

HEARING GOD'S VOICE SERIES

BREAKTHROUGH INTO GOD'S POWER

We are touching on hearing the voice of God. We have touched on the three blockages that block the widow from hearing from God. The bible tells us that God said to Elijah in I King chapter 17 I have commanded a widow to feed you. But the widow didn't hear that command from God. When Elijah went to her she felt that she was all ready to die. To eat the last meal means to have a funeral service. That was all she was ready to do. She didn't hear from the Lord. I will hear the Lord when He speaks. I will be quiet enough to listen to the Lord when He speaks. That was what the widow didn't do. When the Lord spoke and commanded her to feed Elijah, she didn't hear a thing. Sometimes God is speaking to us. We are too busy. We have too many things in our life. She was too busy looking at her own self. Self consciousness hindered her from hearing the Lord.

Secondly that woman was looking at the natural circumstances around her. When she was distracted by the present circumstances and the temporal thing she forgot the eternal thing. So she was distracted by her circumstances. She couldn't hear God.

Thirdly this woman has lost all hope. When you lose your hope you have no more purpose to live for. And faith comes from hope. Faith is the substance of things

hoped for. Last week we ended with the woman and Elijah how the oil lasted and so did the little bit of flour that she had. It lasted them throughout all years perhaps. Just that little oil and the little flour it lasted throughout the remaining time of the famine. God's power was working everyday. God's power didn't just work on the Sabbath day. If God's power didn't work for them one day they will starve. Sometimes we depend on ourselves so much that we don't need God's power. But when you are really depending on God's power God just doesn't work just for one day. If God stop working for one day they will miss their breakfast, lunch and dinner. They will starve. Everyday they needed God's power. And everyday we need God's power working in our life. Not just once or twice we need it every single day.

I King 17:24 After this the son of the woman the mistress of the house, became ill, and his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. (In other word he died.) And she said to Elijah, "What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sins to remembrance, and so cause the death of my son." And he said to her. "Give me your son!" And he took him from her bosom, and carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him upon his own bed. And he cried to the Lord, "O Lord my God, hast thou brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?"

It is so easy to blame God. Elijah was not in the New Testament but in the Old Testament. The Old Testament culture always ascribe every thing to God. They always take God as the final cause. Remember we are reading the Old Testament. In the Old Testament the Hebrew language is a permissive language. I will give you scriptures so that you will not be confused in your life. So that when you read the Old Testament you will have an understanding about the working of the permissive will of God. Compare II Sam. 24:1 with I Chron. 21:1.

II Sam 24: 1 Again the anger of the Lord was aroused against Israel, and He moved David against them to say, "Go, number Israel and Judah."

I Chron 21: 1 Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.

You will notice that in one scripture it says the Lord moved David but the other verse says the devil did it. You can use this scripture to prove that God kills. God didn't cause the killing. The Hebrew sense of the word means that God allowed the situation to happen. It is a permissive sense. The English translation gives the impression that God caused the killing to take place but the Hebrew language actually meant that God was just doing nothing .He just lifted up His hands. He was not actively doing it but He allowed it. We don't have it in the English. Why did He allow the tragedy to take place? Usually because of disobedience. Since man insists on his way, God takes his hands off. So we need to qualify the word "allow".

Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried to the Lord, "O Lord my God, let this child's soul come into him again." And the Lord hearkened to the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. And Elijah took the child, and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house, and delivered him to his mother; and Elijah said, "See, your son lives." And the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth."

We are talking about the renewing of the mind. I want you to see here that God's power was working everyday in their lives. They had a miracle taking place everyday. Do you know that the things of God can be so familiar that we lose our respect for holy things. I mean people fall on the power the first time in your life it's beautiful but you see it in every service you can get so familiar that you lose your respect for God. You lose the respect in reverence when God is doing something. You just take the manifestations of the Holy Spirit lightly. Don't take the things of God lightly. When God heals one person it is a miracle. When God did a work in salvation and you have never seen people saved before and the first time you win a person to the Lord you felt like shouting halleluiah in the next twenty-four hours. You could hardly sleep because your mouth is praising God. But after the one thousand souls that you won to the Lord praise God and you say the sinner's prayer. You have lost your reverence for God. When you reach that stage God cannot work any longer. That is why His power starts growing weaker and weaker in your life when you lose your reverence for God. There is a presence and working of God that we can get so acclimatized to that we say it is no big deal.

The Israelites ate manna everyday in the desert. The first time they saw manna they asked, "What is this?" Everyday it was a miracle. And in the evening God caused the fowls to come. Of all places this miracle was taking place in an impossible place in the wilderness. They got so used to eating this miraculous supply of food that they started grumbling after some time. They mumbled, "O how lovely was the curry and MacDonald that we ate in Egypt - what is this manna everyday? The first day it was lovely. After the first month, they feebly utter reluctantly, "Praise the Lord, thank you Lord."

When God's Spirit began moving, the Lord blessed the people. They cried out gratefully, "O, thank you Jesus." Then the second week, and third week, the praises went weaker. You lost your reverence for God's power. Kathryn Kuhlman kept that awe of God all her life. Every time a miracle happened, she looked at it as if it was a first miracle. The way she reacted to the Lord showed she preserved that preciousness in her relationship with the Lord. Usually if your love for the Lord grows weak that happens. If your love is fresh everyday your relationship with the Lord will be the same constant beautiful relationship.

In the woman's house, miracles were taking place everyday but suddenly there was a tragedy. For no reason mentioned the woman's son died. The first thing that woman did was to call her sins to remembrance. She felt condemned and said, "Maybe my sins have brought this." I do not know what kind of life she lived. But the bible says she told Elijah, "Why have you brought my sins to remembrance?" Elijah didn't do anything. He just ate at the table. Suddenly the woman's son died and the woman came to Elijah and asked him why did he bring her sins to remembrance. You know what the woman has? An unrenewed mind. We will classify as that today. She had condemnation from the past.

God's work is this way. At first it was in the physical realm. But as God works He gets deeper. God wanted to get into the soul area. It is the same with your life and my life. Many of us we came to know the Lord in His miracle working power that affected our physical bodies. But God is not only interested in your physical body.

He is interested in your soul. After some time in your Christian life He began to deal with your soul. Through the power of the Spirit it affected your body. But now the soul has to be affected too - to be changed, renewed, touched and be healed. God wants to touch your soul. And as God's power moves stronger and stronger in your life, your body, soul and spirit undergo some spiritual cleansing. You will be aware especially if you are fasting and praying. When you are fasting and praying in your dream some of the things of your past began to come up. When you fast physically your body cleanses itself. Your soul also goes through a cleansing process. All the things in your past like little small shadows in hiding are coming out in your dream and in your daily life especially. All these things are washed up for you to deal with before the presence of the Lord. And the more you go nearer to God's presence and since God's presence is so powerful, so bright, so white, the more you see dark spots in your life that you might have not noticed. The dark spots in your life will come out to be dealt with.

So they are tasting God's power everyday. But now it's closer still. Her mind has condemnation. There was guilt in her. So this woman has problems in three areas. No. 1 she limited God's power. Her son died that would need another miracle. But she had already been receiving miracles everyday. The same God who could multiply the flour and the oil could heal the son. It never occurred to her. She limited God's power. Many times we limit God's power. God has answered us in one area and we say God cannot answer on this other area. We put God into compartments. We say God you can do this but not this. Think about the times that God has blessed you. Think about the miracles He had done for you. Or if your life is down; if you are feeling the burdens in your life; problems coming upon you; remember count your blessings one by one. Remember what the Lord has done for you. If He had done one thing He can do a thousand things. If He had healed one blind man He can heal all the blind men. If God has done one miracle, it means that God's power is never in short supply. He can heal forever more. And there is still much power to do more. Do not limit God's power. If He has answered the prayer in one area in your life all the other areas are areas He can work His miracle working power too. The problem is she has limited God's power. She tasted God's doing one thing but she did not taste God's power doing another thing. The words she said are shameful for one who has tasted the power of God everyday. She limited God's power.

The second problem she had was that she held on to her past. She asked Elijah why did he bring her sins to remembrance. If you hold on to your past, your past can destroy your present and your future. She held on tightly to her past. It didn't come out the first time. The first time Elijah met her, she didn't think of her past. But it was there all the time. She kept the guilt and condemnation in her soul. It was like a sleeping giant in her soul. But the more she got to know God and God's power, the sleeping giant woke up in her. That soul in her woke up for healing. Inside her she was still holding on to her past tightly. She was still holding on to the past. Nobody knew but God knew. God has eyes, He knows every secret that you have in your heart, in your mind, in your life, and nobody knew but He knows. This woman was holding on secretly to her past. The things she had done in her past was still troubling her from time to time. When the children stop playing, when the activities of the day calmed down and when she sat alone at night her past still haunted her. It was like a creature from the past, a monster from the past that keeps coming and haunting her. She held on the past. That's her problem. By holding onto her past she was actually cutting off herself from the forgiveness of God.

What does the miracle of the multiplication of the flour and the oil taking place in her own house saying to her? God is saying, "I love you. I love you enough. I care for you to multiply this oil, to multiply this flour." God is saying, "I love you. I care about you now. I have forgiven you. Your relationship is nice with me. I am having a beautiful lovely relationship with you otherwise there will be no miracles." If she don't have a relationship with God there will be no miracle. Because the miracles come forth from the relationship with God. Continual miracles especially.

The first miracle you can receive might be through somebody else who has relationship with the Lord. If you continue to receive in your own life the miracles directly from the Lord, you know there is a relationship established. Establish a relationship establish a miracle life. You want continuous miracles establish a relationship with the Lord. God is saying, "I have forgiven you. I love you." Love means forgiveness. Jesus on the cross says Father forgive them. To love is to forgive. God has forgiven you. God has loved us. But because you are holding on to the past, you are unable to receive the love of God. That past, that block of wood she is holding on to blocked her from God's love reaching her. She did not receive God's forgiveness in her life. She is holding on to the past. If you hold on to the past just one incident, two incidents, ten incidents you may destroy your future. Warning, do

not hold on to the past. You may destroy your future. There are some things to forget, there are some things to remember. Remember what the Lord has done. Remember the blessings. But there are some things to forget. And because she did not forget her past, you know what the past is doing to her? The past is now destroying her. That monster that woke up from the past has come to destroy her. And if Elijah didn't do any thing she would be destroyed for the rest of her life.

Thirdly she asked Elijah why have you brought my sins to remembrance. She told the man of God. Why have you killed my son? Thirdly she did not take the responsibility on herself. And that sin echoed the failing of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Adam sinned, Eve sinned, the serpent of course has sinned too. Adam didn't say, "God, I was wrong." Adam pointed to Eve and told God, "Lord, the woman you gave me, she gave me to eat." In other words, Adam was saying that not only was it the woman's fault but it was also God's fault for giving him the woman. Eve didn't say, "I was wrong, God. Eve said that it was the serpent that tricked her. The serpent looked at God and didn't say anything. It just slithered away and chuckled to himself.

It is easy just to blame somebody else for the faults we are hiding. By doing that we are avoiding responsibility for our own problem. And by doing that we are actually saying, "I do not want to solve my problem because I am not the cause of it." Remember whatever problem you are going through are the ones that are killing your life not another person's life. You are responsible for the source and the solution of those problems. Unless we face the problem and acknowledge, "Yes it is my problem. It is my weakness. It is my own character that needs to be dealt with and not the other person," then you won't have solution. Before you can receive the forgiveness of sin you must acknowledge sin. With the acknowledgement of sin comes the forgiveness of sin.

So this woman did take the problem on herself. She did not say I am responsible for it. She put all on Elijah. It's very easy to blame the one next to you. She didn't blame some Old Testament character but she blamed the one near her. Easy, just pass the buck to the one next to you. She did not take responsibility to herself. If you are not healed don't blame somebody else. If you are having financial problem don't blame somebody else. If you are having a problem in our life, a character of

weakness, don't blame somebody else. Stand up with your face towards God. Look towards the Mighty One and say, "I am the one that needs to be dealt with." And then God will do it. So because of all these areas he was blocked from the power of God.

