

# **Hearing God's Voice**



**By Amy Greijdanus**

# The School of Learning to Hear God's Voice

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KJV is the King James Version of the Bible.

Unless otherwise marked all scripture quotations are from the King James version of the Bible (KJV)

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## Chapter 1: God's Voice calls us to Abundant Life

My passion is to see people grow in their relationship with their heavenly Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. I believe an integral part of this is learning to hear God's voice. For how can I grow in a relationship with anybody if I do not get to know them and they get to know me. This is not possible, so to build a relationship, there must be heart to heart conversation between the two individuals. If you cannot hear the other individual, then a relationship cannot develop. So, this has birthed my passion to show people how they can hear God's voice. I also believe this is God's desire has for each person who comes to Him. It will help them in every aspect of their spiritual walk.

Let us look at scripture and see what the Bible has to say about hearing the voice of our heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

One of my favourite verses about hearing the voice of God is found in John 10 (emphasis mine)

Joh 10:1-10 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. (2) But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. (3) To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. (4) And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. (5) And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. (6) This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. (7) Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. (8) All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. (9) I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. (10) The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

In this part of scripture, Jesus is using a parable or picture language about sheep. To understand this, you must understand how shepherding happened in the days of the Old and New Testaments. In that time, during the day, the shepherds would take out their flock to let them eat, but at night, if they could, they would come into a sheep pen where multiple shepherds and flocks would gather to protect the sheep from the hunters (the wolves, bears, thieves, robbers etc.)

Some of the shepherds could then take the night off and somebody else would guard the sheep. Then, in the morning, the shepherd would come to get his sheep for the next day. To do this, he must separate his sheep from the other flocks. How would they do this, the shepherd would call his sheep by name, and they would come and follow him.

In Australia, we herd sheep by getting behind them on our horses or quad bikes and our cattle dogs to push them to the pasture that we want them to go. This is not what this scripture is talking about, it is talking about the sheep hearing the voice of the shepherd and following it. To do this, they must recognise the voice of their shepherd as many flocks are being separated.

Let us look again at the scripture to gain more understanding of the secrets that are here to understanding the voice of God:

In verse 3, Jesus is explaining something very profound.

He says that the sheep follow Him because they KNOW HIS VOICE.

We must be able to KNOW HIS VOICE to be able to follow Him.

How can we know His voice? As I was pondering this, I thought about the little lambs that were born, how did they learn to know the shepherd's voice – they would have followed their mother as she followed the voice of the shepherd and the lamb would then, in this way, learn the voice of the shepherd.

I also heard that the shepherd would put the baby lambs under their shirt to carry them and to bond with them, the lambs would hear his voice as the shepherd spoke to them and the whole herd and would associate it with warmth and protection.

Then just like a baby in the womb, the lamb will bond with the shepherd himself and learn the voice of the shepherd.

To put that in our context, how can we get to know the voice of our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ?

1. By spending time with somebody who can be a 'mother' or 'father' in Christ. They can mentor us in the ways of Jesus Christ and what His voice sounds like.
2. Spend time with Jesus Christ so that you recognise His voice, get to know how much He loves you and wants to protect you.

I am a mother with 4 children. When they were young, I could hear their voice before they were even able to speak.

From a large group, whether that be creche at Church or the shopping mall, I could know if my child was crying. I could work out which one of the four, I could know if they were in danger, hunger or needing attention just by the sound of their cry.

Even a wall was not enough separation, I could still hear them. I was attentive to their cry. I was listening for them. This came because of the amount of time I spent with my children to bond with them and build a relationship with them.

They also knew my voice; they could hear if I were close by, they would come if I called them. They would quiet down when they heard my voice.

I am one of 8 children and when my father was going out with all of us, he had a special way he would whistle and all of us would know to come as it was time to go, we would all come running to where he was. I can still remember one day, when I had already left home, I was at the shops and unbeknownst to me, so was my father. He saw me and was too far away to call me, so he whistled. I immediately turned to the whistle as I knew that my father was there. I knew his voice in a crowd where I was not expecting it and still, I answered.

## **KNOW**

Then I want to look a little more deeply at the word KNOW.

What is KNOW, it is more than just our current definition of know, which is to be aware of someone through meeting and spending time with them; be familiar or friendly with them.

The KNOWING that is in Know the voice of their shepherd is a deeper KNOWING that comes from a deep relationship with the individual, it is an intimate knowledge of them, not just a superficial knowledge.

There are many well-known people in the world today.

Many have biographies about them, giving you the story of their life written by somebody else.

I could even read an autobiography of that person, written by the individual.  
This would give me some KNOWLEDGE about the person, but I still do not KNOW them.

To get to know them, I would have to spend time with them, talk to them, listen to them and delight in spending this time with them.

This leads to a relationship – which is what God says we are called to:

1Co 1:9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

We have been called to a RELATIONSHIP with Jesus Christ.  
To have a relationship, we must be able to speak together.  
A relationship would not work if only one person was able to speak.  
Both people must be able to speak and share their hearts.

To explain what I mean, when I was 18, I was with my parents and my 7 brothers and sisters in a room. In such a large family, you often have feelings of insecurity, do they see me, do they know me, do they listen to my opinion. I decided to do an experiment and say something shocking to see if anybody was listening to me.

I said out loud in the room that I was pregnant (which I was not, but I was just experimenting).  
Nobody even lifted an eyebrow or commented.

Nobody had heard me; nobody was aware that I was even in the room.

This was so traumatic for me, I still remember it clearly, I felt that I was validated in my belief that nobody listened to me, and I was not important in the family. My heavenly Father has spent many hours assuring me of His love for me, my importance to Him and that I had to do nothing to earn that importance, I received it just by being myself.

How did that healing happen, by listening to the voice of my heavenly Father and letting His words flow over my heart, touch my heart and heal those wounds? This relationship with my heavenly Father could only be built as we spent time together and shared our hearts.

A relationship must be built on people speaking but also people listening with their hearts to interact and FELLOWSHIP together to see the friendship built.

It then goes onto say that we must become so familiar with the voice of our heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit that we will be able to distinguish if it is the enemy, and then choose not to listen to that voice.

Joh 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

Then John 10:10 gives us the promise of what will happen when we learn to KNOW the voice of God and follow it. Then we will have the ABUNDANT LIFE that Jesus speaks of. This gives us so much joy, peace, power, ability to love others – it gives us an abundant life, where we do not just survive but we live abundantly, enjoying our life and all that we do.

If we are not living in this abundant life of joy, then we are letting the thief come in to steal, kill and destroy the life that God has given us.

Reach out for this abundant life by deepening your relationship with your heavenly Father, He is waiting with arms open wide to bring you into this abundant life by removing all your sins, bondages, pain, sorrow, and grief.

He does this by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ when He died on the cross for your sin, sorrow, pain, bondages, and grief. He took all of those on Himself to give you this eternal abundant life. This is gained by the gift of grace. Reach out for it and receive it.

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

### **Prayer for Salvation and Relationship with the Father:**

If you would like to know your God, then pray the prayer of salvation which will bring you into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Dear Jesus Christ, thank you for dying on the cross for my sin, taking my place, so that I could go free.

I repent of the sin that I have committed knowingly or unknowingly during my life here on earth. Cleanse my heart from every unrighteousness by the blood that you shed on the cross for me. I choose to step from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light to become your child and start a relationship with You.

I want to know you in a deeply intimate way.

Help me in this process to hear your voice, remain on your path and never let me go.

Amen.

### **Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

Then when Jesus Christ left this earth, He said to the Apostles to wait until the helper, the Holy Spirit, would come to give them strength and power in their walk with God. He would live in them and guide them.

In Acts 1, He tells them about the Holy Spirit that is coming.

Act 1:4-5 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. (5) For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Jesus Christ talked about a baptism of the Holy Spirit not many days hence.

This happened 40 days later for those who were patiently waiting.

Act 2:1-4 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. (2) And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. (3) And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. (4) And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

They were baptised with the Holy Spirit, what was this baptism for?

Act 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Jesus Christ said this baptism was for power to be able to witness about who this God that had changed their life.

