

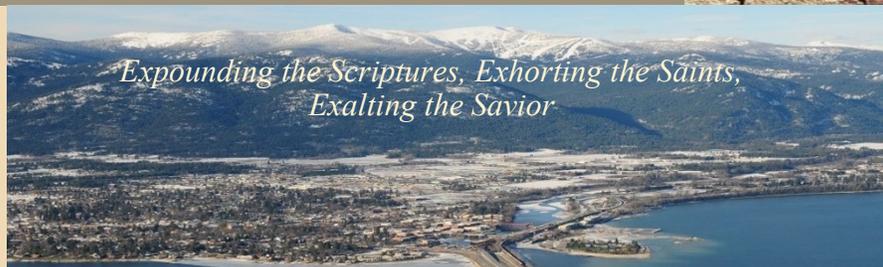
Kootenai Communicator

The monthly newsletter of Kootenai Community Church, Kootenai, Idaho

Important Dates <<<

November

- 1-22 Care Package Collections
- 8 Choir Practice Begins
- 15 Operation Christmas Child Boxes Due
- 26 Thanksgiving Fellowship



*Expounding the Scriptures, Exhorting the Saints,
Exalting the Savior*



God Doesn't Whisper

Chapter 6: Faulty Assumption #3, Part 2
By Jim Osman, Pastor/Teacher

WHERE IS THAT, EXACTLY?

Which passage teaches that we must learn to listen for God's voice? Where does the Bible say His voice is difficult to hear, challenging to discern, and waiting to be heard?³⁰ You won't find it. Yet, without any biblical precedent, either by explicit teaching or example, Hearing the voice of God (HVG) teachers claim God's voice is so easily eclipsed by the noise of our daily lives and so quietly whispered in the recesses of our distracted minds, that we are in danger of missing it.

HVG advocates need to demonstrate two things in Scripture.

First, they must provide some examples of God *trying* to speak without being heard; examples of times when the intended recipient of God's voice was unable to hear Him. They claim God is speaking in the same way today as He did in Bible times, so it should not be difficult to find myriads of such examples. If this happens all the time today, it must have happened all the time back then. They should be able to cite dozens upon dozens of instances where God's ability to communicate was hampered by man's inability to hear Him.

They claim this is happening to us every day. In his book *Frequency*, Robert Morris writes, "We need to tune in to the frequency of heaven and hear the voice of God,"³¹ and, "God is speaking all the time, but the only ones who hear are those who tune in to the right frequency through humility and obedience."³² Apparently the voice of God is like a radio station that is always broadcasting. We merely need to tune to the

appropriate frequency to pick up the heavenly messages constantly coming our way. It should be easy to show in Scripture a multitude of examples of God speaking, only to be frustrated because the intended recipient of that communication wasn't adequately tuned in. We need one example of one individual who didn't hear God because they hadn't learned how to hear His voice. There isn't a single example in all of Scripture of someone learning this discipline or needing to do so.³³

Second, they must point to passages of Scripture that teach believers how to receive these whispers. There is abundant teaching on a wide variety of issues essential to our sanctification and maturity. We have teaching on how to handle persecution (1 Peter), how to relate to a spouse (Ephesians 5), how to mortify sin (Romans 6), how to raise and discipline children (Proverbs), and how to handle conflict and treat masters and/or slaves (Colossians 3). We are given detailed instructions on how to structure a church (1 Timothy 3), how to exercise church discipline (Matthew 18), the roles of women in ministry (1 Timothy 2, 1 Corinthians 11), and dozens of other vital topics. Where is the passage that teaches us how to hear from God?³⁴ Where does an apostle instruct us on this ability so essential to our church, our community, and our nation?³⁵ Where is that chapter - that clear passage - that describes this essential practice without which we are "in trouble at the very heart of our Christian life"?³⁶

Scripture nowhere commands believers

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to expect, listen for, or learn to hear the voice of God for themselves. The ability to hear God is nowhere taught in Scripture. Priscilla Shirer laments that “deliberately listening for God’s voice seems to be a lost art these days.”³⁷ The advice she offers in this vein is completely without biblical support: “If we want to hear Him speak, however, we must also learn to pray without words. To listen for His voice.”³⁸ She teaches that we “must ‘listen’ for God if we want to hear Him speak to us.”³⁹ Despite her insistence that “*listening to God is a purposeful activity that we are supposed to start doing,*”⁴⁰ you won’t find any such counsel in the pages of Scripture. Neither Jesus, nor the apostles, nor any author of the Old Testament ever encouraged this activity among the people of God.

