So I got up, went out of the sanctuary and into a hall nearby. (This was called Stephen's hall. This building has since been demolished). I began to pray and felt a great burden for all those who did not know Jesus, who were attending the church service. During this time of prayer I felt I heard an inner voice tell me "ask the pastor if he can give you 15 minutes to preach in the morning and in the evening services". I know this sounds completely strange but this experience was something I could not deny. But I kept this in my heart. It was close to the end of the church service, and once I felt the stirring and burden lift, I returned to meet my family. I held this in my heart for a week, and the following Saturday, I met with the pastor, Rev. Ravi Joseph, and presented this request to him. He said that he would get back to me in a week or two. I do not know how pastor Ravi Joseph processed this. But sure enough, about a week later he met me and informed me that he would permit me to speak for 15 minutes during the Sunday services both morning and evening, on the following Sunday. I was just a thirteen year old, had not yet read the entire Bible. I took my text from Matthew 7, did the best I could and preached my heart out. Nothing seemed to happen in the morning service. But that Sunday evening, after I preached, about 30 young people from Baldwins Boys School stayed back to give their



lives to Jesus Christ. It was more than what I had anticipated. As a way to follow-up with these students who had just given their lives to Christ, I decided to go to their school and meet with them every day for 20 minutes during the lunch break. I would run (some days use a cycle) from my school, Bishop Cottons Boys School to Baldwins Boys School, just to preach to these students for about 20 minutes during lunch break and run back to my school, in time for the afternoon classes. This also opened up a ministry opportunity to students in a neighboring school, Cathedral High School. So four days a week I would go to Baldwins and once a week on Wednesdays I would go to Cathedrals. This continued for about 4 years, from my 9th grade till 12th grade. Acting upon a stirring within caused a door of ministry to open that kept me busy for 4 years, and touched many lives along the way.

7) The Foreknowledge Within

The Lord Jesus taught us in John 16:13 that the Holy Spirit would show us things to come. This means the Spirit of God will reveal things to us ahead of time. While this foreknowledge can come from the Holy Spirit through different ways (e.g. prophecies, dreams, etc.), one important way is through the inner witness. Through the inner witness the Holy Spirit gives a foreknowledge, a knowing in advance, about things to come. There is an unveiling of God's purposes in your spirit. You have a knowing of things happen in advance so that you can get yourself ready. This is very similar to what we have shared in earlier in "A knowing within", but the emphasis here is about knowing things well in advance so that you can prepare yourself. The Holy Spirit through the inner witness gives you foreknowledge inside you of certain things.

1993 - Plan For The Next 10 Years

One day in 1993, I sat down and wrote out on paper what I felt the Lord was witnessing (releasing inside me) in my spirit about the next 10 years. I wrote out several things including getting married, moving back to India, starting a business, planting a local church in Bangalore, and travelling to minister God's Word. These were things I felt impressed in my spirit and I just wrote them down. And sure enough, over the next 10 years all of the things I had written down took place. I found this very encouraging and continue to from time to time write out what I feel God is placing in my heart for the journey ahead, sometimes a decade or more in advance. At a personal level this is receiving foreknowledge by the inner witness of the Spirit who is here to show us things ahead of time.

8) The Warning Within

As we discussed about "The Assurance Within" where the Holy Spirit releases peace and joy through His inner witness about decisions and situations we are considering, there



could also be "A Warning Within" through the inner witness. This could come as impressions that give a tightness, an uneasy feeling within, lack of peace or joy, a sense that something is not right, something is amiss, etc. We need to pay attention to these and take caution or preventive action.

Consider for example what the apostle Paul shared with the leaders from Ephesus about his upcoming trip to Jerusalem.

Acts 20:22-23

20 And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there,

23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.

He said that the Holy Spirit was testifying to Him that he was going to face imprisonment and hardships. The word 'testifies' in the Greek means to attest or protest earnestly, to charge, to affirm. This made Paul feel "bound in the spirit", tied up or constrained in his spirit. Although the Holy Spirit warned him of impending danger, the apostle Paul chose to go ahead to Jerusalem and face what he had to face.

