

RECOGNIZING THE VOICE!

#3072 0924 23A

Recognizing the *source* of the voice and *knowing* if it is the Truth from the Lord is the issue—with information, opinions, advice, and voices heard from everywhere today. Recognizing the Truth when God reveals it to us is a very important issue.

When we know the *source* of the voice and that it is *God* speaking to us, we should be ready to make any spiritual corrections—whether it be a lack of faith or a matter of misplaced trust on the wrong thing.

The young ruler misplaced his trust on material possessions, so Jesus told him to Luke 18:22 “*Sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.*” The man did not accept that advice from the voice of Truth—he 23 “*was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.*”

The man did not *recognize* the voice—because 1 Corinthians 2:14 “*The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*”

Jesus reprimanded the religious teachers Matthew 15:3 “*Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? 7 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, 8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.*”

A God-taught believer will recognize the spiritual condition of the average church today—

and how far most have drifted from teaching the full Truth.

The Pharisees “*were offended*” but Jesus said 14 “*Let them alone: they are blind leaders of the blind.*” The Pharisees were offended because Jesus had given them the Truth—they just did not *recognize* it. And they not only *rejected* it, but hindered *others* from accepting it—“*If the blind leads the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.*”

Our hope of heaven depends on being taught by God Himself. He wants to give us the true spiritual nourishment of the full gospel of Christ so we can *grow* spiritually—that is the foundation of a true Christian life. Spiritual light and understanding must come from God, because John 3:27 “*A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.*”

God can use various things, different situations, or other believers as His instrument in teaching spiritual truths. We should be ready to *learn* when God’s voice of Truth is *heard*. Hebrews 3:7 “*Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, 8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness.*”

The disciples had *heard* His voice and were *used* of God to proclaim His Truth. Jesus said Luke 10:16 “*He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects [despises] you rejects [despises] Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.*”

King Asa was offended when the prophet Hanani told him he made a serious mistake in seeking help from Ben-Hadad *in fear*, instead of depending on God *in faith*. 2 Chronicles 16:10 “*Asa was angry with the seer because of this; he was so enraged that he put him in prison.*”

The prophet was sent by God to give a message of truth. When the king rejected the *prophet*, he was rejecting *God*. Asa then added sin to sin—“*At the same time Asa brutally oppressed some of the people.*”

Asa had previously been *in the will of God*—during the earlier part of his life when he trusted *on* God, but when he sought human help, he *lost* spiritual ground. The prophet asked 2 Chronicles 16:8 “*Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the LORD, he delivered them into thine hand.*”

He added 2 Chronicles 16:9 “*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly.*”

It was foolish and unwise not to accept a *message* of God from the *prophet* of God because after taking this rebellious attitude, the king was physically attacked. 2 Chronicles 16:12-13 “*In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was afflicted with a disease in his feet. Though his disease was [exceeding] severe, even in his illness he did not seek help from the LORD, but only from the physicians. Then in the forty-first year of his reign Asa died and rested with his fathers.*”

The king refused to *correct* his mistake and the wrong attitude he held to, so he received the *results* of *rebellion*, rather than the *reward* of *repentance*. God had sent the prophet to warn the king of the wrong choice he made. The king *could* have repented and received salvation—if he had continued to trust *God* instead of turning to *man*, but he refused the *message* of God and received the *serious results* of a *rebellious attitude*.

God can use anyone or any method to give His Truth to someone—but He has to see that they are *willing* to be taught and *open* to His Truth. It is always of spiritual benefit to spend time in God’s Word—asking Him to give us a *believing* heart and an *understanding* mind.

As we depend on God each *day*, the Holy Spirit can teach us lessons of trust. We will be *trained* on principles of trust. We are righteous in

the *sight* of God when we are believing on the *Son* of God. Colossians 2:9-10 “*For in [Christ] dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*”

Simon was used as an *instrument* of God to be the *voice* of Truth to Cornelius—who only had to *listen* to some teaching on the Atonement. Cornelius said Acts 10:33 “*Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.*”

The apostle told those assembled Acts 10:38 “*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. 43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.*”

Reading the *Truth* from the *Word* is a priority every morning. God trained His people for forty years to *teach* them Deuteronomy 8:3 “*That man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.*” Every *Word* from God is a *voice* of Truth.

Jesus said to those who believed Him John 8:31, “*If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*”—free from unbelief and free from the grip of Satan to follow the world.

We must recognize the *voice of Truth* from *God*—it is a *written* word of Truth that tells us how to be *delivered* from sin; *healed* of oppression; how to *meet* people scripturally; and how to be *ready* to meet Jesus.

Faith in the *Word* of God brings spiritual results—Mark 11:22 “*Have faith in God. 23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*”

We must be on scriptural ground to be protected from Satan’s attacks. We are to *place* ourselves under the atoning Blood of Christ *for* that protection. The *Word* is a *weapon* against the evil one; and the *Word* enables us to be *victors* in our battles with Satan.

Whatever is used as an instrument of God, we must be willing to learn. God appoints some Ephesians 4:11-13 to be “*Apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.*”

Even though God gives the *gift* of teaching so others can learn the *Truth*, He is the One who gives the enlightenment and understanding of the *Word*. It is important to *know* what teaching we accept, because we should listen only to those whom *God* has taught and sent. 2 John 1:10 “*If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed.*”

Unfortunately, there are many false teachers today. All *teaching* must be tested by the *Word* of God. Isaiah 5:20 “*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*”

Not many churches teach what *Jesus* taught about faith, trust, and forgiving offenders. Not many teach what Jesus taught on finances. The man who wanted eternal life was told—Matthew 19:21 “*If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.*”

Not many today are teaching about the faith of first century believers—how they dealt with finances and how they considered their possessions as possible treasure on earth. First-century

believers *acted* in faith Acts 4:34 “*For as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them and brought the prices of the things that were sold, 35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.*”

Not many today are teaching the Truth of God’s healing power for those who *believe* and *trust* on the Atonement Blood of Christ. Acts 3:16 “*It is His name—faith in that name being the condition—which has strengthened this man whom you behold and know; It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him.*”

Jesus warned Matthew 7:15 “*Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening [ferocious] wolves.*” The average minister today gives nothing in the way of God’s Truth. They take the *tithe* but give no *truth* in return.

If they do *not* teach their listeners to trust God alone for health, healing, protection, and provisions—as well as to forgive everyone and how to meet things scripturally as Jesus taught us to, then they are *not* giving the full Truth.

God’s Truth is recognized and valued *only* if God *teaches* it to us—John 3:27 “*A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.*”

Our prayer every day is to *Recognize the Voice* that is speaking God’s Truth!



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