

WHISPERS

HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD

Part 3-Relationship means Love

INTRODUCTION—Does hearing voices mean you're crazy?

Question: What difference does connecting with God make to my life?

Jesus' example (Matthew 3:13-17)

1. A sense of identity and ownership – “This is my son”
2. A sense of emotional security – “whom I love”
3. A sense of complete acceptance – “with him I am very pleased”

Jesus' teaching (John 14-17)

1. Welcomed into the very presence of God, temple or the Father's house (14:1-3)
2. The Spirit of truth is given as a counsellor (14:16)
3. Image of the vine – remain in his love (15:9)
4. The Spirit reveals Jesus to us (15:26)
5. The Spirit convicts everyone of what is right and wrong (16:8-9)
6. The Spirit will guide us into all truth, particularly what Jesus has for us as his followers (16:13-15)
7. Brings an experience of oneness with God and his divine love into a person's life (17:23, 26)

Our goal as Christ-followers (Ephesians 3:14-21)

1. God is our loving father
2. The Spirit brings an experience of “Christ in us”
3. This leads to an experience of secure in his love
4. The goal is to grasp the limitless nature of this love to move us past mere head knowledge
5. RESULT: Being filled to the fullness of God

Answer: It finally fix what's broken inside (1 John 4:16-18)

Starting point: Created for intimate friendship

Genesis 2:25 – “naked and unashamed”

Vulnerability led to intimacy

Turning point: Eating from the tree of “I'll decide for myself what is right and wrong.”

Genesis 3:10 – “I was afraid because I was naked and so I hid”

Now we hide our true selves

New Start:

Galatians 3:27 – “Clothed in Christ”

No more fear, no more shame
Restored to true relationship with God and others

1 John 4:18 – “perfect love casts out fear”

CONCLUSION—My Dad

Romans 8:31-39

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. If you were to picture God coming to you, let's say at night in a dream, what do you imagine he would say to you?
2. What idea struck you most the about this message?

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Rather than discussing a passage, take time to meditate on a single passage. Read Ephesians 4:14-21 in as many versions as you can. Then select a version that is easy to understand and read through the passage one verse at time. Read each verse slowly three times with a two minute pause between each reading. Let the depth of the meaning of each verse sink into your thoughts and heart as you prayerfully reflect on its meaning. Once you have done this, share together what insights came to you as you prayerfully meditated on this passage. What did God show you about his desire to be close to you, invest his love into your life, and release you into a fearless trust in him?

SO WHAT?...

4. Take time to pray for each other, particularly in any areas of life where fear seems to have a particular grip or hold.

Tim Day @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, June 21, 2009