

4 Keys to Hearing God's Voice (Mark Virkler, 2010)

Habakkuk 2:1-3: *I will stand on my guard post and station myself on the rampart; and I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me, and how I may reply when I am reproved. Then the LORD answered me and said, "Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run. For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal and it will not fail though it tarries, wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay."* These are the 4 keys to hearing God's voice. **Be Still. Fix your eyes on Jesus. Tune to spontaneity. Write** the flow of thoughts and pictures.

Focusing the eyes of our hearts upon God causes us to become inwardly still, raises our level of faith and expectancy, and makes us fully open to receive from God. Habakkuk hears God's voice within him, spontaneous thoughts that lit upon his mind. When God begins to speak, the first thing He says is, "Record the vision." Becoming still, using vision, tuning to spontaneity, and journaling are the elements used by the prophet. This is the divinely ordained pattern that assists us in our approach to God and helps lift us to the level of the Spirit. Until I combined all 4 of these elements in my devotional life, I was unable to discern God's voice and commune with Him.

John used the same 4 keys when he wrote the book of Revelation. *I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, saying, "Write in a book what you see..."* (Rev 1:10-11). Anyone who uses all 4 keys will hear God's voice!

Christ often speaks to us using Scripture. When His inner voice lines up with your inner thoughts, rejoice. When the Lord's words do not come to pass as expected, go back and ask Him why. He will tell you. If the issue degenerates into a confusing mess that you can't comprehend, that's fine. Just put it on the back burner and maybe someday you will receive understanding about it.

My confidence grew as I saw results. I recognized a distinction between His spontaneous thoughts and my analytical thoughts. Learning to hear God speak to me requires wanting it badly enough to work on it. You will not learn much about the spiritual world until you take time to be quiet and look within. Relating to the spiritual world is complex and takes as much time and effort as relating to the physical world.

Of paramount importance is learning to break free from the prison of rationalism. Learn how to have spiritual experiences--those that come from God's Spirit to our spirit and only secondarily to our brain. The Holy Spirit will mold my prayer life, instead of me reducing the principles of prayer to legalistic bondage.

We come to know truth with our hearts or spirits, rather than with our minds. Through intuition, we sense the promptings of the Holy Spirit and the voice of God. *You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; come to Me, that you may have eternal life* (Jn 3:39-40). Many neglect the Bible and rest in a belief of the articles of faith. Others search the Scriptures to see what they say about Christ and rest in the formation of correct theological opinions.

Della journaled: It only feels bad because of what you are holding on to. I am the laughing Jesus, or else there would be no laughter on earth. Turn your worry into warfare and your problems into prayers. Mark journaled: I shall utilize both his (the evil one) and My efforts together to demonstrate My victory. Thus I shall rule over all--both the forces of good and of evil. Has not the process always been integral to My plans--Joseph's many years of slavery; Moses' 40 years on the backside of a desert; My Son's death and torment before being exalted? CELEBRATE the process.

I see your heart, My heart in you. There are 2 choices before you today. To dwell in Me or to dwell in you, on your sins, your failures or struggles. Choose the better. I do not see with your eyes, but you can see with Mine.

New Agers contact demons, familiar spirits, and evil spirits. Christians who are covered by the blood of Jesus and guided by the Holy Spirit are led into the throne room of God. We test our revelation against the Bible. They don't. New Age deceptively embraces ideals and values that are very similar to Christianity. New Agers believe humanity can reach for these goals and achieve them through our own effort, willing to draw from anyone's experiences or insight. They do not have a written standard against which to test their experiences and teachings, as Christians do. In the Garden of Eden: "Man can become like God" (Gen 3:22).

We shall not concern ourselves with how cults draw upon biblical concepts--only with encountering the God of the Scriptures. The New Age has arisen to take territory abandoned by mainstream Christianity. Because Christianity (even most Charismatics) neglected the intuitive and relational and majored on the propositional and the analytical, a void has been left in the hearts of those seeking spiritual encounters. The best antidote for the New Age teachings is for Christians to live fully in the supernatural.

Christianity is a relationship to be lived, not a theory to be proved. The Church largely lost the battle of ideas by conceding that it was confined to arguments over ideas. Since 1900 we have seen over 400 million Charismatic and Pentecostal Christians worldwide swept into new (or restored) moves of the Holy Spirit. New Age is Satan's reaction to this mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Since when does light fear darkness?