The book of the Acts of the Apostles is story after story of the Holy Spirit giving them boldness in their walk with the Lord and letting others know about this amazing God that they served to allow them to serve as well. There are more baptisms throughout this time, including fire and boldness. If you would like to know more about this baptism, then you could look up my husband's book, 'Baptisms of the Holy Spirit and Last Day Outpourings' by Nicholas Greijdanus which is freely downloadable on our website, [joelsendtimearmy.com.au](http://joelsendtimearmy.com.au).

The baptism of the Holy Spirit can be held back if you have idols or bondages in your life, so the prayer includes renunciation of them to see total freedom. If you do not receive the baptism straight away, keep seeking and knocking until the breakthrough comes.

### **Prayer for Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

If you would like to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit to give you power in your walk, please pray the following:

Father God, I ask you to fill me with Your Holy Spirit and fire, infill me with the glory of God so that the glory rests on me.

I renounce all darkness (name them)

I renounce all idols (name them)

I renounce the sinful works of the flesh (name them)

Father God, fill me and baptise me with the Spirit of glory and His power in the name of Jesus Christ.

Baptise me with boldness

Baptise me with fire

Fill me now with the Spirit of glory.

Thank you, I receive it now.

Amen





## Chapter 2: Hearing God's Voice

In this chapter, we will be looking at some of the ways to hear God's voice.

Before that, what is the purpose of hearing God's voice?

Is it so that we have instructions to go through the day?

Is it so that we can do miracles, signs, and wonders?

Is it so that we can boast to others that we have heard the voice of God?

What is the purpose that God wants to speak to us and listen to us?

I believe one of the main purposes is to build a relationship between God and His created beings, humans, who He made in His image so that He could have a relationship with them.

Gen 1:26 And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Gen 3:8 And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.

Jer 24:7 And I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto Me with their whole heart.

Here in Genesis 3, you see that Adam and Eve heard the voice of God walking in the garden. This was indicative of their relationship with God, a daily walk with Him. This was already alluded to in Genesis 1 but hidden in the verse where it says that God said let US (the Godhead, not just one but three in relationship with each other) make man in our likeness, this is where you can see they had a relationship in heaven and wanted to create humans to have a relationship with them as well.

In Jeremiah 24, the Lord explains the desire He has put in everyone to have a relationship – first with Him and then with other humans.

This is a relationship of the heart, not an observance of laws or voices but a WHOLE HEART surrender and relationship with Him.

This can only be achieved if we hear His voice, and He can hear ours.

There are many ways that I hear the voice of God that I will share with you, this list is not exhaustive as there are more ways and I am always discovering more ways. Also, He often speaks in multiple ways each time He speaks to me, I have them separated but they are often linked.

However, **I must put in a disclaimer**, on this journey of learning God's voice, you must learn that there are three places the voices that you hear could be coming from and learn which of these three is the voice of God.

What three voices are there:

1. The voice of God
2. The voice of the devil
3. Your voice - me, myself, and I.

We must take this seriously and with an open teachable heart, learn to discern which voice is speaking.

How can we then discern if it is truly the voice of God and not the voice of the devil or my voice?

I have learnt that there are a few checks that I can use to see if it is God's voice:

1. It should always agree with scripture

2. It should always give me peace.
3. It brings joy and life.
4. It resonates with my spirit that it is the Holy Spirit
5. It can be confirmed by two or three others

At the start, while I was learning, I found it a great idea to find somebody who hears the voice of God and can be your mentor so that you can get their guidance in the discernment of the source of the word that I had received.

Now I will often ask the Lord for confirmation several times and then talk to my mentor so that I am learning the discernment more and more myself. However, never think that you can go without being transparent with somebody who can check what you are hearing as it is very easy to get off track in hearing the voice of God and find yourself listening to your lustful desires and the voice of the enemy.

Yet the reward is so immense, brings joy, peace and abundant life if used wisely as it brings you into the first love with God.

What is this first love that God is talking about, let us look at Revelations 2 which discusses this:

Rev 2:2-4 I know they works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and has found them liars. And hast borne, and has patience for My name's sake has laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless, I have somewhat against thee because thou hast left thy first love.

When you read verses 2 and 3, you think this person must be a great Christian, they are doing so much for the Lord, they hate evil, they are discerning what is happening, they have persevered. Yet, God has against them, that they have lost their first love.

This first love is the love when you first became a child of God, that love that you felt, that joy, that peace, that desire to be in His presence, the desire to spend time with Him, the desire to tell others all about what you have found. It is a fire that burns in your spirit that is constantly drawing you towards your heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, you only want to do what they desire, and you have a fear of the Lord to do only His will in your life.

The voice of God is not for completing a list of instructions, it is for knowing God and remaining in that first love with Him.

Use your time with God to build your relationship with Him and let Him guide you in the works that you must do, however, remain in that deep, loving, intimate relationship with Him.

If that has dried up, the Bible says we must repent:

Rev 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou are fallen and repent, and do the first works, or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of this place, except thou repent.

This is serious, twice your heavenly Father says you must repent, or He will take away the light in your life.

So please heed His word, when you are learning to hear God's voice to stay in that first love with Him, that is the purpose of hearing His voice and the reason for our ministry that should stem out of this.

I cannot stress enough that we must stay humble. I have been hearing the voice of my Father for many years. Recently, I thought I heard Him say that a particular event that I was organising would

go ahead. So, I was planning it and getting everything ready. There was a chance that it wouldn't go ahead as we had to leave the state and border closures were a part of our life at this time. 6 days before we were to go, the borders closed, and we were unable to go to the event. This meant that the word I had heard was not from God. I tried to explain it away and say that maybe God just wanted to change my attitude about the event and that is why He said it would go ahead.

As I was contemplating this, I read in Titus that God does not lie. I was convicted to own up and say that I had misheard. This was my flesh speaking, not the voice of God. If my Father had needed to change my attitude, then He would have said that not told me a lie for me to change my attitude. No matter how far you are in your walk with the Lord, do not get proud or think you know it all. Stay humble in the sight of the Lord, so that He can lift you up in due time. Love Him with all your heart and stay pliable to His will and purpose in your life.

### **Ways to hear the voice of God:**

Over the years, I have been trained to hear the voice of my heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit in many ways. This has led me to a place where I daily hear the voice of God, if I do not, it is a choice I make not to listen.

This has brought great joy, peace, fruitfulness, and abundant life to me.

I thought that everybody heard the voice of God, however, I have found that this is not the case, that is why I thought to write about my experiences and how I hear the voice of God.

I believe that we hear the voice of God more than we realise. Before I heard the voice of God, I was making plans to stop work for a year and go back to my birthplace to see what I wanted to do with my life.

I was a born-again Christian but did not hear the voice of God. I planned to go to the Netherlands. One person said to me that it would be better to give that money to the poor than to use it on a pleasure trip.

I doubted whether I should go, however, I eventually did because the desire was very strong.

I see now, looking back over my life, that it was a pivotal move in my life that caused me to surrender my life to my heavenly Father in all things. I had accepted Him as Saviour but through this, He became Lord of my life.

So, I see that the desire in me, was from God, even though I did not understand or hear the voice of God. It was still there guiding me, and I believe that He is already guiding you, and as you start to open your spirit for the possibilities of how He can speak to you, you will probably find the same thing, that God has spoken to you and you have responded, even when you did not realise it was the voice of God.

Here are some of the ways that I have heard God speak to me over the years.

### **A picture**

Jer 1:11-13 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree. (12) Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it. (13) And the word of the LORD came unto me the second time, saying, What seest thou? And I said, I see a seething pot; and the face thereof is toward the north.

A picture is just that, a still image that can be used to say something.

In verse 11, Jeremiah answered the Lord about what he was seeing, then the Lord explained it.

Verse 13 again Jeremiah sees another picture, this is then explained by the Lord.

Pictures are one of the main ways God speaks to me. I will often see pictures before I hear a voice. I volunteer at a ministry where people come to us for prayer, in the training, before the people coming in, we must seek God to see what God wants to do for the people that we are praying for. Then, if we get anything, we can share it with the people and this will bring forth fruit as the word of God never comes back empty, it always gives.

