

by John White

## **Four Keys for Hearing God's Voice**

My ability to hear God's voice has taken a huge leap forward in the last year as a result of the teaching of Mark Virkler on this subject. Although I have attempted to practice two-way prayer over the 45 years that I've been a Christian, there were a few pieces that I was missing. As a result, my ability to hear God's voice was sporadic. Virkler's insights have moved me to a place where I now typically journal several pages of dialogue with Papa every morning. In addition, I find I am much better able to teach others how to have this kind of daily conversation.

See below for a brief summary of Virkler's Four Keys for Hearing God's Voice. For more, go to his website: <http://www.cwgministries.org/Four-Keys-to-Hearing-Gods-Voice.htm>

### **1. I must learn to still my own thoughts and emotions, so that I can sense God's flow of thoughts and emotions within me.**

"Psalm 46:10 encourages us to be still, and know that He is God. There is a deep inner knowing (spontaneous flow) in our spirit that each of us can experience when we quiet our flesh and our minds".

### **2. As I pray, I fix the eyes of my heart upon Jesus, seeing in the spirit the dreams and visions of Almighty God.**

"God continually revealed Himself to His covenant people using dream and vision. He did so from Genesis to Revelation and said that, since the Holy Spirit was poured out in Acts 2, we should expect to receive a continuing flow of dreams and visions (Acts 2:1-4). Jesus, our perfect example, demonstrated this ability of living out of ongoing contact with Almighty God. He said that He did nothing on His own initiative, but only that which he **saw the Father doing, and heard the Father saying** (Jn. 5:19,20,30). What an incredible way to live!"

### **3. God's voice in our hearts sounds like a flow of spontaneous thoughts. Therefore, when I tune to God, I tune to spontaneity.**

"The Bible says that the Lord answered me and said...(Hab. 2:2). Habakkuk knew the sound of God's voice. Elijah described it as a still, small voice. I had always listened for an inner **audible** voice, and surely God can and does speak that way at times. However, I have found that for most of us, most of the time, God's inner voice comes to us as **spontaneous thoughts, visions, feelings, or impressions**. For example, haven't each of us had the experience of driving down the road and having **a thought**

**come to us** to pray for a certain person? We generally acknowledge this to be the voice of God calling us to pray for that individual. My question to you is, "What did God's voice sound like as you drove in your car? Was it an inner, audible voice, or was it a spontaneous thought that lit upon your mind?" Most of you would say that God's voice came to you as a spontaneous thought.

So I thought to myself, "Maybe when I listen for God's voice, I should be listening for a flow of spontaneous thoughts. Maybe spirit-level communication is received as spontaneous thoughts, impressions, feelings, and visions." Through experimentation and feedback from thousands of others, I am now convinced that this is so."

#### **4. Journaling, the writing out of our prayers and God's answers, provides a great new freedom in hearing God's voice.**

"God told Habakkuk to record the vision and inscribe it on tablets...(Hab. 2:2). It had never crossed my mind to write out my prayers and God's answers as Habakkuk did at God's command. If you begin to search Scripture for this idea, you will find hundreds of chapters demonstrating it (Psalms, many of the prophets, Revelation). Why then hadn't I ever thought of it?

I called the process "journaling," and I began experimenting with it. I discovered it to be a fabulous facilitator to clearly discerning God's inner, spontaneous flow, because as I journaled I was able **to write in faith for long periods of time**, simply believing it was God. I did not have to test it as I was receiving it, (which jams one's receiver), because I knew that when the flow was over I could go back and test and examine it carefully, making sure that it lined up with Scripture."