Christians seek fellowship with the Holy Spirit. New Agers seek fellowship with any beings in the spirit world. Christians worship by fixing their eyes on Jesus. New Agers use mantra. Impressions sensed in the heart are registered in the mind and recorded by the hand. It is similar to the Psalms except that one's journal never becomes Scripture--it is tested by Scripture. We must accept mistakes as part of every learning process, and not despise prophetic utterances or reject the goal of clearly discerning God's voice.

Fix your eyes on the Lord as you wait before Him. See what names pop into your mind and jot them down. Those who do not establish and draw on spiritual advisors are usually unsuccessful in maintaining a lifestyle of living out of the voice of God over the long term. The end of the Law is always death, and I came to realize that if I tried to live out of laws, I would experience a death process working within me. I discovered a new way of living, that of living out of the Spirit of

God, who has great finesse in handling the laws of God. It's not that some principles are right and some are wrong. It's that some are weightier. The accuser's stance is Satan's attitude. The comforter's stance is the Holy Spirit's position--the Micah 6:8 balance: *He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?* God, You love justice and only do mercy--but I love mercy and only do justice. **The Lord began to show me the proper place and purpose of laws and rules in my life.**

Rules are meant to serve man--to assist in releasing the maximum amount of life possible. Begin with the goal of "life" and see what application of which rules releases the most life within and through me. You can trust the intuitive flow of My Spirit more than the boxes you build with your mind.

I began to set aside my love for boxes and theological grids of truth and to cherish the intuitive, healing flow through my heart from the One so much wiser and more embracing than I. **I dismantled the idolization of my mind and established my heart as the throne that God has chosen as the center of life and the avenue through which to communicate with others.**

I moved from rational Christianity toward spiritual Christianity. I had been living out of the Bible, rather than out of God Himself. The thing the Pharisees loved most was the Law. They memorized it, spoke it, lived it, and taught it to others.

Christian mysticism is a belief in direct spirit encounter with God, that there is both a physical world and a spiritual world. These are the 5 senses designed to touch the spiritual world: Eyes of the heart, Ears of the heart, Inner mind, Inner will, Emotion of the heart, where we are able to sense and experience the emotions of Almighty God flowing through us to experience the feelings of God. Instead of having 5 senses that touch one world, we have 10 senses that touch 2 worlds.

49% of the New Testament refers to spiritual (nonrational) experiences. To be bound by rationalism will cut off half of New Testament Christianity. You will lose your opportunity to flow in the 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit; to receive guidance through dreams and visions; to have a fully meaningful and effective prayer life; to commune with the Lord in a dialogue, to build an intimate relationship with Him. We must discover our spiritual senses and instate them in our lives. Jesus joined rationalism and spiritual communion in perfect balance in His own personal life. Let us do the same.

Your mind has found its proper place. **Although it is the organ that processes revelation, it is not the organ that receives revelation—the spirit is.** The mind acts as a check and safeguard, comparing Rhema to Logos.

God never claimed to put everything He knew in the Bible. The left hemisphere of the brain works primarily with analytical functions, while the right processes intuitive and visionary functions--2 different approaches when receiving pure revelation: Luke's and John's method. *Bring me a minstrel, so that I might hear the word of the Lord* (2 Kgs 3:15).

Your responsibility is to be a channel for My Blessings to flow to others. I will maintain the flow. You give freely from an inexhaustible Source that can't be depleted. As you listen, hear and take to heart what I am saying, you will

believe with your whole heart. There is a chipping away at the walls and patterns of unbelief that have been a part of you.

I will help you to identify and pull down ungodly patterns of unbelief in your life. You are no different from My disciples. They were also steeped in unbelief as they walked with Me but I brought them to faith and relationship with Me. How was God going to teach me if I didn't recognize His voice? Lord, what do You want to say to me about the truths in this XXXX?