God challenged me to go a step further, instead of maybe getting a word, I was to ask the Lord what He wanted to do for the person coming in for prayer. I do this, and every time I will get a picture. When I wait on the Lord, He will explain the picture so that I have a little of the understanding, however, full understanding often does not come until we pray for the person and then God will lead me further into what He wants to do for them.

So often, I have seen God move through this and every time, it thrills me as I feel I am being used by God to touch the lives of those people coming in for prayer. They will leave having a touch from the Lord which will help them to grow closer to the Lord.

### **A still small voice on the inside**

Act 8:29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

Philip was walking along the road and the Lord spoke to him. He obeyed and the Eunuch in the chariot gave his life to the Lord, was baptised, and started his relationship with God.

When I take the time to wait upon Him, whether that be with worship, reading scripture or just spending time in His presence, I will often get a picture and then I will get understanding of that picture, that will be with a still, small voice on the inside, that speaks to my spirit and gives life, joy, and peace. Then I know that I know that God has spoken.

He has so often spoken to me of His love for me, especially in times when I have been in situations that bring me pain, that I doubt myself or feel I am not good enough.

Sometimes He speaks about sins that have crept in that I need to repent of.

### **A bible verse**

This one is linked with the still small voice on the inside.

I have often had that I will ask my heavenly Father for an answer to a specific question. He will then give me a Bible verse which I look up. If I have the voice of God, then it resonates in my spirit, and I realise it is God speaking. I find many answers this way as this also means it is scriptural.

I will often read the verses around it to be able to put the verse in context and wrestle with what God is trying to say to me.

### **A word**

Luk 2:16-19 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. (17) And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. (18) And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. (19) But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

Somebody can bring a word to you, and it will be a word of the Lord, this can be in conversation, or a message sent. This will resonate in your heart that your heavenly Father has spoken to you, just as Mary knew and kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

One morning I needed encouragement, I was in a big battle at my workplace, and it was so that I did not want to go to work. That morning, before 8.00 am the heavenly Father spoke to me 5 times to encourage me to go to work. One of them was a word that somebody sent me on my phone. It was just something they had forwarded to me, but it was pertinent for me right then and there. It gave me the strength and resolve to go to work even when the situation was not ideal.

## **Nature speaks**

Psa 19:1-2 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. (2) Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

Rom 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Both verses say that God speaks to us through creation. This can be that you wonder at the amazing, detailed way different creatures have been put together and can function so perfectly.

It can also be a beautiful sunset that just is awe-inspiring, and makes you consider the Creator that formed it.

God shows details of Himself in the smallest detail of creation and the amazing vastness of His creation.

If we can take the time to meditate and consider these wonders, they can speak to us and reveal mysteries about God that we have not yet understood.

## **Dreams**

Mat 2:22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:

Dreams are night visions that happen while you are asleep. Dreams are a common occurrence, however, often you cannot remember your dreams.

The heavenly Father uses dreams to speak to people as they are a receptive audience. Many scriptural references talk about dreams that have been received and then acted upon, like the one above, where Joseph gets a dream to go home another way because of the threat of King Herod. However, receiving and writing down the dream is only half the problem. The second is that you need to interpret the dream. Many times, you cannot take the dream literally, it needs to be interpreted. In scripture, Daniel was known as a man who could interpret dreams, not because he had a special ability, but because he asked God for the interpretation. We need to ask our heavenly Father what He meant with the dream.

## Visions

A vision is a moving picture, like a film in your spirit. This can have words or just be a silent video. It is great to write visions down as they often have many meanings in them and can speak long after you have forgotten what was there.

I remember a vision I had, I was praying about where to go on outreach for the YWAM discipleship school, I had nearly completed the three months of teaching and we had a choice of joining three different teams to go to different areas for our three months of outreach.

I had just read that King David has specifically asked, should I do this? Should I do that? So I thought I would do the same and asked where I should go.

I saw the names of the three places appear before my closed eyes, coming closer and closer, as they got closer the middle name became larger and larger. This was a sign to me that this was the place where I should choose to go for my outreach.

It turned out to be a great outreach that stretched me to grow in my faith and my walk with the Lord.

Now let us look at a biblical example:

Act 10:1-6 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, (2) A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway. (3) He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. (4) And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God. (5) And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: (6) He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

Cornelius was in prayer when he saw a vision which gave a very specific instruction, this is what Cornelius then did, he sent for Peter, however, Peter did not think he wanted to go, so to prepare him, God put Peter into a trance.

## Trance

Bible gateway's online Bible dictionary describes a trance as An ecstatic state in which people may be aware of God communicating with them; it may cause them to lose control of their actions or to have abnormal strength. It is where the Holy Spirit takes over.

Act 10:9-17 On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: (10) And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, (11) And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: (12) Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. (13) And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. (14) But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. (15) And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, *that* call not thou common. (16) This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven. (17) Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,

God put Peter in a trance when he wanted to get up because he was hungry. So the Holy Spirit took over and showed him the vision of him eating unclean food.

When Cornelius' servants turned up, Peter was able to ask God what it meant and received this answer:

Act 10:19-21 While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. (20) Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them. (21) Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come?

This was a major shift for the church of the day, the apostles had only shared the gospel of Jesus Christ with other Israelites, now God was sending them out to other races, tribes, and tongues to also spread the gospel.

When we were in a glory meeting, we were seeing children go into trances. Why do I say they went into a trance? There were about 20 children and they all stood still for up to 30 minutes. That is not a usual occurrence, children do not like to stand still for 30 minutes, the Holy Spirit had taken them over.

My youngest son also was amongst them, he was about 5 years of age at the time and he stood still for about 20 minutes. He told me that he had been to hell and heaven. I wrote down all he had told me and still have a copy of this as the message was life-changing for my son.

## Angels

Act 8:26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

Act 12:6-9 And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. (7) And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon *him*, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from *his* hands. (8) And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. (9) And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

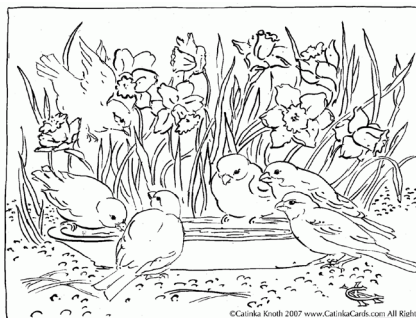
Angels were a common occurrence in biblical times, the angels announced the birth of Jesus. When you start to study the scriptures and focus on angels, you will see there are many references. I chose these two as the first is an angel instructing Philip as to his direction. However, the second scripture is the release of Peter from prison, an angel came to him, woke him up and led him out of the prison. What is amazing is that in Verse 9 it says that Peter thought he saw a vision, he had not realised it was an angel. I think that this is often the case, angels are much more at work than we see or realise.

We were at a meeting where there was an open heaven and angelic activity was all around. I had seen a particular angel next to my oldest son. I had seen this as a blue circle of light.

After the meeting my son came and explained what he had seen, he had seen a large man next to him, this man was an angel and had a message for him and our family. My husband and I listened carefully and marked what had been said. One of the things was that we were to build our children up with the wisdom from the book of Proverbs. From that day forth, we read 10 verses from Proverbs every morning at the breakfast table.

## **Glory bursts of nature**

Psa 19:1-2 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. (2) Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.



This is something that I have been seeing more of recently. I can only explain it with the fact that God created nature and any created being is His friend.

Recently, I was upset about an issue in my life and bringing it to prayer before the Lord. I had gone on a walk in the neighbourhood park. While I was there, it was as if these birds were following me. There were three families of different finches, I was admiring their colours and form when I realised, they were getting very close to me.

I sat down and enjoyed the experience, then went further to pray. As I came back along that way, the same families of birds were there. I felt the glory of God there, I received an answer to prayer and my day was filled with joy.

One of my hobbies is taking photographs of creation. So, I went back to try and get photos of these birds. I tried three times but was unsuccessful, they would not come close again. That is when I realised that God had somehow allowed the animals to come to me without fear to touch my life. I see this happening in more places and when it happens, I stop and just receive the blessing that God wants to give me. My husband and I have taken to calling them glory bursts of nature.

