

## Hearing and Obeying God's Voice

"I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food."-Job 23:12

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."-John 10:27

"Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."-Luke 11:28

### I. Objective "Logos" Word of God.

Logos is typically used in Scripture to refer to what God has said to His people, that is, the collection of God's sayings about Himself, His relationship with His creation and His Church. The Logos of God is true for all time and in all places. It is easy to see how this can be interpreted both as the bible (God's Word Written) and in the Person of Jesus Christ (God's Word in the Flesh) as seen in John's Gospel, Chapter 1.<sup>i</sup>

- A. God's decrees. A decree of God is a word of God that causes something to happen.<sup>ii</sup>
  - 1. "let there be light"- Gen.1:3
  - 2. "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made."- Ps.33:6
- B. God's personal address. This is when God spoke directly to people.
  - 1. "You may eat of every tree in the garden except..."Gen.2:16-17
  - 2. "This is my beloved Son..." Mt.3:17
- C. God's word through people. Frequently in scripture, God raises up prophets to speak what He is saying to His people.
  - 1. "I will put my words in his mouth..." Deut. 18:18-20
  - 2. "I have put my words in your mouth..." Jer.1:9
- D. God's word in written form.
  - 1. Tablets of stone were "written with the finger of God" Ex.31:18
  - 2. "write it before them on a tablet, and inscribe it in a book" Isa.30:8
- E. God speaks through Jesus who is also called the "Word of God."
  - 1. Revelation 19:13 "*and the name by which He is called is The Word of God.*"
  - 2. John 1:1 "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*"

### II. Subjective "Rhema" Word of God

Rhema is the subjective voice of God to an individual .(Holy Spirit) It is always subject to the Objective truth in scripture. God will **never** say something to you or others that contradicts his written objective word! It must be tested, confirmed by others, and applied in the right place, in the right timing, in the right way!

- A. Rhema is the voice of the Holy Spirit as he speaks to the believer at the present moment. In this sense, the Christian should be guided by the Holy Spirit as he/she is guided through inner feelings, impressions, dreams, visions, and signs. God's Rhema, the direct words of God to the individual, can also be imparted through the words of others, such as a preacher in a worship service, or a friend who counsels them. Orthodoxy says that God will not speak a word that contradicts His written word, the Scriptures, so there is a built-in safeguard to prevent misinterpretation.<sup>iii</sup>

1. The Holy Spirit speaks to us. (Jn.14:26) He will remind us of Jesus words.
2. The Holy Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are sons of God. (Rms.8:16)

### III. Receiving the Word of God

- A. The heart and the Word of God-
  1. "Seed"- *sperma* (Mt.13:18-23)
  2. The heart is the seedbed for the Word.
    - a. Mt.13:19 "Sown in his heart"
    - b. The "Seed" of the Word must have a womb/seedbed to impregnate/germinate for fruitfulness to occur!
- B. Obedience to the Word
  1. Full obedience vs partial (1Sam.15)
  2. James 1:22-25 (hearers and doers)
  3. Those who obey are blessed! (Luke 11:28)
- C. Testing of the Word.
  1. Tribulation and persecution (Mt.13:21)
  2. Wind, rain, storm (Mt.7:24-27)

### IV. Hindrances to Hearing God

1. Satan (Distorts, and snatches away the Word) Mt.13:19; Gen.3:1-4; Mt.4:3-11)
2. Hardness of Heart (rocky ground) Mt.13:20
3. Cares of the world/deceitfulness of riches (choke out the word) Mt.13:22
4. Seeking life in scriptures apart from Jesus (John 5:39)
5. God doesn't speak about all things all the time. (driven by principle or wisdom instead)
6. Revelation -> Interpretation-> Application

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<sup>i</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhema>

<sup>ii</sup> Systematic Theology, Wayne Grudem, p.47-50.

<sup>iii</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhema>