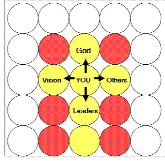


CONNECT

12 Jan 2010



Breakthrough! – in hearing God

(notes for Connect evening, Jan 12th, following 1 Samuel 1-4
-Rick Thomas)

1. John 10:4-5

Jesus uses the picture of the shepherd and his sheep to describe how he calls us to himself and then leads us on. Sheep recognize their shepherd's voice and respond to it. God doesn't only speak to the 'big' people! We can all get to know his voice.

What other voices compete for your 'head space'?

What have you found to be helpful in tuning out those voices in order to hear God more clearly?

2. John 15:15

How amazing a thought is this – that Jesus should confide in us as his friends! Now, of course, he hasn't got any guilty secrets to confide, but this is the language of intimacy and openness.

Can you think of anything the Lord has shared with you from his heart of late?

Am I listening, or just talking?!

3. John 16:12-15

Jesus explained to his followers that it is the Holy Spirit who actually 'speaks' to us, revealing God's heart and bringing to mind the words and ways of Jesus. The Holy Spirit uses various ways by which to communicate his word to us - guiding our thoughts, painting a picture in our mind, jogging our memory of Scripture etc etc.

In what ways does the Holy Spirit communicate with you? You may have a favoured way, but are you open to new ways as well?

Have you ever known the Holy Spirit use you to give a word of knowledge, wisdom or prophecy to another? Try to describe to someone else how it is that you recognize his 'voice'

4. 1 Sam 3:4-10

Samuel had Eli to turn to when he didn't understand what he was hearing.

Who do you turn to when you want to check out what you think God might be saying to you, or when you are confused and need some clarity? Do you need to cultivate one or two such relationships?

5. 1 Sam 3:3

Samuel slept near the Ark; he snuggled up to God! Hearing God is a habit and, like all habits, takes time to develop. Staying close to God increases our chances enormously!

What other good habits are likely to assist in keeping us close to God?

6. 1 Sam 3:1

There may be times, even today, when it seems as though the 'heavens are as brass', and we can't seem to hear from God at all.

From your experience, what helpful advice would you offer to someone in such a predicament?