The reason for this is simple: *If God is not speaking, no amount of learning can bestow the ability to hear Him.*⁴¹ If God is speaking, then no amount of distraction will keep you from hearing Him. You cannot learn to hear something that is not being said. You cannot miss something that God intends for you to hear. Therefore, the teaching that you must learn how to hear God’s voice is utter nonsense.

THE APOSTOLIC TEACHING

Not only are there no examples in Scripture of people being encouraged to listen for the voice of God, but we actually have examples to the contrary. As Paul sat in a Roman prison awaiting execution (2 Timothy 4:6-8), he didn’t direct Timothy to private revelations, still small voices, and inner impressions. He directed Timothy to the written Word of God. Paul reminded him of the “sacred writings” and their divinely inspired nature (2 Timothy 3:14-17). He instructed Timothy to “preach the Word” not “listen for His voice.”

Likewise, Peter, knowing his death to be imminent (2 Peter 1:12-15), directed his readers to the written Word of God. That Word, provided through apostles and prophets, he described as “the prophetic word made more sure” (v. 19). Peter counted the written Word as “more sure” than even the most elaborate and glorious of experiences (vv. 16-18).

What most concerned the apostles in their dying days wasn’t that “deliberately listening for God’s voice seems to be a lost art these days,” but that the centrality of the inspired, inerrant, written Word of the living God might be eclipsed. Sadly, I would suggest that in the writings of those who teach others to listen for the voice of God, the fear of the apostles has been realized. HVG teachers allow the clear Word of the living God to be obscured by subjective impressions, uncertain whispers, and unreliable experiences.

Further, it must be an omission of epic proportions that none of the apostles ever thought this discipline⁴² was necessary for those who serve as elders in the church. There are two lists of qualifications given in the pastoral epistles (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9). Paul doesn’t mention the “ability to hear God speak” or “discern the voice of God” or “hear God for himself” in either of these passages. Given the teaching of HVG proponents, we might at least

expect to find that elders must be “able to hear God clearly.” Blackaby says that if a Christian “does not know when God is speaking, he is in trouble at the heart of his Christian life!”⁴³

If this is the mark of a vibrant and mature faith, why isn’t it a qualification for eldership? If God is giving essential directions for our churches through quiet whispers and subtle impressions, why isn’t it required of those who lead the church to be “able to hear God clearly”? We would expect those who are most mature and able to handle the shepherding of others would themselves have cultivated the ability to discern the voice of the Shepherd. How could they teach others this vital discipline if they have not mastered it themselves? No such requirement is mentioned. If this ability to hear God is as essential as HVG teachers claim, then this inexcusable oversight by the Holy Spirit is nothing short of gross negligence!

Contrary to the claims of HVG advocates, Scripture doesn’t teach that the mark of maturity is an ability to tune into God’s “frequency” and enjoy “two-way conversation.” Christian maturity isn’t the ability to read signs and exegete impressions. Believers are never encouraged to listen for the voice of God outside Scripture. The work of the Holy Spirit is to illumine the objective, written Word of God, not provide “words from God” through vague impressions and random thoughts.

THE CONTRARY EXAMPLES

If the position I am advocating is true, then we would expect to find that when God speaks, He has no problem being heard. We would expect to see examples of both believers and unbelievers hearing God without ever having to learn how to hear His voice. This is exactly what we find!

When God spoke to Moses (Exodus 3-4), He didn’t need special instruction on how to tune in to God’s frequency. Joshua (Joshua 1) didn’t need to learn how to hear God’s voice to receive God’s messages. Noah didn’t need years of experience in misreading God’s voice - making humiliating mistakes through trial and error - before he was able to accurately hear God.

HVG advocates claim God is speaking today in the same way He did in Bible times. Yet the way in which they claim that God speaks bears no resemblance to what we read in Scripture. No prophet was required to spend years learning to hear God. There are no believers in Scripture who had difficulty hearing God. The reason for this is simple - when God wants to speak, He speaks. No one ever had to learn to hear God because hearing Him is not something that needs to be learned! God doesn’t whisper! He doesn’t stutter. He doesn’t have trouble being heard. He doesn’t struggle to communicate. He doesn’t try to get His messages through.

Scripture also gives examples of pagan, rebellious, hard-hearted unbelievers hearing God without years of trial and error.