In a similar way, when we are interacting with people, making day to day decisions big or small, we may receive warnings within us in our spirit through the inner witness of the Holy Spirit. Maybe you are about to sign a contract and you feel uneasy in your spirit. Then pause. Wait. Take time before you sign to determine what the Lord is warning you about.

Train Your spirit To Be Sensitive To The Holy Spirit

In this chapter we have tried to explain one of the ways the Holy Spirit leads us, which is through His inner witness. The key here is for us to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit in our heart (spirit).

Here are ways to develop sensitivity of spirit. These are practices we already know but should stay with consistently:

- ✓ Daily time with God in worship, Word and prayer.
- ✓ Maintain constant communion with God as you go through the day.
- ✓ Praying a lot in tongues.
- ✓ Stillness. Learn to maintain a quiet and calm spirit. Learn to rest.
- ✓ Pressing in - extra time in worship, prayer, fasting and Word.
- ✓ Spend time with others who are sensitive to God.



Checking And Confirming The Witness Within

As we mentioned at the beginning of this chapter, other than the written Scriptures, which must be rightly divided (correctly interpreted and applied), all other expressions of the inner witness has to be checked and confirmed before being acted upon.

The reason we need to test the inner witness, is because we could get confused with our own feelings, thoughts and ideas. Also there could be times when there are demonic ideas and suggestions coming in to our mind. Remember what happened to Peter in Matthew 16. One moment he spoke by revelation from the Father (Matthew 16:16-17), and shortly after, Jesus rebuked the devil who was 'speaking' through Peter (Matthew 16:22-23).

Here are simple tests to check what you are receiving through the inner witness:

1) Ensure it is aligned to the written Scriptures

The Holy Spirit will never give you an inner witness that contradicts His Word. The Spirit and the Word agree (1 John 5:7).

2) Ensure that there is no natural affection or emotion involved

3) Ensure that the leading glorifies Jesus Christ and not self or any other thing in your life

4) See if it is aligned to the overall plan and purpose of God for your life

5) Are there other confirmations to the inner witness

6) Consider the risk involved

The greater the risk, you would need to test and validate before stepping out. For example, if the prompting is to call a friend and pray with them, there is not much risk involved. Even if you were mistaken, the friend would be happy you called. However, if it was a matter of signing an important contract, you should be careful and do all the needed checks and validate with other ways God speaks, about the matter.

Quick Review

The Inner Witness Of The Holy Spirit

- 1) Quickening of Scripture
- 2) The Assurance Within
- 3) The Desire Within
- 4) The Knowing Within
- 5) The Prompting Within



- 6) The Stirring Within
- 7) The Foreknowledge Within
- 8) The Warning Within

THE VOICE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The God of the Bible is God who speaks to His people. The Holy Spirit speaks to us even today. Throughout the Bible we see men and women who heard the voice of God. There are many instances where we read that the Holy Spirit spoke to an individual or a group of people. Consider the following verses of Scripture:

Ezekiel 3:24

Then the Spirit entered me and set me on my feet, and spoke with me and said to me: "Go, shut yourself inside your house."

Ezekiel 11:5

Then the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and said to me, "Speak! Thus says the LORD: "Thus you have said, O house of Israel; for I know the things that come into your mind."

Acts 8:29

Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."

Acts 10:19

While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are seeking you."

Acts 13:2

As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

We see that the Holy Spirit spoke something specific in all of these verses. However it is not stated how the Spirit spoke.

The voice of the Holy Spirit, or the Spirit speaking is much stronger than the inner witness of the Holy Spirit. The inner witness is the most common way we receive the leading of the Holy Spirit. As we stated in the previous chapter, the inner witness comes to us through conviction, knowing, assurance, impressions, feelings and sensations which the Holy Spirit gives to us in our spirit. **The voice of the Spirit is much stronger, clearer, and in some cases louder. The voice of the Spirit is often (but not always) more instructive and directive.**

Often the voice of the Holy Spirit will be coupled with other expressions as visions, dreams or prophecy or other gifts of the Spirit. We must keep this in mind, although in this chapter we discuss only the voice of the Spirit.