When spontaneous thoughts came, I responded to them with my own analytical thoughts and questions, and He would then reply to my questions. I found I was dialoguing with the Lord! *Make Me your greatest treasure so I can give Myself to you* (see Mark 12:30). *Search for Me with your whole heart so I can reveal Myself to you* (Jer 29:13). *Trust Me with your whole heart so I can guide your steps* (Prov. 3:5). *Praise Me with your whole heart so I can gift you with My presence* (Ps. 9:1). *Return to Me with your whole heart so I can be compassionate and bless you* (Joel 2:12). *God found a man who recognized His voice, believed His words, and obeyed His instructions. His name was Abraham, and he was honored with the title "the friend of God"* (James 2:23).

We often prefer a list of rules to a relationship. When God wanted to have a relationship with the Israelites and speak to them directly from the mountain, they chose instead to be governed by a set of laws (Dt 5:22-31). They will be required to put to death their own fleshly desires so they can be alive in the Spirit. So Moses got a relationship and the Israelites received laws. We, the Church of Jesus Christ, have come to another mountain and God is still speaking! We again have the opportunity to choose—will we finally embrace the loving personal communion our God is offering, or will we be content to let someone represent us? I discovered how burdensome living out of law becomes. The load becomes heavy instead of light, as Jesus promised.

When God speaks to me in the Spirit, His voice translates itself into thought concepts that I conceive in my mind. The imagination is the power of seeing harmonies, unities, and beauties in things. What I put in your hand goes further than the things you pick up. There is a time to be honest and there is a time to let go. First be honest and then let go.

Recognize God's voice as spontaneous thoughts. Stillness, Vision, Spontaneity, Journaling--the order of the keys as seen in Habakkuk 2:1-2. He shows us the way to walk through His Logos, the Word and the counsel of our spiritual overseers. Even circumstances are used to direct our way.

Logos emphasizes the content of the message. Rhema emphasizes the way in which it was received, specifically, through a spoken word. Rhema was never used in the context of "written words." Rhema, or the voice of God, is Spirit-to-spirit communication—where the Holy Spirit, in union with your spirit, speaks directly to you. Thoughts from my mind are analytical. Thoughts from my heart are spontaneous. I ask for the anointing and fix my eyes on Jesus. I tune to flow and believe the flow within me is the river of God. All the gifts of the Holy Spirit (Cor. 12:7-11) are received through the same heart posture in the same manner.

There are 3 categories of thought: 1) Spontaneous positive; 2) Spontaneous negative; 3) Analytical thoughts come from self, from our own reasoning process, and are

sensed as cognitive, connected thoughts. Only accept those from Category 1. Category 2 thoughts are rejected as soon as I am aware of them. Category 3, Analytical Thoughts, are replaced with “Spirit-led reasoning.”

God longs to speak to us through the Logos. He wants to give us a spirit of revelation, *to open the eyes of our hearts* (see Eph. 1:17-18), *to cause our hearts to burn within us* (see Luke 24:13-32). How can Logos become faith-giving Rhema? How can I precipitate its happening? By choosing biblical meditation over Western study. Nowhere does the Bible command us to study it, but rather to meditate on it. While study uses one faculty in one hemisphere of my brain, meditation invites the Holy Spirit to use every ability in both hemispheres. **Study gives reasoned knowledge, meditation revelation knowledge.** Meditation includes study. Verses become Rhema as a result of meditation. Flaky prophets suffer from underdeveloped analytical abilities to compare new revelation with knowledge gained from former revelation, life experience, the Scriptures and other godly people. What you saw as coincidence and incidental before, you will now view as deliberate and significant. Never fail to see where I am in the picture--where the need will be.

Be mindful of where you fix the eyes of your heart when you pray. If I pray about an issue while I have a definite direction about it in my own heart, it interferes with the signals coming from the throne of God and causes me to believe that God is confirming the direction I felt, whether He actually is or not. The intuitive flow comes out of the vision I am holding before the eyes of my heart. That’s why I am commanded to fix my eyes on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of my faith. Apparently wealth and riches were on Balaam’s mind because he said, “Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not do anything...” Lord gave him an answer consistent with the idol in his heart. However, God was angry with Balaam. There are other examples of Israel praying with an idol in their hearts and receiving the answers to their prayers that eventually brought hurt in their lives. Israel begged God for a king, and even though He didn’t want to give them one. When we pray with an idol in our hearts, we may get an affirmative answer from the Lord, but it will bring us destruction. We must see Jesus as One who is MUCH LARGER than the object or issue for which we are praying. When you wrote that section, were your eyes fixed on Jesus?