## **Bible reading**

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In my daily Bible reading, sometimes it will come alive for me, as the Word is alive, it is the Word of God and can work in our lives.

It can bring confirmation of what His voice has said, it can bring conviction of sin in our lives, it can bring hope in a hopeless situation.

When this happens, I meditate on that verse that came alive, trying to come back to that many times that day or even for a week, depending on what the Word is bringing for me.

## **Worship**

2Ki 3:15-16 But now bring me a minstrel. And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him. (16) And he said, Thus saith the LORD, Make this valley full of ditches.

Worship is a lifestyle that causes you to sing in praise and worship to your King. This brings you in the presence of your heavenly Father (which Elijah felt explained by the hand of the Lord that came upon him) this brings a stilling of your spirit so that you can listen to the Holy Spirit.

This can be by a particular song that you are singing that brings you in the presence of the Lord.

This is when you are worshipping in spirit and truth.



Joh 4:23-24 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. (24) God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

When we learn to worship the heavenly Father in spirit and truth, our spirit will be opened to hear His voice as we will be in His presence.

How do we know we are worshipping in the spirit? It is when you feel that you have entered the heavenly throne room.

A certain song can bring you there and you then flow with that song until the presence lifts. If you then meditate on the words of that song, you will find that this is also a way that He is speaking to you.

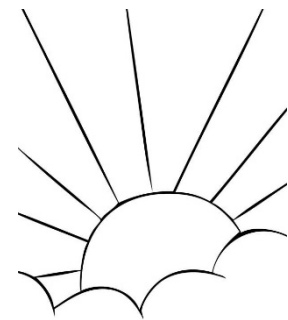
Ways that I often recognize that the song is touching me is if it brings me to tears, it speaks to my heart, it causes me to fall on my knees, or it causes me to raise my hands in adoration for my King.

## **Woken up with a song**

As a lifestyle of worship is formed, often you will wake up with a worship song in your heart.

I have learnt to listen to it, use it in worship, meditate on the lyrics.

As I do this, I have found it brings life and speaks directly into the situation that I am in. Sometimes we can be so busy that we do not stop to listen to God, He can speak in the night hours and wake us up with a song to speak to us.



Psa 57:8-9 Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early. (9) I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations.

Verse 8 says to waken the psaltery and harp, musical instruments, they need to be included in our early morning start to the day. If we do this, then He will speak to us. As we adopt this lifestyle, He will already have a song to start the day with and it will be a song that carries His voice for our day.

## **The Audible voice of God**

Isa 30:21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

I wanted to talk about the audible voice of God, I have only heard this once in my Christian walk with my heavenly Father, however, it was very life-changing for me so I thought I would add this.

I had accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour and my youth group was talking about baptism in the Holy Spirit. This sounded biblical to me and I wanted to receive this.

So at youth camp, I went to the front for ministry and the youth leaders prayed for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I felt that something had happened, I was crying about sins in my life and bringing my hate that was in my heart to Him, then receiving a new heart, however, there was talk about that you had only received the baptism of the Holy Spirit if there was evidence of you speaking in tongues.

This had not happened with me, so I struggled with this in prayer with my heavenly Father.

He showed me in scripture that some had received the Holy Spirit and did not receive the gift of tongues until a later time. So, I felt that God was asking me to accept that I had been baptised in the Holy Spirit without the evidence of speaking in tongues.

A few weeks later, I was in the church, we were in a time of prayer and all heads were bowed.

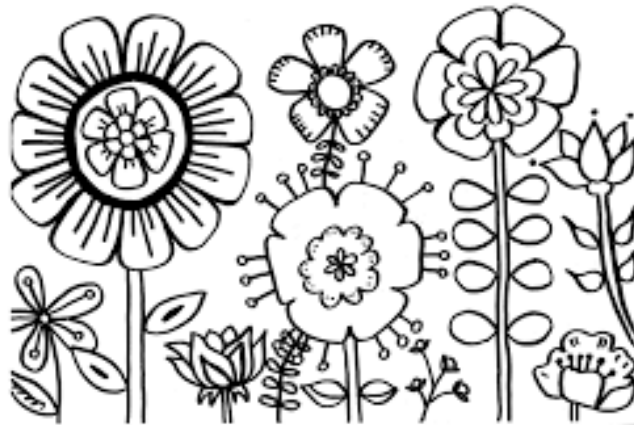
I heard someone call the name "Amy". I looked up, thinking who is calling out to me during a prayer meeting, every head was still bowed. So, I returned to prayer as well.

Then I heard the voice again, looking up and seeing no one, I realised that it must be the audible voice of God and I said, I am here and listening, what would You like to say?

He told me that if I would go to the front of the church next Sunday, I would receive the gift of speaking in tongues.

I was going to keep quiet about it but I was so excited, that I told everybody about it. This meant that it had to happen if it was the audible voice of God. That whole week, I was expectant about what would happen, and because it was the audible voice of God, the next Sunday I went to the front of the church for prayer and receive the gift of speaking in tongues. Our heavenly Father is amazing and can speak in so many ways.

As a last encouragement, while you are on this journey to build your relationship with your heavenly Father by listening for His voice, be vulnerable with Him, give Him all your pain, sorrow, joy, and fruit. This will lead to deeper intimacy and contact with Him.



## Chapter 3: Hearing God's Voice brings Abundant Fruit

In the Bible, there are many times that Jesus Christ explains the relationship between us and our heavenly Father, and Himself using the idea of plants in a garden.

One of these examples is John 15: 1-10

Joh 15:1-10 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. (2) Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. (3) Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. (4) Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. (5) I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. (6) If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. (7) If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. (8) Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. (9) As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. (10) If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.



In this particular picture, Jesus Christ says that He is the vine.

The heavenly Father is the Husbandman or the gardener. – I want to discuss the idea of Gardening and God's work as a gardener. Let us look in scripture at what it says.

God said that He is the gardener and if no fruit is being produced, they will be taken away. If the fruit is being produced, then He will purge, in the New King James version or the Amplified Bible, this is called pruning, as this will produce more fruit.

The word purge means completely cleanse This is evident in Hebrews 1.

Hebrews 1:3 Who, being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had PURGED our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high

This is talking about Jesus Christ, how, when He was on earth, He was an exact copy of the Father and that he came to purge our sin – cleanse us from our sin.

How did He do this? By dying on the cross and being resurrected. What happened on that cross, what exchange happened? Let us look at Romans 5.

Rom 5:6-11 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. (7) For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. (8) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (9) Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. (10) For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. (11) And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Jesus Christ was sent by the heavenly Father to die for our sins, His death on the cross meant that in exchange I have been justified by His blood, saved from the wrath of God, reconciled to God, saved by His life, and receive the atonement.

There is such a depth and breadth to what Jesus Christ did for us on that cross, we can only stand in awe that He was willing to give His life so that we could have life. We must never forget the sacrifice that gave us life.

Now let us go back to John 15, especially verse 4 that starts with 'abide in Me'.

Joh 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

What does this mean?

What happens if I remove a leaf from a plant, the leaf will not be able to survive without the plant, it will die and not be able to produce any fruit.

In the same way, if we do not abide in the vine of Jesus Christ, if we go off on our way, our tangent, the heavenly Father will cast us forth and burn us in the fire.

There is a need to produce a lot of fruit otherwise we are not useful in the garden.

Now let us look at another Scripture that talks about plants – The parable of the Sower

Luk 8:4-15 And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable: (5) A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. (6) And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. (7) And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. (8) And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. (9) And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? (10) And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. (11) Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. (12) Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. (13) They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. (14) And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. (15) But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

In this parable, the seeds are the same in all 4 places, the difference is the type of soil they fall in. So, I would like to focus on is the soil that the seeds are falling into.

There are 4 types of places that the seeds which are the word of God fall.

1. Wayside – this soil is hard, has been trampled to make a pathway, many people and animals step on it and so it is a barren place that does not allow for growth of the seeds. This leaves the seeds for the birds to come and take it away.
2. Stony places – not much soil, many rocks in the soil, so roots cannot go deep and plants do not survive.
3. Thorns and thistles – this is soil that is being used by weeds such as thorns and thistles, they use up the minerals in the soil and come up and choke the plants, so no fruit is produced as they are not able to come to maturity.
4. Good ground – rich soil, that is full of nutrients, has water and is deep. This brought forth fruit 30-fold, 60-fold and 100-fold more than the original seed planted.

Then the question arises, what makes soil good?

If I look from a farmer's point of view, the soil has to be weed-free, has to be ploughed up, has to be moist. In other words, it was prepared soil.

In this parable, the Sower went to the field, which is on the farm, therefore the farmer (or His workers) went and prepared the good soil to make it ready to receive the seed

To bring this back to what Jesus Christ is teaching us here, we have one of these soil types in our heart, the place where our spirit can grow is the soil of our heart.

If your soil is the wayside, then you reject the word of God.

If you have stony soil, then you are a shallow Christian, you have received the word with joy but when trials and tribulations come, your plant withers as it does not have enough water. You fall away from the Lord.

A gardener knows that plants must grow deep roots so that when drought comes, plants can have many places to draw the water from that soil.

If your ground has thorns and thistles, then you accept the word and understand it, yet you do not remain. What draws them away?

The cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches or the lust for other things.

Then the good soil is open to the word, understands it and runs with it to produce fruit – 30-fold, 60-fold or 100-fold times fruit.

What type of soil do you have now?

Which of these soil types reflect your lifestyle and walk with the Lord?

Then an important question that arises from this is, can we change our soil type?

I believe that yes, we definitely can, we can allow the gardener/farmer to remove all the rocks, to remove the thorns and thistle (weeds that come), can allow the gardener to plough the land to soften the soil and make it possible for the plant to thrive there. Who is that gardener? Our heavenly Father, let Him come in and plough your soil.

If we put these two Bible scriptures together and have another look at plants, we will see the depth of what God wants to show us here.

Plants:

1. Need soil – if they are removed, then either die or only survive
2. Need water – this is the water of the word in our life.
3. Are Self-Feeders – they make their food by putting their leaves in the sun and the sunlight changing water and carbon dioxide into food.
4. Need maintenance

Luke 9:23 And He said to them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross DAILY and follow me.

There is a daily purging, pruning, cleansing in our spiritual lives to ensure that our spirit, which is living, is healthy, thriving and producing fruit.

There must be a daily watering with the word of God

There must be daily sunshine (time with the Lord) to be fed.

There must be the maintenance of the soil to keep it good, ploughing, preparing, adding fertiliser.

So, we need to submit to the Gardener, our heavenly Father, who will work our ground and make us fruitful – 30-fold, 60-fold or 100-fold fruitfulness.

In the next chapter, I will discuss what this would mean in our spiritual walk. How does our heavenly Father plough, prepare, add fertiliser etc, purge, prune and cleanse our spiritual lives?

## Chapter 4: Hearing God's voice brings Cleansing

I do some of the maintenance in our garden.

This means that the plants need to be watered which includes checking for any wilting leaves that indicate that the plants are needing water or nutrients as I walk around the garden.

The weeds have to be removed so that they do not choke the plants or take all their space or nutrients and thereby reduce the fruiting and flowering ability of the plants in my garden.

From time to time there will be yellow or brown leaves which indicate the plant is not happy and needs fertilizer or has another problem.

Pests can become a problem and try to take over a plant to destroy it.

This maintenance must happen daily – otherwise, the garden will not thrive or produce much fruit and the outcome we are after is fruitfulness.

There is always maintenance for every plant, no matter how young the plant or how old the plants are in the garden, they must be maintained. There is not a time that comes that you do not need to do any work in the garden – there is always maintenance and so our spirit also must have daily maintenance.

This is the same with our relationship with our heavenly Father, we must maintain it and see it thrive and bear fruit.

To be able to do this we need to have an intimate relationship with our Father that we can only get by intimate conversation.

This daily maintenance of our spirit can only occur if we have that deep intimate relationship with our heavenly Father, where we hear His voice, and He hears ours.

As the gardener of our life, He will speak to us about how we can become more fruitful, how we can thrive and grow, and as necessary, what is going wrong and needs to be attended to.

Joh 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

God the Father is the gardener, Jesus Christ is our vine, and we are branches on that vine.

Let me explain this idea that maintenance of the garden is never finished.

For example, as I was writing this book, God showed me an area where I was still sinning, an area where weeds were in my life.

I was devastated, I brought my sins to the Lord, confessed them, repented of them, and spent time in the presence of God.

The most devastating part was that I knew that what God showed me was correct and I was in the wrong, but until my heavenly Father used somebody to tell me, I had not seen the effect of what I was doing. This was still a blind spot in my life.

I thought, how could I be a Christian for this long, be writing a book on hearing the voice of God, and not hear this from my heavenly Father as I was sinning. If I could not recognise it, then I could not stop it from happening again.

Then God sent me out to the garden to weed, as I was weeding, I realised I was cutting out a particular weed called a Bindi, this is an Australian weed that is very prickly and that is what I was being to the people around me. Then He got me to look up at the garden around me, the garden was spectacular, beautiful and a real place of rest and shalom. Did those Bindi's in the lawn take away from the actual garden, no? Therefore, this is something that has to be addressed in my life, but it does not take away from the work that has already been done in my relationship with my heavenly Father.

I had to accept that my garden was beautiful even with some weeds still in it, not because of what I had done but what He had done for and through me. Now I had to learn about this weed so that I could get rid of it in my garden.

Several years ago, I could not recognise a Bindi, but now I could. I am learning strategies for when to get rid of them, and how to do that most effectively. This leaves some damage to the lawn but not in the whole garden. My heavenly Father encouraged me that this sin in my life was the same, it will be a process of removal and He promises to be with me every step of the way, teaching me the steps I need to take and assuring me of the beauty around me at each point.

He does this by the process of purging.

Joh 15:2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Here, Jesus Christ talks about the purging of the plants that are there. This is so much more than just a little prayer, this is serious. The dictionary says that purging is an abrupt and violent removal.

God the Father finds it very important that the sins, iniquity, and transgression in our life are removed as soon as possible so that they do not affect our life anymore.

If God the Father is talking about sins, iniquity and transgressions, there must be some differences there, so I looked them up.

Sin is missing the mark; transgression is a rebellious act and iniquity has to do with an attitude of the heart. So, this covers all types of sins, the ones that have changed our heart attitude and cause us to sin from that, the deliberate transgressions we do and then lastly even the ones that we do by subconsciously, even the ones that we do by not doing the right thing, the sin of omission.

God talks about all of them and wants to see all of them purged from our life.

It even says that those sins will stop us from being able to enter that relationship with the Father, He will be unable to hear us or help us. We need to keep short accounts of our sins, bring them before the Lord and confess them.

This can sometimes be very painful.

I have seen many Christians falter in this place as they find the pain of the purging too much, so they leave it and pretend it is not there.

This does not solve the problem; God wants to address this in our lives to see total change and cleansing in our life.

Isa 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: (2) But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

All we have to do is confess and He does the forgiving.

I have found it that easy, as soon as I take the time to ask for forgiveness, it comes flooding into my heart and I feel cleansed.

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We must not try to cover our sin as that will stop His mercy from flowing to us.

Pro 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.



Pro 4:20-23 My son, attend to my words, incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes, keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them and health to their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.

Recently God challenged me to focus on the things that are not from Him in my life – they are the issues of my heart that still pop up when I am talking to people, interacting in my job etc. They produce wrong fruit in my life – anger, fear, irritation, offence, bitterness, hate etc.- a long list of emotions that can come forth. When they are not the fruit of the Spirit, then they are the fruit of the kingdom of darkness and must be addressed. God said I was not to blame circumstances or other people, I had to take ownership of this and repent of the issues that are still in my heart.

This has led to a time where I take accountability for those things. This is not always easy and sometimes it does not happen instantly, but I will start to see what I am doing wrong and give that to the Lord. This means that I do not have to face it in the same way again as it is dealt with.

