Session 4 Recognizing God's Voice as Spontaneous Thoughts

I. Spontaneity - One of the 4 keys to Hearing God's Voice

A. God's voice (*"rhema" – Greek for spoken word*) is sensed as a spontaneous thought, idea, word, feeling, or vision that lights upon your mind.
(Virkler, Mark and Patty – Life Enrichment and Review Notebook, p. 10-11)

1. Thoughts from your mind are generally analytical.
2. Thoughts from your heart (spirit) are spontaneous.
3. Biblical meditation combines analysis and spontaneity.

B. Spontaneous thoughts are the voice of the spirit world.

1. Not all thoughts in our minds originate with us.
2. The Hebrew word for intercession is "*paga,"* which means "to strike or light upon by chance" or "an accidental intersecting."
3. The Hebrew word for prophesy is "*nava*" which means "to bubble up." The river of the Holy Spirit flows within the believer's heart. It's not forced, it just flows out.

   Jesus said, ***"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." John 7:37-38***
4. In contrast, the word for false prophecy is "*ziyd*" which means to boil or cook up. It's done by human will or the flesh.
5. The spirit of a Christian is joined with the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:17); you are grafted into a vine.

   John 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches.
6. To hear God's voice, we need to move from analytical reasoning in our minds to spontaneous flow in our heart/spirit.

II. Qualities of God's Thoughts Interjected into Your Heart

A. They are like your own thoughts except you sense them as coming from your heart, not your brain. They will be spontaneous, not analytical.

B. They often come as God speaking to you in the first person ("I").

C. They are often light and gentle, and easily cut off by any exertion of self (your own thoughts, will, judgment, etc.)

D. They have an unusual content to them; they will be wiser, more loving, and motive-oriented than your own thoughts.

E. They will cause a reaction within your being, such as a sense of excitement, conviction, faith, pleasure, faith, awe, peace.

F. When embraced, they carry with them a fullness of strength to carry them out, as well as a joy in doing so.

G. In time, your spiritual senses will be trained and you will more easily and frequently experience God speaking to you in this way.

H. People can have "creative flashes" of insight from the Lord, or "destructive flashes" of thoughts from the enemy.

1. **Examples**:

   Destructive Thoughts: Could be a pornographic image, thoughts of violence, harm, vengeance, lies.

   Creative Flash: Good ideas that come spontaneously, that just flow in your mind.

2. So become more aware of your thought life! Learn to discern the source. When spontaneous thoughts come, they can be significant.

J. Examples of spontaneous thoughts

III. Bible Study/Meditation

A. The Bible doesn't advocate "study" in the way we usually think of it - a very intellectual, analytical activity. God wants us to meditate on His Word.

B. Only 1 verse in the Bible uses the word "study" – ***Ecclesiastes 12:12 "Too much study causes weariness of the flesh."***

1 Thessalonians 4:11 **KJV** ***"Study to lead a quiet and peaceful life."***

NKJV ***"Aspire to lead…"***

2 Timothy 2:15 **KJV** ***"Study to present yourself approved."***

NKJV The word doesn't mean study, it means ***"Be diligent to…"***

Important: It's GOOD to study the Bible, but just knowing more facts isn't the goal. The goal is to receive insight and revelation from the Holy Spirit.

C. Meditation on the Word releases revelation, while study brings information.

D. Reading and meditating on the Word is a great way to hear God speak to you! Allow the Holy Spirit to be your teacher.

E. Example of journaling by one of Mark Virkler's students:

1. Biblical meditation (Joshua 1:8) involves many things, with the key ingredient being that God speaks to you through the Scripture passage. Here is an example of God speaking about a Bible verse:

Gal. 3:27 **"For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."**

2. Lord, what do You want to say to me about Galatians 3:27?

"Each follower of me looks like me. You have your individual personalities and physical characteristics, but in the spirit, you look like Me.

What do I look like?

Gentle, patient, kind, considerate, loving, not self-seeking. You've been baptized by water and the Spirit. You all look the same to Me. Clean, washed, forgiven, and beautiful. I don't see your flaws, I see your potential. I always have hope for you. I never give up on you, I never fail you. You have purposely chosen me, chosen to put on my characteristics. You've been washed, cleaned from your old ways and put on a new garment of praise, a new garment of goodness. That's how I see you, with clean garments, always clean.

How do I act?

With love, understanding. I will stop what I'm doing for you. I will take the time to listen to you, heal you, and pray for you. I am never too busy for you. I give you My garment, My clean white-washed garment. I give you Myself, everything I have to offer. I give you My goodness, My love, My faithfulness. I invite you to put on everything I have to give you, every good thing. You have this right as my child, My follower, to put this on. You make a conscious choice to clothe yourself with My attributes. You readily take what I have to give you. With joy you see the blessing in this. Rejoice, my child! Delight in wearing my garment like a child delights to dress up. Each day, put on this garment, My garment. Wear it like it is your own, because it is. It is Mine, but you own it. I give it to you. Like Jacob gave his favorite son Joseph a beautiful garment because he loved him, I give this to you. You are My favorite child. All of you are My favorite child. There is no favoritism with Me. One is not better than the other or more important. You are all important to Me, all valuable to Me, all worth saving."

IV. Scripture exercise

1. Read Psalm 139
2. Quiet your mind, focus on Jesus, tune to flow/spontaneity, and let the Holy Spirit speak to you.
3. Ask this question: **"Lord, what are you saying to me through this scripture?"**
4. Read slowly. Stop where the Spirit prompts you to stop. Dwell on the section. And, write the thoughts that spontaneously come to your mind.
5. Other questions you can ask in your personal time of reading and meditating on the Word:
   - **"What blessing or correction do you have for me from this section of Scripture?"**
   - **"Lord, what do you want to show me from this Scripture?"**

Psalm 139 - A Psalm of David

New Living Translation

1 LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.

2 You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.

3 You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do.

4 You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD.

5 You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!

7 I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence!

8 If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there.

9 If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans,

10 even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me.

11 I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night—

12 but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you.

13 You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.

14 Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.

15 You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.

16 You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

17 How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered!

18 I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me!

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

24 Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.