

Pete Grieg introducing his new book

20th February

1. Reflect back

- Share any stories about beginning Safar
- What one thing stood out from this week's talk?

2. Review the teaching

A word from God: "I see, I know, I love you"

24/7 Prayer began 22 years ago with the aim to pray through 2000. Now half the countries in the world have prayer rooms, the Order of the Mustard Seed has been revived and Pete acknowledges that he is the "increasingly bewildered founder of 24/7 Prayer".

How to hear God - a simple guide for normal people" has been the hardest book to write. The most important thing is to hear God but we find it painful, confusing, difficult.

John 10v27 "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me". The heart of discipleship is to learn to listen to the voice of God and then to obey.

History attests to many who acknowledge listening to God and changing the world. Examples include Augustine, George Washington Carver, Florence Nightingale, Ben Carson, etc. (all mentioned in the book). Listening to God is not insanity but true humanity as we all have capacity to hear God however Religious psychosis is real so we need to use discernment.

How? Word and Whisper. Luke 24v13-35 The Emmaus Road. Do we miss Jesus by not inviting him in? Jesus spoke using the **Word**. He gave a Bible study on the road. Objective truth of the Bible is key. We're "People of the Book". What is our epistemology? No conspiracy theories, the Bible is God's Truth.

Isa 30v21 *Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'* Reading the Bible may be formal, let it become familiar. Engage head and heart.

Head: understand the type of literature (ed: prophecy, narrative, law, lament); use a "Study Bible"; use Bible Project (bibleproject.com)

Heart: develop conversation with God, experience revelation; use Lectio 365 - learn to meditate.

"Word" in Bible has 2 Greek words. "Logos" is The Word, the Bible, Jesus (ed: ie John 1v1); "Rhema" is the spoken word of God, the prophetic, ie Matt 4v4 "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word (Rhema) that comes from the mouth of God."

Early Church learned to prophesy. Paul 1Cor 14v1...*eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.* Learn to edify, encourage, build up and comfort the body of Christ. (Read That Gentle Whisper, Bill Cahusac) The ABC Test: Is the prophecy Affirming? Biblical? Christlike?

Sometimes God speaks in a **Whisper** - it can be easy to miss him. He is humble and gentle, his voice is too normal so we need to become attentive. "God comes as our own life" (Rohr). We're wired differently - We might see, hear, think, study, feel God. Learn the language God wants to use for you. John 10v27 "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me". Be hungry for God and eagerly desire to prophecy.

3. Realise the value

- How can we as a Collective encourage developing the gift of prophecy in one another?
- What issues hold us back? How can we overcome them?
- An exercise (already practiced in some Collectives): Work in pairs, one to pray for a minute for a word from God and then share that with the other person. Use ABC Test. Then repeat the other way round.
- Was that helpful? What did we learn? How can we get better at this?