In order to help us understand, the voice of the Holy Spirit can be broadly classified into the following:

- 1) The Inner Voice
- 2) The Audible Voice
- 3) The Voice Of The Spirit In Prophecy

1) The Inner Voice Of The Holy Spirit

The inner voice of the Holy Spirit is God speaking clearly to our spirit. We do not hear a sound, but we receive the message clearly. It is like words (information, knowledge) coming into our spirit without the medium of sound. The inner voice often comes as a line or sentences of instruction or direction from the Lord.

While we cannot state this with absolute certainty, it is possible, that in the Scriptures quoted above, in the case of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 3:24; Ezekiel 11:5), in the case of Philip (Acts 8:29) and in the case of Peter (Acts 10:19), the Spirit spoke to them through the inner voice. (We will not debate about this). It could also be that when the prophets said "the word of the Lord came to me", that this could have in some cases come through the inner voice of the Holy Spirit.

January 1989 - Starting Believers Fellowship Meetings in Manipal

In July of 1986, I went to Manipal, India to start my undergraduate studies in engineering at Manipal Institute of Technology. I knew that I was there with a purpose which was bigger than my education and getting my bachelors degree. So I would pray asking God what He wanted me to do in that place and how I could impact and influence students for His Kingdom. In the first year (1986-1987) I had the joy of meeting some believers and sharing with them about the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Some of them were filled with the Spirit starting to speak with other tongues. In the second year in college (1987-1988) I conducted a few meetings, one at hotel Valley View and one at the MIT auditorium as a way of reaching out to students. It was January of 1989, when in my third year (1988-1989), I was at home in Bangalore, ready to head back o Manipal in a few days. I was earnestly praying in the Spirit, praying in tongues and asking God what He wanted me to do in Manipal. During this time of prayer, I received the inner voice of the Holy Spirit along with a spiritual vision (visual) of what I was to do. The instruction was clear. I was to go to the hotel (hotel Valley View), rent out their seminar hall every Saturday and hold "Believers Fellowship Meetings". These meetings will have a time of praise and worship, followed by solid teaching from the Word, closing with prayer and ministry. I was to invite students to come and make whatever resources I had (Christian books, cassette tapes) available to them so they could use them to grow spiritually. I



would leave an offering box at the back of the hall and people could contribute towards the expenses as they desired. This was to be a step of faith. So once I was back in Manipal, I got the arrangements with the hotel in place, and held the first Believers Fellowship Meeting on Thursday January 26, 1989 since this was a public holiday. I announced at this meeting that from Saturday January 28, 1989 we would hold regular meetings every Saturday at the hotel. This was the beginning of what later became the "Manipal Believers Fellowship", a powerful Spirit-filled, Word-based student fellowship. I graduated and left Manipal by April of 1990. Subsequent leaders, Davis Johnraj and other students continued the fellowship and the lives of many hundreds of students were ministered to in the years that followed. It began with a leading of the Holy Spirit that came through the inner voice.

November 22, 1993 - The Letter to Amy

Led by the inner voice

February 2001 - Starting APC Bangalore

Led by the inner voice "start with what you have"

September 2012 - Starting APC East

In June/July of 2012 one of our young men met with a motorcycle accident...

Led by the inner voice "what are you doing with these young men at APC. Plant APC East in Whitefield with them and train them up for ministry"

06 July 2007 Friday Prayer Day : Seeking the Lord about the business.

Focus on health care markets. Command markets to open. Command the healthcare market in North America and Europe to open up to NCIT. God can give you the keys to unlock these markets. Just as God can open the door for the Gospel He can open doors for the advancement of Kingdom business.