But look at Elijah. When Elijah saw the situation that this woman was facing, the first thing that Elijah did, Elijah did three things. In verse 20 he cried out to the Lord. Then in verse 21 he stretched himself on the child three times. When he put himself on the child and cried out onto the Lord, Elijah prayed with all his might. The three things Elijah did are opposite from what the woman did. The woman limited God's power. For Elijah if God can do the miracle for the flour and the oil God can also do this. All I have to do is bring it before God. If God had done that one miracle through prayer I can come to God and bring this and God will have another miracle here. He did not limit God's power. He prayed with all his might. No.1 Elijah prayed with all his might. That's what you and I have to do. If a situation keeps coming up in your mind, pray with all your might. Don't look to the left or to the right but look to the Lord. And pray with all your might. And draw on the power of God into that situation. And that power of God will be released in your situation. God only rewards those who seek Him diligently. Heb. 11:6 those who seek God must believe that He is and he is a rewarder of those who seek Him diligently. Not just once or twice you must come to God with all your mind consistently. And God will reward you.

James 5:14 *Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man.* It is not just the prayer of the righteous. You read carefully in James 5 it says the fervent prayer of the righteous. Righteous is not the problem because you can get forgiveness and righteousness as a gift. II Cor. 5:21 Jesus was made our righteousness for us. He was made sin so that we can have His righteousness we become righteousness. It is a gift from God. You and I are righteous to pray the prayer of a righteous one. But not all the righteous ones are fervent. It's the fervent, fervent is continual prayer with all your might. How long? Till the answer comes. If you pray one hour and the answer didn't come, then pray for two hours. If it didn't come, keep on praying three hours, four hours, five. Seek the Lord with all your might. And the answer will come if you are persistent. If one day is not enough spend two days. Two days is not enough, spend three days. If

three days is not enough spend 21 days. Pray with all your might onto the Lord. And God's power will soon come upon you. You will taste those power like nobody else have tasted before. God has some power in store to keep in your life. And He will put power into your situation.

The second thing that Elijah did was that he came before the Lord. He prayed for the soul of the child to come back. You know what Elijah was doing? Elijah was creating the future. He had no time to hold on to the past. He took the word of God; he took prayer; he took the Spirit of the living God and he creates the future. The future is yours to conquer. The future is yours to build. What we will be tomorrow depends on what you do in the present. If in the present you spend all your time holding onto the past your future is doomed. Disasters await you, dearth awaits you, all the kind of sufferings awaits you. All the afflictions await you. All the darkness awaits you. But if you would take the word of God, you would take the love of God, you would take God's power, and with God's revelation you began to pray with all your might. You began to shape your future. Creatively you began to bring that before God. You don't wait for the future to just drop by. You create the future.

Elijah took the power of God and changed the future. Because the present continued will become the present future. The child was dead. If nothing is done the child will remain dead. You can cry all you want but the child is still dead. You can complain all you want but the child is dead. You can blame everybody but the child is still dead. We need men and women of God who will take the weapon of the Spirit of God and create the future. Create your future. If you don't do it the devil will do it for you.

Take the things of God. The revelations God has spoken in your life. Write down those things the prophecies that are good for you that have confirmation in our heart and your spirit. Write them down; see them and pray over them. Fast over them. Seek the Lord over them. People take days off to go on a vacation. You take days off to go on a vacation with God. Any vacation with the Lord is a very nice one. I took all those things that God has said about the future and bring it before God. I pray and fast and seek the Lord. God will never forsake you if you don't forsake Him. Take the things God has said, and then fast, pray and seek Him with

all your heart and you will create your own future. The revelation He has given you. Don't do it in your own strength. Don't do it in your own flesh. But take what God speaks for you that are in line with your spirit and your conscience and build them up for your future that God has for you. And for every single one of us God has planned a bright future. Put away the dark part. Everyone of you has a dark part. But everyone of us has a bright future.

Thirdly Elijah when he came before the Lord unlike the woman who pass responsibility on others, Elijah took the responsibility on himself. He took it as his responsibility to wake the son from death. He didn't tell the woman that it was her responsibility. He took that upon his own shoulders. Like a donkey to take the burden that others cast on him and bring it before the Lord. When you take responsibility for your own healing then you would do with all your might. When you take responsibility for your own financial life then you would do something in your own life that God can work out for you. Take the responsibility and bring it before God. It is in your hand you hold the miracle in your hands. In other words you are the one who will determine the outcome. Thank God for health, thank but it's in your own hand lies the responsibility to do some thing. When you stand before Jesus at the judgment seat, nobody can blame you even your closest father, mother or your wife for their life. Everyone has to face God for their own life. God regards each one of us as having our own sacred responsibility of life.