

Now Concerning Spiritual Things
an historical account of one man's walk with God.

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**HOW TO KNOW
THE WILL OF THE LORD FOR YOUR LIFE
PART THREE**

The voice of God is heard through the Holy Spirit.¹ He directs one in the walk with God, about which I write. For this reason I would like to share with you *how* I have experienced His voice, His leading and guiding in my life. I have not seen anything written on this subject, although there may be excellent material available. However, I believe that knowing of my experience may be informative and helpful to both those of you who have heard His voice and those of you who have not.

I have heard the audible voice of the Lord only once.² About thirty-one years ago He spoke to me audibly in a dream. I still remember what it sounded like. Six times³ in the scripture the voice of the Lord is reported sounding "as a multitude of waters," "as the noise of many waters" and "as the sound of many waters." Those terms are very descriptive of what I heard. The voice I heard (that called my name) sounded like water rippling over stones down a mountain stream. It was also rhythmical or musical and apparently very descriptive of what Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the Apostle John reported hearing as referenced in footnote #3.

A second way I "hear the voice of the Lord" is very much like what I believe Elijah heard in a cave that day when he was running from Jezebel, described as "a still small voice."⁴ This comes in more than one way. Sometimes the word or words are very clear and distinct. At other times it will be a slight, intuitive, almost indiscernible impression deep within my spirit so that I must be careful, alert and attentive in order to "hear" what He says.

¹Read John 14:21; 16:13, 14.

²I have a friend to whom the Lord spoke audibly three times, calling him to preach the gospel, before he responded.

³The six accounts are found in Jeremiah 10:13; 51:16; Ezekiel 1:24; 43:2; Revelation 1:15; 19:6.

⁴Read 1 Kings 19:11, 12.

A third way I "hear" from the Lord is when I get a prophetic message that may be in length from only a few words as a sentence to three or four pages written in longhand. These prophesies usually come just before, during or after my morning prayer time. This is one reason I have a pen and a yellow pad with me during my morning prayers. I also make other notes during my prayer time. It is surprising how many of these messages have been given either at the beginning or at the conclusion of a day of fasting. Up to now, they have seldom been received and/or given publicly or in the presence of others. Occasionally I will awaken at night, become wide awake and then go into our living room to pray whereupon the Lord will begin teaching me something which I usually record. When these "messages" come I simply have the urge to pick up my pen and begin to write. As I do so, the words begin to flow as I write. An unusual thing about these messages is when I finish the writing, I do not want to go back and read what I have written. I cannot explain why. It just happens that way. When I finish writing I simply put aside the yellow pad and forget it. Several days later I begin to get curious about what I was given. Then reluctantly, sometimes very reluctantly, I go back and read the words and get the meaning of what I had written *for the first time*. Then is when I know the content of what I wrote. Then is when I am blessed and sometimes awed by what I was given. The Lord has said to me more than once to share with others the words He gives me. Hence the reason for my publishing them. I included two of these prophetic messages in my last letter dated 4/14/2000. Prophecies given to Christians today are both forthtelling and foretelling, meaning "telling forth" a word of admonition, encouragement, correction or direction for the present and foretelling for the future, but never in contradiction to the scripture.

The fourth way the Lord has communicated with me is in a vision which is a graphic spiritual communication given when I am awake. Up until now these have been for my own teaching.

A fifth way the Lord has communicated with me has been in dreams. Some of these have been teaching or informational and some have been

prophetic. Some have been confirmation of what I am accomplishing by my obedience to His instruction.

A sixth way God communicates with me is in song. The first time this happened was about thirty years ago. I remember realizing the lyrics of a particular song had been on my mind for several days to the point that it was monotonous. Then I said to the Lord, I know it's there, but please take it away because it is distracting to me. And it was gone. That particular song was prophetic of a trip I was to take six weeks later about which I knew nothing at the time. To my recollection these have not been religious songs or hymns. They have been popular songs in my past, the lyrics of which have been familiar to me as a piano player.

A seventh way the Lord has communicated with me has been with scripture verses. I still remember the first one he gave me soon after I was baptized with the Holy Spirit in 1965: "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."⁵ At the time I didn't know what He meant, but since then I have realized the blessing of obedience, what it means, and at times, what it costs. He has used this method (1) to tell me prophetically of something that would happen in the future, for example, then "after the fact" (2) to confirm to me with another scripture that a specific occurrence was that which He prophesied to me by the first scripture.