The Audible Voice Of The Holy Spirit

We see in Scripture about the audible voice of the Holy Spirit. The voice of the Spirit comes audible to the person He is speaking to. They hear His voice as though it was a natural voice, but not everyone else who are around will hear the voice. We see several examples of this in the Bible. Samuel heard the audible voice of the Lord and thought it was Eli calling him. All three times Samuel heard an audible voice, but Eli did not (1 Samuel 3). Many of the experiences of the prophets had to do with an audible voice of



God. Ezekiel often stated: "...I heard a voice of One speaking." (Ezekiel 1:28). "...I heard Him who spoke to me." (Ezekiel 2:2).

God can speak to us this way, although it does not appear to be as common as the inner witness or the inner voice. God can do as He pleases and so He can and will speak with the audible voice of the Holy Spirit as often as He chooses.

The Voice Of The Holy Spirit In Prophecy

This is an important way the Holy Spirit speaks and needs to be addressed in greater detail. So we cover this later, separately in chapter 7.

The Collective Witness To The Holy Spirit's Leading

We also have examples of the Holy Spirit speaking to a group of people. While His voice could have come through the voice of prophecy or through the inner voice or even the inner witness - the important factor is that multiple people attested to hearing the Holy Spirit say the same thing. This brought a collective witness to what the Holy Spirit was speaking and hence they could follow the Lord confidently.

Consider the following examples:

Acts 13:1-3

1 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

There were five leaders who were in prayer, fasting and ministry to the Lord together and the Holy Spirit spoke. He gave clear instruction what to do, and they acted on it, without a doubt.

Acts 15:28

For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things:

Acts 15 records the first Council in Jerusalem where the apostles and Elders in Jerusalem, along with Paul and Barnabas to discuss the matter on whether gentile believers had to keep Jewish customs and traditions. Although we do not see any mention of prophecy or other supernatural expression, at the end of the deliberations, the leaders issued their statement, as being good to the Holy Spirit and to us. They were



in agreement and they also were convinced that this was what the Holy Spirit was saying to the Church. There was collective witness to the decision being made.

Acts 16:6-10

6 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.

7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.

8 So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

10 Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

We see how the Holy Spirit was directing the apostle Paul and his team. We do not know how exactly they determined that the Holy Spirit was not permitting them or directing them in another direction. But the team had a collective witness to the Spirit's leading. Later when Paul had a vision directing them into Macedonia, the entire team moves together, in agreement. This once again indicates that they all bore witness to the leading of the Spirit and moved together.

Testing All Things

While hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit is exciting, we must be even more cautious in this area. Satan and his demons are deceivers and imitators. They can pretend to speak as though it were God and thus lead believers astray. Hence we must test what we are hearing and see if it is of God or from evil spirits (1 John 4:1-4). The tests we have outlined in the earlier chapter for testing the inner witness, holds good here as well, in order for us to test the voice of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God speaks and we must listen to Him. But be aware that there is an enemy, who tries to imitate the Spirit in order to lead God's people astray.

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We will not expound of these here, since we run weekend schools that explain these. While the gifts of the Spirit are used to minister to others, we see that through these same gifts, God can speak to you personally

Personal Use Of Tongues And Interpretation

Words Of Knowledge

Words Of Wisdom

Discerning Of Spirits

MINISTRY TIME | SALVATION CALL



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday May 12, 2019
Receiving God's Guidance
Part-2 : His Holy Spirit

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *John 16:13-14; 1 Corinthians 2:9-16; Romans 8:14-16; Colossians 3:15; Acts 13:1-3*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1) We covered eight ways the inner witness of the Holy Spirit comes to us. Review these, and see if you have already experience one or more of these. Share/Write down one or two experiences where you have recognized the inner witness of the Holy Spirit

2) Explain what you have understood as the main difference between the inner witness of the Spirit and the voice of the Spirit.

3) Explain the difference between the inner voice of the Spirit and the audible voice of the Holy Spirit.



4) Think of some practical scenarios, in church life as well as in day-to-day situations where the collective witness to the Holy Spirit's leading can be very useful to practice.

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.