Before God called Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldeans, he and his family were idol-worshippers (Joshua 24:2). When God gave instructions and

Sunday School <<<

Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m.

1st-2nd Grade Class: Mark and Holly Haymond, teachers

Mark and I are so thrilled to be teaching the 1st and 2nd grade Sunday school class together! We are currently studying the book of Matthew and the life of Christ. The kids enjoy singing Bible songs (their favorite so far is "I Will Make You Fishers of Men"), reciting Scripture, and discussing the day's lesson. The girls outnumber the boys by about 3 to 1 (we usually have about 12 kids total), but the boys don't seem to mind, and they all enjoy sharing personal wisdom and stories from their own lives that may or may not illustrate key themes from the day's lesson. We're looking forward to the Christmas season and have some fun things planned to celebrate Advent with this bright and lively crew!



>>> **Missionary Moment—**

Dear brothers and sisters at KCC,
Thank you for your recent gift. Wow! Our need is met and I cannot wait to see the fruit that abounds to your account. No doubt, a bountiful harvest is in store for you.

By the time you get this, we will have received a new "progress" report. I will pass that on to you as you are certainly invested in my health.

Thank you for caring for me. It means a lot to both Lynda and me.

Your financial gift allows us to be aggressive in our fight against this intruder (cancer). May God pour out His grace upon you.



Yours by grace,
Bruce and Lynda Morock

PRAYER CHAIN HELP

There is a need for a volunteer who can distribute the emailed prayer requests. This person would need to be reliable in checking their email multiple times a day, and have the ability to send out group emails quickly. If you can do this, please contact Jennifer Barba, Lisa Slippy or Marcia Whetsel.

**Care package collections
Nov. 1-22 in the church foyer.**

KCC COLLEGE/MILITARY ADDRESSES

Please consider donating to the care packages or contacting them with words of encouragement.

Moody College of Spokane

Katherina Kinne
802 E. Baldwin Ave., Apt. 6
Spokane, WA 99207

US Army

Noah Black
CMR 427 Box 3184
APO AE
09630-0032

University of Idaho

Kellie Rich
2984 E. Palouse River Dr.
Moscow, ID 83843

US Air Force

Brandon Parnell
11700 S. Laurel Dr. Apt. 4B
Laurel, MD 20708

Conrad Becker

MSC 1176
901 Paradise Creek Rd.
Moscow, ID 83843

Masters University

Lydia Martin
Box 1721
21726 Placerita CYN Rd.
Santa Clarita, CA 91321



>>>Garden of Readin'

JOHN MACARTHUR

WORSHIP

THE ULTIMATE PRIORITY

WORSHIP By John MacArthur

To worship our glorious God is the purpose of all creation. So why do we treat it as only what is sung or played in church on Sunday morning? In this book, John MacArthur leads readers through Scripture texts about true biblical worship, which is the nonstop role of believers, not just part of a church service. Find it in the "Worship" section of the library.

Please contact Jenny Leo (208-610-2520) about donations or any library-related matter.

Women's Ministry <<<

KCC Ladies' Christmas Tea

Saturday, Dec. 5, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

At the church

Please bring:

A gift for the exchange
Last names A-L, sweet snack
Last name M-Z, savory snack

Gift Exchange

Please bring a wrapped Christmas decoration for the gift exchange. It can be as simple or as fancy as you want to bring.

Secret Prayer Sisters

This is an opportunity for women to not only get to know one another better, but also to pray specifically for someone all year. Partners can be secret or disclosed. Gifts throughout the year are optional, though the emphasis is praying for one another.

Childcare Provided

a donation basket will be available



>>>Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp

Please visit the camp website at clbcamp.org for more details.

FALL SCRAPBOOK RETREAT

November 6-7, 2020

Time: Registration at 4:30 p.m.

For: Ladies 13 and up



FALL YOUTH RETREAT

November 13-14, 2020

Time: 5 p.m. Friday - 4 p.m. Saturday

For: Teens



Student Ministries



November Dates

- 4 Guys' and Girls' Bible Studies, 7:30-9 p.m.
- 11 Youth Group @ KCC, 7-9 p.m.
- 18 Guys' and Girls' Bible Studies, 7:30-9 p.m.
- 25 Youth Group @ KCC, 7-9 p.m.

STUDENT LADIES: SAVE THE DATE!

