

The God who speaks

What would it look like if we were full of his Word and Spirit? We know that Jesus has come to give us life, life to the fullness!

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”
(John 10:10)

As we walk full of his Spirit, Word and life he speaks to us and wants us to hear his voice.

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” **(John 10:27)**

Pastor Randy talked about a friend who is a master fly fisherman. But even someone like this in an unfamiliar river needs a guide. It is great to have a guide at every turn of our lives. The Guide concerns himself with things we don't have to worry about.

John 14 tells us that we have a guide who knows everything about everything! A shepherd that tells us that we will know his voice. A great Biblical example of this is the story of a young Samuel and his mentor and teacher Eli. God was calling to and wanting to speak to Samuel. Eli told him who was calling, helped him discern Gods voice and instructed him how to respond.

There are 4 Primary Voices in our lives:

1) Human

Human voices in our lives can be positive and affirming or negative and destructive. Randy shared an experience where a lady had been told all her life that she was “the ugly one” “from the trash” and many other terrible things. Sandy Remington said to her; “you know that’s a lie don’t you” and spoke life to her. Don’t agree with lies in your life, words are powerful that can affect your entire life.

2) Satanic

During the life of Jesus he constantly came across people influenced by demonic spirits, he even encountered Satan. We too will encounter these types of voices, whether we are aware of it or not.

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“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (John 8:44)

3) Self

Whether we recognize it or not we all talk to ourselves. Sometimes we say: “this is pointless, useless or hopeless”. We need to tell ourselves; “this is hard, but God is faithful”!

“Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.” (Psalm 42:5)

4) God

In the beginning God spoke into the void and darkness. “Word” in the scripture is two Greek words:

“**Logos**” is a masculine noun, used in John 1:1 referring to Jesus.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1)

“Logos is an expression or an articulation of a thought. It’s more than the mere name of an object but it is an embodiment of a concept, idea or thought...it is the ultimate truth”

“**Rhema**” is a neutered noun a direct word, which actually comes out of the “Logos”. Much like the prophets of old, “the Word of the Lord came to me...”

But it is not just an Old Testament thing; God speaks to our hearts, Rhema. When we are early in our walk with Jesus it helps to have an Eli to assist us.

“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.” (Romans 10:17)

“Rhema refers to a personal, living and life giving word from God. It often has to do with identity, correction, direction or healing. It nourishes the spirit of a person”

Text: 2 Peter 1:12-21

“So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. ¹³ I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, ¹⁴ because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. ¹⁵ And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things

know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. ¹⁵ And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

¹⁹ We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. ¹ But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. ² Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. ³ In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been.” **(2 Peter 1:12-2:3)**

Why do we need God to speak to us?

- **We have a tendency to forget**

“So I will always remind you of these things... And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.” (1:12, 15)

- **We need to be refreshed**

“I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body...” (1:13)

- **We will hear opposing voices**

“But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them...” (2:1)

- **Human knowledge is insufficient: We need to hear God speak to us.**

“Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (Matthew 4:4)

In verse 21 Peter is talking about the prophets who wrote the scriptures and said: *“...but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit”*

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This same description was used of a boat being carried along by the wind in their sails. It is also seen in Acts 2 as the wind filled the entire house where they were. If we trust him our “Guide” will carry us to where we need to go and what to speak, Rhema.

More to come...”How does God speak to us”?

Discussion Questions

- 1) What a wonderful promise from Jesus in John 10:27 *“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”* Pastor Randy talked about the importance of a guide. In relation to hearing God’s voice we understand that God will give us an “Eli” type of guide especially early in our walk with the Lord. But we also have the ultimate guide in the Holy Spirit who knows everything about everything. Please discuss both of these types of guides and how God may have placed an Eli in your life and how the Holy Spirit has been a guide to you hearing God’s voice.
- 2) Four primary voices were identified in our lives. Please refer back to your notes and discuss these voices:
 - a) Human
 - b) Satanic
 - c) Self
- 3) When we discussed God’s voice we looked at two Greek words for “Word” in scripture to help us understand. Again please refer to your notes above and discuss:
 - a) “Logos” (Used in John 1:1)
 - b) “Rhema” (Used in Romans 10:17)
- 4) Finally please discuss the reasons we need God to speak with us:
 - a) We have a tendency to forget (1: 12,15)
 - b) We need to be refreshed (1:13)
 - c) We will hear opposing voices (2:1)
 - d) Human knowledge is insufficient: We need to hear God speak to us. (Matthew 4:4)