These communication/communion methods of God were prophesied by the prophet Joel⁶ over eight hundred years before Jesus was born. They were then confirmed as relevant for Christians today by the apostle Peter on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ as recorded by Luke in the second chapter of Acts.⁷ Here are some of Joel's words that were confirmed by Peter:

17 And it shall come to pass in these *last days* says God, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.

18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days;

⁵1 Samuel 15:22 (b), KJV

⁶Read Joel 2:28-32 (a).

⁷Read Acts 2:16-21.

and they shall prophesy.

The relationship with the Lord that I have and write about is for and is promised to *servants of God in the last days*. And the *last days* began on the first Pentecost after the resurrection, according to the apostle Peter.

Except for the prophetic messages given to me, which usually come during or near my morning prayer time, the timing of God's communication with me has been interesting. In early 1982 the Lord spoke to me when I was *carrying a sack of trash to put in the garbage can* (not a very spiritual time) and said very clearly to me, "Money put into a house is a good investment." That was God's signal for me to buy a house. Get out of your mind that God doesn't understand investments. Then on July 4, 1982 we moved into a house which we looked for, chose, finished and decorated at the Lord's direction. We live in that house today and the Lord owns it. To one who is totally dedicated to the Lord, this should not be unusual.

The best word I know which seems to describe *when* the Holy Spirit speaks, leads, guides, comforts, etc., is *suddenly*.⁸ On one occasion the Lord had told me that He was going to do something new in my life and I asked Him to give me an idea of what it was and when it would occur and He said, "Expect the unexpected." Try and think that one through. God has a sense of humor.

To sum up the Lord's communication or communion with His servants, He is the One who determines how and when that is done. In no way have I attempted to confine His communication to the seven ways I have listed. He may communicate with you while reading the Bible, through a glistening dew drop on the petal of a rose, through a rainbow, a sunset or a starry sky at night, in the shower or on the way to the garbage can. The point I want to make with you, especially those of you who have not heard His voice audibly or inaudibly, in prophesy, dreams, visions, scripture verses or any other way is: This is a personal relationship that implies dialogue. The scriptures affirm it. The life of God's servants confirm it and He wants that relationship with you.

The one thing that will most hasten the soon coming of the Lord is for every born-again believer to walk in God's will as revealed by His Spirit, first

⁸Read Acts 2:1-4.

through the scriptures which are fixed. Then to you and me individually since “. . . no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.”⁹ Today is different from five, ten or twenty years ago. The enemy has stepped up his attacks. Read the daily newspaper, watch the evening news, listen to talk radio. The reason it is so important for us to be “about the Father’s business”¹⁰ is because we must be found doing exactly that or perhaps run the risk of missing the Rapture, the rapidly approaching greatest event of the church age. No man knows the day or the hour of this event, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Lord Jesus Himself. Only the Father knows.¹¹ But we must be ready, expecting this event as the bride eagerly anticipates the coming of the Bridegroom.

For several years the Lord has been impressing me with this statement: “the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God.” The house of God He is talking about is not the church across town. It’s you and me, the temple of the Holy Spirit. Said in the vernacular, that means it’s fish or cut bait or get out of the boat time.¹²

I am not the only servant of God on whom the Lord has impressed the urgency of our time. Charles Capps in his book, *End Time Events*,¹³ tells of the following prophetic message he received from the Lord:

“The prophecy pertained to the *triangle of the end*. He saw in the Spirit a large acute triangle, and these words came forth: ‘As you approach the triangle of the end, time shall grow faster and closer, faster and

⁹Read 1 Corinthians 2:11.

¹⁰I am reminded of a lad of twelve years, who was separated for four days from his parents. After a frantical search they found him. He was not lost for he said to them, “Why did you seek me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?” This singularity of purpose is so needed in the Church today. It will bring untold rewards throughout eternity. Read Luke 2:41-52.

¹¹Read Mark 13:32.

¹²It’s more fun to be in the boat (in His will). If you will get in, stay in and not rock the boat, sooner or later those back on the shore will become attracted to what you are doing. Your yells when you hook a big one or an admiring glance when they view your “catch” does something to a fisherman.

¹³**End-Time Events**, Journey to the End of the Age, by Charles Capps, published by Harrison House, Tulsa, Oklahoma, pp.19, 20.

closer until the wicked shall be cut off.’ As those words came forth, I saw in my spirit, as it were, a large acute triangle. It was standing on end, looking somewhat like an inverted pyramid, with a line representing the word of God, drawn down the center from the wide top to the narrow point at the bottom, resembling a funnel. Inside this triangle was light, but outside was darkness. The prophetic word continued: ‘There was a time when you could be off from the center line of the triangle and still be inside the triangle of light. But as you approach the triangle of the end, you must move to the center line, for line must be upon line, precept upon precept.’ If you were to one side of the center line of God’s word at the top, you could still be in the light. But if you were off from the center line at the bottom, which represents the end of the age, you would be outside the triangle and in darkness. And that is the way the wicked will be cut off.”