There will be a mother/teen daughter workshop on biblical femininity and related topics on January 9, 2021. More details to come. If you would like to participate in the planning process, talk to Jennifer Barba.



*He will cover you with His feathers &
Under His wings
you will find refuge*

Psalm 91:4



Volleyball season is coming to a close! Our end-of-season tournaments this year will be held at Real Life in Post Falls. JV is Nov. 6 and Varsity is Nov 7. For the full schedule please go to kootenaithunder.com



We are gearing up for a great basketball season! Currently, Thunder is looking for a boys' basketball coach. If you are interested in this fun ministry opportunity, please contact Tracy Jensen at 208-290-7898.

>>>Kootenai Thunder

kootenaithunder.com

For the most current information, please check our website and Facebook page.

GIFT-IN-A-JAR FUNDRAISER

Choices: chocolate chip cookies, seed bread, chicken noodle soup



Contact one of our awesome Kootenai Thunder players for more details and to purchase these unique and thoughtful gifts for \$10 each.



Kootenai Classifieds >>>

BAKED GOODS

Selling home-baked cheesecakes (baked with love): \$20 each. My original has graham cracker crust with plain cheesecake and raspberry topping. Also taking special orders for any baked good.

Call/text 208-597-6299 Anna Bottcher



HOMEGROWN HERBS AND VEGGIES

Now: parsley, lovage, dill, kale, carrots, tomatoes, beets, onions

For prices and more availability
call Andrea Kinne
208-265-0102

>>>Adventure Club



November

- 6 Club Night
- 13 Club Night
- 20 Club Night
- 27 No Club - Happy Thanksgiving!

Adventure Club is held on Friday nights from September - May. Doors open for check-in at 6:30 each night. Adventure Club ends at 8:15. We appreciate parents being on time to pick up clubbers at the end of the night.

SPOTLIGHT: SCOUTS!

Adventure Club is divided into three age groups. Scouts is for 1st-3rd graders!

- Bryce and Emily Barba are **Directors** of this group, with Ben Bryan being the Large Group Teacher.
- The **Leaders** are Jason and Angie Cates, Kris Bryan, Gina Hall, Jacque Cowell, and Jackson Black.
- The **Leaders in Training** (teens ages 7th grade - 10th grade) are Spencer Barker, Sylvia Becker, and Olivia Barker.
- Clubbers also get an awesome snack each Friday night, served up by Mr. Lanny & Miss Carol!



The night is broken into three sections - Games (led by Mr. Jim and the awesome Games Crew - Seth Barba, Ayden Osman, and Liam Osman), Large Group Time (teaching, singing), and Small Group Time (explaining the lesson, answering questions, saying the Bible verse for the night).

We have been averaging 15 children in Scouts each Friday night, and we are ready for 15 more to join!

Adventure Club is something we have prayed for as a church body, and it is here. We prayed for leaders, and 37 people came forward. In Adventure Club, your child will develop relationships with Christian adults and be guided to Jesus Christ and taught biblically each week. What an amazing club we have right here in our church! Is your family plugged in? It's easy - just show up on Friday night at 6:30. Drop the kids off and go on a Mom and Dad Date. Then come back at 8:15 and pick up some tired and happy kids.

Questions? Talk to Dave & Diane Rich.



Church News <<<

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Due Date: November 15

Shoebboxes are a great way to bless needy children around the world at Christmastime. For more information on packing a box, please refer to <https://www.samaritanaspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/>



GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.

MID-WEEK MINISTRIES

MONDAYS - 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Bible Study
209 Heath Lake Rd., Sagle
Led by Lori Wood
Studying Colossians

WEDNESDAY YOUTH STUDIES - See p. 5 for details

THURSDAYS - 9:30 a.m. Playgroup
At the church
Led by Emily Hill

THURSDAYS - 6:30 p.m. Ladies' Bible Study
67 Ponder Point Dr., Sandpoint
Led by Lisa Slippy
Studying *Attitudes of a Transformed Heart*

THURSDAYS - 7:00 p.m. Mid-Week Bible Study
At the church
Led by Bryan Wood -- Studying Jonah

FRIDAYS - 6:30-8:15 p.m. Adventure Club
At the church, for kids age 3 - 6th grade

SATURDAYS- 10:00 a.m. Single Ladies' Bible Study
At Barb Thompson's once a month
Contact Barb Thomson for details: 208-304-2287

HE IS NOT AFRAID OF
BAD NEWS; HIS HEART IS
FIRM, TRUSTING IN
THE LORD.
PSALM 112:7

promises to Abraham, Abraham had no difficulty hearing God and understanding the message (Genesis 12:1-4). He didn't need to learn how to hear from God. Abraham was a pagan idolater with no years of experience in discerning the "still small voice." God spoke and Abraham heard clearly without years of learning by trial and error.