The journey is not about a destination of ministry, but of character, and of purity and intimacy with Me. We are told to let God do most of the talking when we come to Him (Ecc 5:1-2). This will cause a shift internally from the left hemisphere to the right hemisphere. Psalm 23 is a powerful expression of worship built around pictures.

Satan is not original. He is a copycat and only counterfeits things of value. The Church often gives everything over to Satan who accordingly ends up with everything, and the Church has nothing. To back away from something just because Satan is trying to get his hands on it and counterfeit it is a horrendous sin of giving in to the kingdom of darkness. You are in the death to the vision stage wherein you think life is falling apart on you, and you realize there is nothing you can do about it. This shall soon pass.

Daniel looked toward Jerusalem as he prayed. Habakkuk kept watch to see what God would speak. Maturity

involves knowing how to present both our logical faculties and our visionary faculties to the Holy Spirit to be used by Him. The results are Spirit-led reasoning, godly imagination, visions, and dreams. The New Testament Christians were able to precisely define the type of visionary encounter they were having. Vision on the screen. Within your mind vision.

Left-brain people (analytical, logical) generally do not see as clearly as those gifted with more right-brain leanings. The Bible says we have not because we ask not. For years I never saw, because I never looked, nor asked to see. I poised myself for the divine flow by choosing a Gospel story, meditating upon it, and asking God to fill it. Analytical thought doesn’t have the same power as thinking in images. He became creative only when he learned to “incubate” the visions and dreams God gave to him. Before I can live that way, I need to learn how to become a seer.

Once we have grown accustomed to looking expectantly into the spirit world for a vision from the Lord, it readily appears. “I was looking” is found 13 times in Daniel alone. I am a “seer” simply because I have become a “looker.” Protestants have held an ungodly belief that “All use of images constitutes a graven image.” The biblical stories and actions that came as a result of dreams and visions form a section of Scripture equal in size to the entire New Testament! Their ungodly belief causes them to ignore 1/3 of the Bible. Another fruit is that Protestants do not lead in the arts.

Jesus said to the woman at the well, “Go and sin no more.” He did not condemn, reject, or hate her; He received, protected, and loved her, sending her on with His instruction. I have looked at Jesus sitting on the edge of a well (Jn 4) and asked Him to speak to me the things He desires; and He has, through a gentle flow of spontaneous thoughts. Others have told me that when they began to use vision, they, too, did not see Jesus’ face. So be patient if that is your experience also.

Satan can block or dry up a channel but not the Source. You have seen the female form with eyes of the flesh. Now I want you to see a woman with the eyes of your heart—eyes that look upon the body, soul, spirit to see the complete vision that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit see.

I make it my goal to live as Jesus lives, out of a constant stream of divine pictures. *Watch and pray* (Mt. 26:41). *Fixing our eyes on Jesus* (Heb 12:2). we are to become like Jesus, and part of that is to live in pictures. All of the children and 2/3 of the adults I have polled often picture Bible scenes as they read them. Inner healing allows God to replace pictures in the art gallery of our minds, substituting pictures which do not have Him in them with pictures that do have Him.

Both Peter’s hurt and healing happened at dawn, around a charcoal fire, and involving a 3-fold confession. The Lord brought about an encounter that served to remind Peter of his denial. What had been and what was going to be were present in Peter’s mind and heart.

It is because of your cynical side that I have not been able to touch certain areas of your life. Things that happen to small children greatly impact their lives. I use 2-way journaling to ensure that people know I am talking about a dialogue with God. We often don’t differentiate His voice from our own thoughts, and so, we are timid about stepping out in faith. If we learn to discern His voice within us, we will walk

more confidently. Journaling allows us to write in faith believing the flow of thoughts and pictures is from the Lord.

The flow of God is arrested by doubt. By writing, I can receive whole pages in faith, knowing I can test it later. Journaling puts my mind as a facilitator of divine encounter, rather than a critic of it. Habakkuk was told to write what he received because there would be a period of time before it came about.