This is like weeds in my garden. I need to extract each one, and as new things come up, I need to address it as my problem and get rid of it. If I try to blame somebody else, that does not get rid of the weeds in my garden, it only lets them take root more which will then take a longer time to remove.

I can remove those things by listening to the voice of God to let Him show me where that offence comes from, what is the root of it and then pray for repentance to see that area in my life changed.

This whole process takes time, if you feel that you have prayed about an issue and it keeps coming back, this could be because of the many layers of sin, iniquity, and transgression in our hearts.

It says in Psalm 84 and 2 Corinthians that we are going from strength to strength, from glory to glory.

There is a process, and it is a lot like an onion, you think you have a peel-off and it still looks the same. However, you are going from strength to strength and glory to glory.

Psa 84:7 They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.

2Co 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

However, this process is not a 5 or 10 step method that we must follow to get there, it is a constant listening and walking in the Spirit to come closer to our heavenly Father and live in that open heaven where we learn more about His character and ways every day.

Gal 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

As I do this the purging, cleansing of our soul from any sin is much like the weeding of the garden, in the last few years, I have been getting rid of different weeds in my garden, cobblers peg, bindies, Singapore daisies etc.

Each of these has a specific method to get out of my garden, there is not just one method, which is why God finds it so important to listen to His voice, He can explain to you how to remove the different issues in your life, He will show you the way if you will follow Him, love Him and listen to His voice.

When I started removing the Singapore daisy from the garden, I found out that if you drop even a leaf or part of the stem, it will come back as a plant again, it said a normal removal would take 7 years. So I started the process and now, many years later, I have removed most. Now and then I find a little piece. I make sure that I pull that out and put it in the rubbish bin, not the compost heap, otherwise, it will grow again.

The cobblers peg need to be harvested before the seeds ripen, if that happens, they are one of the most nutrient-rich compost ingredients.

At the times of abundant growth of plants in the garden, when the conditions are perfect for the growth of the plants, it is also the ideal conditions for weeds.

Birds and animals will bring in seeds from weeds and drop them in your garden.

So do you see that we need to listen daily to the voice of God so that we can work out what weeds are in our spiritual life so that cleansing can occur?

There will come a time that they are nearly removed, whereas the Bindi weeds are now numerous and that is my current work, to remove them.

Each time there is more cleansing.

However, that is not all that is necessary for the maintenance of the garden. There must be watering with the word and a daily touch from the Lord.

Spend time in prayer and meditation

Spend time worshipping the creator of all that is there

Psa 1:2-3 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. (3) And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Then, as the gardener, I can enjoy my garden.

It gives me joy, shalom, rest and pleasure to work in my garden.

Then I can have a coffee and take pleasure in all I see.

## Chapter 5: Hearing Gods Voice brings Rest

Relationship with the Father brings us rest.

Let us look at Psalm 95:7-11 to understand the warning that God gives here how we can lose this abundant rest that is promised us. We must try and understand how the Israelites lost this rest so that we can discover how we can live in the fruit of the abundant rest brought forth by our relationship with our heavenly Father.

Psa 95:7-11 (AMP) For He is our God and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice, Harden not your hearts as at Meribah and as at Massah in the day of temptation (NKJV uses the word rebellion) in the wilderness. When your fathers tried My patience and tested Me, proved Me and saw My work (of judgment). Forty years long was I grieved and disgusted with that generation, and I said, It is a people that do err in their hearts, and they do not approve, acknowledge, or regard My ways. Wherefore I swore in My wrath that they would not enter My rest (the Land of Promise)

This scripture is a warning that not only do we have to hear the voice of God, but we must listen and obey the words that God speaks to us.

Otherwise, we could

1. Have God lose patience with us
2. Receive God's judgment
3. Have God grieved and disgusted with us
4. Have God's wrath against us
5. Lose the ability to enter His rest

What was the situation that caused God to say this several times in scripture?

Let us go back to what is happening in Meribah and Massah as said in verse 8.

To do this, we go to Exodus 17:1-7 (emphasis mine).

Exo 17:1-7 And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and **there was no water for the people to drink.** (2) Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? **wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?** (3) And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, **Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?** (4) And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me. (5) And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. (6) Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. (7) And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, **because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?**

The people were thirsty for water.

They had seen God do amazing things:

1. The 10 plagues hit Egypt but remain unharmed as Hebrews.
2. The parting of the Red Sea to escape the Egyptians.
3. The destruction of the Egyptian army.
4. Bitter water made sweet.
5. Manna from heaven each day.
6. The presence of God as a cloud by day and fire by night.

Now a new problem had arisen, what was their response?  
They questioned if the Lord was amongst them or not.  
They doubted that God could save them in this situation as well.  
It was not somebody else that had seen the miracles, they had seen them themselves.  
It was not years ago; this was still fresh in their minds.  
They had been eating manna that morning, as they did each day. So, they knew that God could provide but still wanted to go back to Egypt as they did not trust God for each situation.

Moses sought the Lord and water came by the hitting of his staff on the rock at Horeb.  
This place was then named Meribah and Massah because of the contention of the children of Israel and because they TEMPTED the Lord by saying "IS HE REALLY AMOUNG US OR NOT?"

Let us look at other passages that tell us about this incident:  
Numbers 20 verse 10.

Num 20:10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?

Here Moses calls them rebels, they were considered rebellious because of their unbelief and their testing (trying and proving) of the Lord.

In Deuteronomy 6

Deu 6:16-18 Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God, as ye tempted him in Massah. (17) Ye shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he hath commanded thee. (18) And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the LORD: that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and possess the good land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers,

In Deuteronomy is the promise of what will happen when you do listen, the opposite of testing or tempting the Lord.

You will:

1. Diligently keep His commandments, statutes, and testimonies
2. Do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord.

Then you will possess the land, you shall enter that place of rest.

So not questioning the voice of God but willingly listening and obeying is the opposite of testing and trying the Lord.

Let us return to Psalm 95.

What is the warning given here?

Psa 95:8 Today, if you will hear His voice, Harden not your hearts as at Meribah and as at Massah in the day of temptation (NKJV uses the word rebellion) in the wilderness.

This is also found in Hebrews 3 and 4, so it is also in the New Testament and a part of our New Covenant and priesthood with God.

Heb 3:7-11 is a quote from Psalm 95

Heb 3:7-11 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith), To day if ye will hear his voice, (8) Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: (9) When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. (10) Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. (11) So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

Then the writer of the book of Hebrews goes on to explain this passage for the rest of Hebrews 3 and all of Hebrews 4. Let us delve a little deeper as to this.

There are 2 things I want to have a deeper look into – the hardening of hearts and the promise of rest.

So, firstly, the idea of hardening our hearts, what is that?

Let us look at the rest of Hebrews 3, which talks about the hardening of their hearts.

Heb 3:12-19 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. (13) But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. (14) For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; (15) While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. (16) For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. (17) But with whom was he grieved forty years? *was it* not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? (18) And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? (19) So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

What has caused the hardening of their hearts?

1. Rebellion (verse 8)
2. Unbelief (verse 12)
3. Departing from the living God (verse 12)
4. Hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (verse 13)
5. Disobedience (18)

What was revealed to me as I meditated in Hebrews 3 about this hardening of the heart is that this is self-inflicted. It is not God hardening their hearts, it is themselves. The choices they have made have caused the hardening of their own heart.

These 5 sins are causing the hardening of their hearts.

What is a hardened heart?

It is becoming tough, cruel, fierce, stiff-necked, and unwilling to listen to the voice of God.

This makes me think of Isaiah 6:9,10

I tremble when I read about the hardening of the heart that is talked about here. Why do I tremble? Because I see the consequences of hardening my heart. I see the need for me to check my heart and to see if there are any areas of hardening in my heart.

Isa 6:9-10 And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. (10) Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

This happened throughout scripture, the Israelites were a stiff-necked people that hardened themselves from remembering the wonders, signs, and miracles that God had performed and stood up against Him at every turn.

God is calling us up to listen and obey Him in everything, or we will become hardened of heart. We must take this seriously and diligently check our hearts.