At the invitation of John Andrews, a good friend of mine, we attended services at his church on Wednesday evening, October 17, 1997. The speaker that night was a woman who was a Prophetess. After being introduced, she arose, began to speak, and prophesied for about thirty minutes. Afterward she went through the congregation and ministered to individual members of the church. Here are a few of her words: “You must get fresh bread every day as Christians, the same as manna was gathered daily in the wilderness. In the end-time I will use the nobodies and not superstars. I will bring those from the back to the front – the first shall be last, the last first.”

I happen to know one of those nobodies. As I wrote in my last letter, based on what the Lord has said to me, I believe there will be those living in this generation who will not taste of death – who will be *Raptured – translated* – according to the scripture, as I wrote about in my last letter. If I am correct, this is not a time to be complacent and it is perhaps the most exciting time ever to be alive as born-again believers.

I was praying the morning of September 11, 1999 and was interrupted by the Lord with these words:

There is a war going on between two supernatural forces. The rules were laid down under the law of the creation of cherubs. These laws will not change. The contest is between the forces of good (God) and the forces of evil (Satan).

It is incumbent upon the children of God to enforce their rights against the forces of evil. The way

this is done is to get instructions from the Commander. As this is done the battle plan is established, strengthened and restored to its rightful power and might. It can be no other way.

It is therefore incumbent upon the forces of God to be attentive and get their instructions from the Lord Jesus through the Holy Spirit for the battle plan to be implemented and become successful.

You see therefore the importance of getting specific instructions from the Lord in the latter part of these last days before the rapture of the Church.

The time is past when one can be an effective instrument of God without getting his instructions from the Commander of the army.

We are at war.

Man your battle stations.

You man your battle stations by reporting to the Commander and asking for instructions for the day. Daily rations of manna are necessary to sustain the troops.

Harken unto these words and be fortified and blessed.

It is interesting to note the similarity of the messages given to Charles Capps (page 3), the Prophetess (page 3) and myself (pages 3 & 4), all of which have to do with *preparation for end-time events* prophesied in the scriptures. The prophet Amos wrote, “Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.”¹⁴ Too many of Gods servants and prophets are saying the same thing for us to be unaware of the times in which we live.

The author of the Epistle of James, said to be the oldest half-brother of the Lord Jesus, wrote these words in Chapter two of what is thought to be the first New Testament book that was written:

22 But be *doers of the word*, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. **23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; **24** for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. **25** But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty¹⁵ and continues in it, and is not a

forgetful hearer but a *doer of the work*, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Notice that *doers of the word* in verse twenty-two become *doers of the work* in verse twenty-five. As I pointed out in my last letter, we will be judged on the basis of our *works* when we stand before the judgment seat of Christ. The letters that I write are about becoming *doers of the work* because it’s more fun and very gratifying. Knowing that now, with time as short as it appears to be, lays before every born-again Christian a wonderful challenge to serve our Lord.

I once heard someone say, “Follow your own vision or follow someone who has one.” The time was when that might have been good advice. But I recommend careful reconsideration of that philosophy today. If you follow someone who has a vision who falters, then you are unsettled – in turmoil – unsure of what to do. We have witnessed several such occurrences in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex within the past ten years. If you don’t have a vision of your own, God wants you to have one. He wants you to receive guidance *from Him* on what He wants you to do. Then if someone else falters, you stay on course – in the will of the Lord.

Some time after my morning prayer time on September 27, 1998, I was concerned about whether or not I was doing the necessary things to bring into being the Rapture project God had given me to do. I may have prayed about that the morning of the 27th, but I am not sure. These were the words then given to me:

My son, let me run the show, for only as you yield to my leading can I guide you to My destination. You are on course. Steerage is done moment by moment as conditions dictate. When you steer a ship, you must be on guard – alert – constantly, to arrive at the desired destination.

My destination has already been designated. I see the end result. You see the immediate needs. That way we work together. You steer as you see and look ahead. I guide you with the destination in mind. You steer with Me in mind. That way we both stay on course.

. . . . to be continued.

¹⁴Amos 3:7.

¹⁵The perfect law of liberty could not have been the New Testament as some claim in order to make this passage partial proof of the doctrine of cessation. One obvious reason is that the New Testament had not yet been written when James wrote this letter to the twelve tribes of the Jews who were scattered outside of Palestine

because of the intense persecution of the Jewish Christians (see Acts 8:1).