Journaling amounts to personal prophecy. The Bible repeatedly prohibits seeking out or listening to soothsayers or diviners. Questions about future outcomes nearly always involve the will of other people. That makes it always in a state of flux--sinful man does not always act in accordance with God's will. When God says He is going to do something, it is jurisdictionally available to you if you want to go after it and war legally for it. The future is changeable. If we keep pressing and asking when He has already refused to answer, we will generally get an answer from a lying spirit or according to our own desires. *My will is plain to those who will do My will.*

Witchcraft seeks knowledge of the future for our benefit. Dt 18 forbids us to approach God and use Him as the witchcraft practitioners use their familiar spirits. God ties His revelation to us to what He is doing in our lives at the moment.

It is God's will to heal everyone who comes to Him. But God's will is not always accomplished on earth. Healing is a conditional covenant and we should care for our spirit, soul, and body so that divine health can be manifest. If someone is not healed I still believe it is absolutely God's will that His children walk in health. I still believe it is always God's will to heal. I do not understand why His will is hampered in this life, and I grieve the loss of someone I loved. Knowing what the Bible says about Him will help discern what words are from Him. Right-brainers can reach further and with more dexterity into the spirit realm than left-brainers. **The prophetic have cultivated the ability to stand still before God while walking among men.**

Common reasons for journaling mistakes—and Solutions. Improper focus. Fix the eyes of your heart on Jesus as you pray. Be careful not to interpret what God says. Ask Him to interpret it. I block the divine flow by having my sights fixed on a limited number of options. Be open to limitless possibilities. It is Christ Himself to whom we hold tightly. All words, visions, and journaling are held loosely. See our minds like the hard drive of a computer, and our hearts and the intuitive flow as the software. Select apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers in the Body of Christ, to whom to relate for instruction and help and counsel.

Our minds and physical senses cannot receive the fullness of God's revelation. It must come to our hearts intuitively through the operation of the Holy Spirit living within us. The tabernacle represents the spirit, soul, and body of man. The Outer Court corresponds to man's body, where we receive knowledge mainly through our 5 senses. was illuminated by natural light, showing that we receive light (knowledge and revelation) through natural means. Holy Spirit revealing truth to our minds. (Oil often symbolizes the Holy Spirit in the Bible.) The Holy of Holies was a totally dark, enclosed tent with no natural or artificial source of light. When God was present, there was light.

The Brazen Altar symbolizes the Cross. The Brazen Laver represents God's Word. It was made from the mirrors that the Hebrew women donated for the building of the tabernacle. As we read the Bible, God holds up a mirror to our hearts, showing what we really look like. 12 special loaves of bread. Just as flour is ground fine for the making of the bread, so our will is ground fine as we totally commit our way unto the Lord. "Am I living in fellowship with the body of Christ? Is my will ground fine?" The Golden Lampstand represents Our Illumined Mind. The Altar of Incense represents Our Emotions. The Ark symbolizes Direct Revelation of the Spirit into Our Hearts.

Lack of faith Solution: Engage in "faith-builders" (tongue-speaking, worship in the spirit, praise, reading Bible promises, rereading your journal), using imagery, abandon yourself to the God who is faithful (Heb. 11:6). Your mind wanders Solution: Use a journal and use vision. As my 2 children learned to walk, they tried so hard, stumbled and fell many times. They hit their heads and hurt themselves so much for a period of many months, yet they would not give up. Walking just beats crawling, and the Holy of Holies just beats the Holy Place.

I find God speaks to me from the Outer Court, the Holy Place, and the Holy of Holies. When God speaks a prophecy like this through my journal, he reveals my potential. It is usually conditional on a number of things. If God says He is going to heal your marriage, then ask God what He wants you to do to be a catalyst for that healing. When another person's will is involved, God will not overrule their will.

God tests us to see if there is faith in our hearts, **Leadership transfers to those who remain optimistic.** Whatever you focus on grows within you and become. I will fix my eyes upon Jesus and Jesus will grow within me.

[The Lord began to show me the proper place and purpose of laws and rules in my life. I dismantled the idolization of my mind and established my heart as the throne that God has chosen as the center of life and the central avenue through which to communicate with humankind. Although the mind processes revelation, it is not the organ that receives revelation—the spirit is. Study gives reasoned knowledge, meditation revelation knowledge. Journaling amounts to personal prophecy. Leadership transfers to those who remain optimistic.]