So how do we, as sons and daughters of Father God, make sure our heart is not hardened and that we remain open to hearing and obeying the voice of our Father?

I think the answer lies in Isaiah 6:10 CONVERT/RETURN and be healed.

I believe the answer is in repentance, converting and returning to the ways of God.

How do we do this, by daily coming to the cross of Christ and confessing our sin before Him, giving it to Him, and then letting Him change us so that we can get rid of that sin?

Then our heart will go from hardened to softened.

Hebrews 4: 12 – 16 talks about how God's word can help us to come to this throne of grace, which is the cross, and obtain mercy and help in this time of need.

Heb 4:12-16 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (13) Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. (14) Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession. (15) For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin. (16) Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Let me tell you of an incident that God used to show me my hardened heart just last Wednesday with my son.

My son asked me to do something that I did not agree with and when I went to talk to Nicholas, my husband, about it, he was not available, so I went in prayer instead and thought I had received vindication, I was right, my son was wrong and I would stand up against him.

Then, when I came home, Nicholas and I discussed this, and he felt that the Lord wanted us to help our son as this was the love of the prodigal Father for our son and we had to show that love even when my son is wrong.

When I reflected on that, I saw that my heart was judgmental and hard, that I would destroy the relationship with my son if I did this, so I repented and asked God for the forgiveness of my hardness of heart which did not allow me to hear Him. This led to tears as I repented with my whole heart.

Now God can use this to change me.

Once we get to this place of a pure soft heart, we can enter this REST, what is this rest?

It says in Heb 4:11 that we must labour to enter this rest. This is not just a sitting and waiting, it is a diligent pursuit of the rest of the Lord.

Heb 4:11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

I looked up the Hebrew word for rest and came up with these definitions:

- Repose
- Peaceful

- Consolation
- Have an abode
- Comfortable
- Ease
- Quiet
- Resting place
- A place of sabbath rest and renewal.

This rest is when you are a dwelling place for God.

He will dwell in you.

Let us look at Psalm 132:14-18

Psa 132:14-18 This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it. (15) I will abundantly bless her provision: I will satisfy her poor with bread. (16) I will also clothe her priests with salvation: and her saints shall shout aloud for joy. (17) There will I make the horn of David to bud: I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed. (18) His enemies will I clothe with shame: but upon himself shall his crown flourish.

This is the resting place, the place where God will dwell.

Then Father God says Himself what He will do when He dwells in you:

1. I will dwell as I desire it
2. I will abundantly bless her provisions
3. I will satisfy her poor with bread
4. I will clothe her priests with salvation
5. Her saints shall shout aloud for joy
6. I will make the horn of David to bud
7. I will ordain a lamp for mine anointed
8. I will clothe your enemies with shame
9. His crown shall flourish

Wow, what a promise for the RESTing place of the Lord.

I especially left the I's in the above list as I wanted you to realise that God himself is telling you what He will do if you allow Him to dwell in you.

You will be provided for, you will get bread for the poor, be able to help others, you will see salvation, you will be filled with joy, you will grow in authority, your lamp will be filled, your enemies will be clothed in shame, and you will wear a crown.

What a beautiful promise.

This is worth the diligence and labour that you must go through to get to the place of REST.

As a teacher, I have students who hear but do not obey, they are not listening.

Then I have students that listen and obey but only to stop punishment.

Then I have the students that listen and obey from a heart of commitment and love for their teacher, this then leads to students who eventually, learn to do what I want even without the instructions as they have understood the teacher and why she is asking that, they have understood my heart and realise I am doing it for their benefit and so they grow in maturity and do not even need the instruction anymore.

Labour diligently to enter the rest of the Lord.

## Chapter 6: Hearing God's Voice Builds Trust for Obedience

Jer 17:7-8 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. (8) For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

This verse in Jeremiah talks about the trust that we need to have in the Lord, often it is hard to trust Him and because we do not trust we do not obey.

If we want to be serious about hearing the voice of God in our lives, we have a responsibility to do something with this – we need to obey what is said to us, otherwise God will stop speaking if we are not listening.

Why do we not always obey that voice of God, what is stopping the obedience?

One of the reasons can be a lack of trust due to wounds and betrayal from our past.

Let us look at this dichotomy of Trust and Obedience. The more you trust, the more you obey, the more you obey the easier it is to trust God and His voice.

Why is this, how and why are they so intertwined?

Let us first look at the definition, trust is a deep knowledge that the person is safe and has your best interests. Obedience is doing what has been asked of you.

You are on a journey and each step in this journey is a way to grow in trusting Him more. As you obey more, you learn to trust that God is safe and has your best interests at heart.

So, you need to ask Him to explain to you what He is trying to teach you in every situation so that you can grow.

While the verse in Jeremiah looks at the promises of trusting the Lord, this verse in Proverbs looks at the promise when obeying His word.

Pro 4:20-23 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. (21) Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. (22) For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. (23) Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

He has promised life, health to our flesh and heart.

So let us look at an example of trust:

I love to take pictures of wildlife. The easiest way to do that is to get as close to them as possible.

To do this, you first have to build trust in them.

I was at a bird park; my husband and I were spending a few days there and we would enjoy a coffee while watching the birds come to feed.

There was one family that had 2 young girls. On the first day, the girls wanted to get close to the birds, so they were trying to do this by chasing the birds. The birds did not like this, so they flew away, this upset the girls.

Then, over the next few days, they started to build a relationship of trust with the birds so that the birds came to them when they sat still. Then you could see both the birds and the girls were building and enjoying the relationship, even between different species. It was so beautiful to see.

In the same way, God wants to earn our trust so that we can come to Him and be in His presence.

Now let me link this to the intertwining of trust and obedience in another example.



In my volunteer work at a ministry, God challenged me to ask Him what He had for each client as they come in, not ask if He had anything, but to ask what He did have.

As I have journeyed in this challenge, it still thrills me every time I get a picture, pray with the person, and find out that is exactly what they needed. It builds my trust with the Lord Jesus Christ and the words that He gives me, that He speaks to me, leads me, and guides me. However, this is a journey, and each step of the journey is a trust step that makes it easier and easier to take that next step. However, if I did not obey what the Lord Jesus Christ had said to me, that trust would not grow.

Pro 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. (6) In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

It is so true, as we learn to trust Him with all our heart and lean not on our understanding, then He shall direct our paths.

Recently, I had spent 2 hours with the Lord and did not feel that I had gotten close at all, I still felt so distant. This is very unusual for me, as I often find it easy to just sit in His presence, hear His voice and spend time with Him.

So I knew that this was not His problem, God wants to speak to me and be with me, so it had to be my problem or issue. This led me to request a dangerous thing from the Lord.

I asked Him to break through the wall that I had in my life that was stopping me from feeling His presence. I said He could do whatever drastic step He needed to do to break down that wall.

My husband and I went somewhere visiting friends and one of them was able to be the hammer that I needed to allow the heavenly Father to get behind the wall that I had built.

This meant that I was crying much of the time as the pain of my rejection and fear as a child went so deep. He was breaking through and is assuring me of His love so that I could walk to the next level of fruitfulness in my life.

My heavenly Father is a Father that I can trust to do the best for me and breakthrough in the areas that even I cannot breakthrough for myself.

Mat 7:9-11 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? (10) Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? (11) If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

We have to trust that our heavenly Father has the best plan for us and when we do not see that, then it must be our problem, and we need to learn to trust Him in all things.

It is so true, that the more that you learn to trust Him in your life, the more that He will work in your life and bring the rest, peace, power, fruit, and cleansing in your life. He is so amazing.

I could have gone into self-pity and said why hadn't God gotten close to me, but I knew it was the other way around. So, I could praise Him in all of this, even though there were tears and I was going through pain as I knew this was His work in my life.

On this journey, there will be times that it is not pleasant or feel great, but it is not about feeling great, it is about coming closer to the Lord.

Jas 1:2,3 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; (3) Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

However, it has been very important to me, that anybody who I minister to does not get attached to me to hear God speak, I want them to hear God for themselves, as God wants a personal relationship with each of His children. He does not have grandchildren, only children.

