(8) Live Give Grow Go

Normal Christian Living is Hearing God (Part 3)

Homework this past week:

**Wait for God in Silence…Ask two Questions:**

1. “How do you view me Lord…?” **Or** “How do you feel about me Lord?”
2. “What truth do you want me to see right now in my life?”

* **I said this week I would talk to you about the mechanics of Hearing God…**
* **But first, we need to be honest about where we are in our perspective…**
* We deny that this world is all there is, but we live as though this world is all there is.
* We are willing to admit that the spiritual realm is real, but out thoughts, actions, and plans scream that the natural realm is more real or more important.
* We live as though all there is is this. In short, we lack faith.
* As we grow older we come to understand that we’ve been looking at reality inside out.

We Live in the Shadowlands

* *C. S. Lewis used the metaphor Shadowlands to reference this world, which is not the world as it should be, nor the world as it will be, but rather the world as it is: a vale of tears… a land of shadows and light, illusions and reality, darkly lit landscapes to be endured…*
* *Here are the Shadowlands, and there is the Light who casts His shadow*

**2 Cor. 4:17-18**

**17**For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! **18 So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.**

**It’s Legitimate to Listen, to Look, to Expect…and to Wrestle with it…**

**”If you seek Him, He will let you find Him…”**

This is Not an Exact Science

**1 Cor. 13:9-13**

**For we know in part and we prophesy in part;** **10**but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. **11**When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. **12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. 13 But now faith, hope, love, abide these three;** but the greatest of these is love.

* **Now is:**
  + “we know in part”
  + “mirror dimly”
  + “faith”
  + “hope”
  + “love”

**Five Tools for Hearing God (Mechanics) see slide**

1. Still Yourself
2. Recognizing the Source(s) of Your Thought Life
3. Look for Vision
4. Journal, Affirm, & Pray
5. The Counsel of Mature Believers

**1. Still Yourself**

* **Turn Down The Volume – Change the Channel…**

**Matthew 6:31-33 31**

“So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ **32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. 33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.**

**Matthew 13:22**

And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and **the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word**, **and it becomes unfruitful.**

Weedy soil represents a heart occupied with worldly matters. This [Matthew 13:22] is a perfect description of a worldly man – one who lives for the things of this world. He is consumed with the cares of this age. His chief pursuit is a career, a house, a car, a hobby, a wardrobe. To him [these things] are everything. Have you ever known people like that? For a while, they look just like the rest of the field. They come to church, identify with the people of God…But they…are uncommitted and always preoccupied with the world’s pleasures, money, career, fame, fortune, or the lusts of the flesh…overwhelmed by the thorns of worldliness, and eventually the weedy heart will show no evidence that good seed was ever sown. Weedy hearts [will not let go] of the world… -- John F. MacArthur, Jr., ***The Gospel According to Jesus***

* **He Doesn’t Shout**

**1 Kings 19:11-13**

“Go out and stand before me on the mountain,” the Lord told him. And as Elijah stood there, the Lord passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. **12**And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there was **the sound of a gentle whisper.** **13**When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak…”

**Habakkuk 2:20** "But the LORD is in His holy temple; **let all the earth be silent before Him**."

**Psalm 46:10 “Be still, and know that I Am** God!

**2. Recognizing the Source(s) of Your Thought Life**

* All Thoughts Are Not Your Thoughts
* ***“We are utterly wrong in supposing that our thoughts are our own private property…our minds are broadcasting stations…all our thoughts are being broadcast all the time, touching and influencing others for good or evil, just as their thought waves influence ours…. Many of us have allowed ourselves to be almost fatally careless and indifferent about our thought habits, just because we have supposed that they affect no one but ourselves, and that if we have sufficient strength to refrain from expressing the unlovely ones in word or deed, then they are harmless….*** *Hannah Hurnard* *God’s Transmitters* 
  + **The Spirit**
    - Spontaneous Flow

**John 7:37-39**

37Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.  38**"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said,** **'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"** 39But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

* + - “Prophesy”
      * ***“Naba”:*** The Hebrew Word for **Prophecy**

Means to ***“Bubble up”***

* + - * ***“Ziyd”*: False Prophecy**

Means **“*Boil or Cook up”***

* + - * ***“Paga”*:** The Hebrew word for **Intercession**

Means ***“A chance encounter”***

* + - Nature of the Spirit
  + **The Enemy**
  + **Self**

Next Week…

**3. Look for Vision**

**4. Journal, Affirm, and Pray**

**5. The Counsel of Mature Believers**

If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. If none of my earthly pleasures satisfy it that does not prove that the universe is a fraud. Probably earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing. If that is so, I must take care, on the one hand, never to despise, or be unthankful for, these earthly blessings, and on the other, never to mistake them for the something else of which they are only a kind of copy, or echo, or mirage. I must keep alive in myself the desire for my true country, which I shall not find till after death; I must never let it get snowed under or turned aside; I must make it the main object of life to press on to that other country and to help others to do the same.