Did Saul of Tarsus need to learn how to listen to the voice of the Shepherd before Christ spoke to him on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-19)⁴⁴? Later in Acts, Paul spoke of his conversion experience (Acts 22:3-21) and how Jesus spoke to him shortly after his conversion (vv. 17-21). Saul, a persecutor of the Church, didn't need to learn how to "listen" or tune into God's "frequency" to hear the Shepherd. With no previous experience, while an enemy of God, Saul of Tarsus heard God without any problem. Then as a new believer, without years of practice, experience, and trial and error, he was able to hear God when God spoke.

God was able to speak to Cornelius, who wasn't a born-again believer. Yes, Cornelius was one who "feared God," but he was not saved (Acts 10:1-8). He was an unbeliever and he didn't need to learn how to hear God speak. Nebuchadnezzar never learned to listen for God's voice (Daniel 4:31-32) and he heard God.

Abraham, Nebuchadnezzar, Saul of Tarsus, and Cornelius all prove that God is heard when He wills to be heard. No special skill is necessary to hear Him. Why were these unbelievers able to hear God, but modern believers can't without the special instruction and training provided by HVG teachers? Why do believers need years of practice, experience, and trial and error, to be able to hear God while an unbeliever like Abraham or Saul didn't?

Remember the HVG claim: God is speaking today "just like in Bible times." "God hasn't changed!" they claim. "He hasn't gone mute. The Bible is full of examples of God speaking and He does it the same today!" The Bible gives plenty of examples of God speaking to men and women. However, it doesn't give any examples of God speaking quietly on a frequency that can only be heard by those who have cultivated a special ability. The examples of Scripture prove the opposite of what HVG teachers claim. God doesn't whisper His Word. When God speaks, He is heard. There are no examples of God speaking and not being heard. There are no examples of someone learning to hear Him.

Nobody needs to learn to hear God. If God is not speaking, you will not hear Him no matter what disciplines of solitude you cultivate. If He were to speak, then you could not miss Him. He never tries to speak. God doesn't whisper.

Footnotes available in the book *God Doesn't Whisper* by Jim Osman.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP TO BE IN THE ONLINE CHURCH DIRECTORY?



If not...

Please give your information to Marcia
or email her at
secretary@nctv.com.

Only those in the directory will be able to
access the online directory.

ATTENTION PARENTS

Here at KCC, we love and welcome the entire family to our worship services, including babies and toddlers. We are committed to standing by the parents in helping train the little ones to sit quietly in the service. Whereas a little noise as you are trying to soothe a fussy or talkative child is OK, it does become a distraction and disservice to the rest of the congregation when the noise is prolonged. Our nursery has been set up to accommodate a parent who doesn't want to miss out on the service while taking a fussy child out for a time to calm him/her down. The service is broadcast through speakers, and the windows are there so you can see the sanctuary. You are welcome to drop your child off at any point in the service, or stay with him/her. Also, please keep in mind that children should not run in any part of the building at any time. We want to be mindful of those who may not be steady on their feet and might fall if a child runs into them or startles them. Children are also not allowed on the stage. Please monitor your children between and after the services.



Thursday Playgroup

Moms with children 5 and under are invited to KCC on **Thursday mornings from 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m.** to visit and let the kids play! Coffee and tea provided! Please contact Emily Hill at 208-596-6904 with any questions.

Kootenai Community Church

P.O. Box 593
Kootenai, ID 83840

208-255-5668
kcc@nctv.com
www.kootenaichurch.org

*Thanksgiving
Fellowship*
at KCC
Thursday, Nov. 26, 12-3 p.m.

*Turkey and ham
will be provided and everyone
can bring a side dish and dessert.*

If you'd like to join us, please RSVP by November 18
to Peter & Amanda Hammond at 406-830-7002
or amanda@backwoodsbobcat.com.

**Join the
CHRISTMAS
CHOIR
Now!**

Practices will begin
Sunday, Nov. 8, after church

**Performance on
Sunday, Dec. 20**

Directed by KC Swanson.
Please contact her for further
information.