To explain what I mean, recently we were praying into a situation about a gift somebody had been given, we were asking God if this was from Him and if they should accept it.

I was given a chapter in the Bible about it, one that I knew well, and I wasn't going to share as I felt it gave them the answer, and I wanted them to find the answer from God themselves.

Then my husband saw that I had received a Word from scripture, so he asked me to share it.

I felt from the Lord to share it even though I felt that it was too leading.

However, when I shared it, they were blessed as this was a word, they had gotten from the Lord a few weeks ago.

So, it was not my word that they used, it was the confirmation from my word that they were hearing the voice of God themselves.

I want you to hear God for yourself as it is such an amazing relationship and I want each of you to benefit from this, not just listen to God's voice through my mouth.

As this trust relationship builds up from my side, I have to be very careful to also build up God's trust in me and how I will react in situations.

I have to learn to be obedient to what He asks me to do.

This is how I can show my heavenly Father that I trust Him and let the relationship grow from both sides.

Joh 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Jesus Christ says here that if we obey, we will have a relationship with the Father and Jesus Christ and that they would both live in us. What an amazing promise that is.

Then we will have a relationship with the Godhead as the Holy Spirit is in us and so are Jesus Christ and the Father.

There is such a depth in that, spend the time to meditate on the awesomeness of a God who would dwell in you and spend time with you as you obey Him.

Here is another verse that talks about not just listening but obeying the word to see the fruit of your relationship.

Jas 1:22-25 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. (23) For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: (24) For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. (25) But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

This says the blessing will come when we not only listen but obey the word that has been given us.

## Chapter 7: Hearing God's Voice brings Power

In this chapter we will look at how the heavenly Father responds to your voice, there are many responses, but Psalm 18 has always been a favourite that shows how our heavenly Father responds to our cry.

Let us have a look at Psalm 18.

It starts with a declaration of what the Lord has done, David had many enemies, and this Psalm is a document of how that came about. Verses 1 – 3 are David's opening statements about what an amazing Father we serve, look at all that He has done. The heavenly Father is his rock, fortress, deliverer, God, and strength. What a testimony of all that the Father has done.

Psa 18:1-3 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul: And he said, I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. (2) The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. (3) I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

Then David goes back to the beginning and how he felt having the enemy surrounding him. What did he do, did he despair, no, he turned to his heavenly Father as David had spent his youth building a relationship with Him, he was a shepherd and spent many days watching his sheep, playing his harp worshipping the Lord. He had built a relationship with his heavenly Father so that when he came into trouble, he knew which way to turn.

Psa 18 4-6 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. (5) The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me. (6) In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

When I think about the heavenly Father's response to this, I always am humbled. Heavenly Father was wroth, which means very angry. So angry that smoke went up from His nostrils, He was moved to come down and help because his son had called to Him. This demonstrates the depth of emotion that your heavenly Father feels when you call to Him in your distress.

Psa 18:7-8 Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth. (8) There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.

However, it does not stop there, your heavenly Father doesn't only feel the emotion, He acts on this. It says here that He came down out of heaven and flew upon the wings of the cherub. It had become personal for your Father, He did not just send somebody to deal with the situation, He came Himself. What a depth of emotion your heavenly Father has for you.

Psa 18:9-11 He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness was under his feet. (10) And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind. (11) He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies.

Then what happens, the Father sends hailstones, coals of fire, flashes of lightning and arrows against His enemy, and who is His enemy, it is your enemy. He is scattering your enemy.

How is this power released against the enemy, in verse 13 it says that your heavenly Father uses His voice to release those weapons against the enemy? There is power in the voice of the Lord and as you build a relationship with Him, He will use His voice to scatter your enemies.

Psa 18:12-14 At the brightness that was before him his thick clouds passed, hail stones and coals of fire. (13) The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire. (14) Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them.

Even this is not enough, your heavenly Father goes even further. He lets out a rebuke in the form of a blast of breath from His nostrils and by that uncovers the foundations of the world. He is going to get your enemies and uncover them so that they will not be able to get you anymore.

The heavenly Father's love for you is so extreme that He is greatly moved when you are in a battle.

Psa 18:15 Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered at thy rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils.

What does your heavenly Father do now? He gets you out of the battle.

The waters in verse 16 are the difficulties and battle around you. He will deliver you and set you in a large place without a battle.

Then in verse 19, it says why your heavenly Father does that for you because He delighted in you, you had built a relationship with Him and that is why He responded to your cry of help.

Psa 18:16-19 He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters. (17) He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me. (18) They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay. (19) He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

Your heavenly Father delights in you because you spend time with Him and use that time to be disciplined into the image of the Lord. You have kept all His ways, you have walked in righteousness, you have read the Word and loved the truth. You have removed yourself from iniquity.

We cannot have a relationship with our heavenly Father if it does not change our character. This is such a big part of our relationship with our heavenly Father, to become like Him and love Him with all of our heart. If we do not live a righteous life, your heavenly Father will not be able to stand up for you, it is a requirement.

Psa 18:20-24 The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me. (21) For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God. (22) For all his judgments were before me, and I did not put away his statutes from me. (23) I was also upright before him, and I kept myself from mine iniquity. (24) Therefore hath the LORD recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his eyesight.

The heavenly Father is holy, and He wants us to be holy so that. He wants to save and rescue us but we need to be in the right fellowship with Him so that He can do that rescuing.

We need to make sure that we listen to His voice carefully to find anything in our lives that could stop Him from hearing our voice. Sin, rebellion, transgression, iniquity can all stop Him from hearing our voice.

He wants us to be pure as He is pure.

Psa 18:25-27 With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright; (26) With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward. (27) For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks.

Now, we get to the next part that is so amazing, not only does He stand up against your enemy, now your heavenly Father wants to train your hands for battle so that you can stand up against your enemy. He wants to make you so strong that you can fight the enemy that is there to bring you down yourself.

He will train you in many areas to strengthen you so that you can bend a bow of bronze.

He will make that you do not slip or fall off the path, He will subdue your enemies.

Psa 18:28-39 For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness. (29) For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall. (30) As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him. (31) For who is God save the LORD? or who is a rock save our God? (32) It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect. (33) He maketh my feet like hinds' feet, and setteth me upon my high places. (34) He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms. (35) Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great. (36) Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip. (37) I have pursued mine enemies, and overtaken them: neither did I turn again till they were consumed. (38) I have wounded them that they were not able to rise: they are fallen under my feet. (39) For thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle: thou hast subdued under me those that rose up against me.

Then your heavenly Father goes another step further and says that your enemies are going to be under your feet.

You will become so powerful that the enemy will cry out and there will be none to save them because you will beat them small as the dust before the wind.

You will come to a place of reigning over your enemies. Your strength in the Lord will be known and many will come to you to discover what you have found out.

When you meditate on this, you can praise your heavenly Father as He does not want to leave you powerless, He wants to make you powerful so that your voice can scatter the enemies.

However, for this to happen, think about a natural army. It is going to take some training. When your heavenly Father allows situations to happen to train you, do not close your heart, but see them as a training ground and allow yourself to learn more about the battle and the weapons that we have been given to fight with. Seek Him to find the strategies necessary to win this battle.

Psa 18:40-45 Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies; that I might destroy them that hate me. (41) They cried, but there was none to save them: even unto the LORD, but he answered them not. (42) Then did I beat them small as the dust before the wind: I did cast them out as the dirt in the streets. (43) Thou hast delivered me from the strivings of the people; and thou hast made me the head of the heathen: a people whom I have not known shall serve me. (44) As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me: the strangers shall submit themselves unto me. (45) The strangers shall fade away, and be afraid out of their close places.

Then, after all, your heavenly Father has taught you, after you have become a strong warrior for Him, never forget that it is He who trained you for battle and He deserves all the glory.

Psa 18:46-50 The LORD liveth; and blessed *be* my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted. (47) *It is* God that avengeth me, and subdueth the people under me. (48) He delivereth me from mine enemies: yea, thou liftest me up above those that rise up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man. (49) Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name. (50) Great deliverance giveth he to his king; and sheweth mercy to his anointed, to David, and to his seed for evermore.