

James Goll Reveals the Secret of How to Discern and Act on God's Voice

Prophet James Goll, author and founder of God Encounters Ministries, says every believer can learn how to hear God's voice, something many Christians long for on a daily basis.

But the host of Charisma Podcast Network's *God Encounters Today* says it won't be a simple act of listening. There are things the believer must do to discern the voice of God, because there is little doubt that He wants to connect with us every day.

The Bible, Goll says, tells us that we need to have our "senses trained to discern good and evil" (Heb. 5:14).

"How would you like to have an emotionless relationship with your wife?" Goll asked Dr. Steve Greene on a recent episode of *Greenelines* on the Charisma Podcast Network. "How would you like to have a non-emotional relationship with a child, especially a newborn child of yours?"

"God is our Father, and He loves us and the Bible says that God just falls all over us with joy," Goll says. "So I make an appeal that God is an emotive God. God has emotions. And, if God has emotions and we are made in the image and likeness of God, and God the Creator, Jesus Christ, in the new creation, lives in us, then how about some of the emotions—not all—that we actually experience are God's emotions expressed in and through us."

"In this new book of mine, *The Feeler*, it's discovering how sensitivity helps you discern God's voice. And let's get more raw or transparent. We are all made to be sensitive creatures, and that's a blessing."

You can either acknowledge and work with it, or you can acknowledge it and work against it, Goll believes.

“In today’s culture, we are taught to be so fear oriented. There are real issues and it is complex. So one of the main things is to keep your worship on. You’ve got to keep your worship on or you will end up in worry. We are supposed to walk by faith.

There are three W’s that enable us to walk by faith. Goll says, “You’ve got to keep your worship on, you’ve got to keep the Word as your anchor and you’ve got to remain in God’s ways.”

“You will be an anchored believer by the Word and by worship,” Goll says. “You’ve got to put the Word in you or you’re going to float around like a kite by every wind. Learn to embrace the Word of God so you can attain the promise.”

For more of this interesting interview with prophet James Goll, listen to this entire episode. Subscribe to *Greenelines* on the Charisma Podcast Network for more inspiring interviews and listen to *God Encounters Today* for more with James Goll.
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In Gang Spiritual Warfare, Fear is No Option

Fear is never an option when Sonny Lara braves his way in the treacherous, gang-infested areas of San Jose, California. When God instructs him when and where to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, he simply has no choice to shun the fear of man and obey God.

Considering where he came from as a drug dealer and a gang lord—the very pit of hell as he describes it—his mission as a soldier of Christ thrusts him daily onto the front lines of an intense spiritual battle against demonic forces. Through his almost inconceivable life experiences, Lara has gained the favor of God—and the upper hand on the enemy when it comes to evangelizing his own kind.

Through his ministry for the past 30 years, Firehouse Community Development Corporation, Lara has no hesitation in saying he's seen tens of thousands of gang members that might otherwise be languishing in prison or strung out on drugs in the streets of San Jose come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

But before that can happen, Lara says, he must be able to hear the voice of God clearly about where he is to preach. Like Jonah, he is sometimes tempted to run the other way when God tells him to “go to Nineveh.”

But unlike Jonah, he never fails to discern God's commands, even if it means staring down the barrel of many guns or the sharp point of a switchblade. And that happens more often than he has cared to remember.

“Take a look at 2 Corinthians, chapter 3 and verses three and four. Paul says that Satan is the god of the world that blinds the minds of non-believers,” says Lara, the host of Miracle

Madness on the Charisma Podcast Network. "What we do is we tear that veil off of their minds.

"God gave me a vision from Acts 18, nine through 11. It says there that Paul had a vision and that the Lord told him, 'don't be afraid. Speak out. Don't be silent, for I am with you. No one will attack and harm you, for many people in this city belong to me. And it says Paul stayed there for the next year and a half, teaching the word of God.'

"You go somewhere you know that's dangerous because you trust God. When you go on your own accord, you might get beat up or worse. You might not make it out. I've known other preachers where they've gotten beaten up. They thought that Jesus told them He was going to let them in. It's not what you say sometimes, it's how you say things. When you are in their territory, you had better hear God because God will give you the strategy. They will not be able to resist or counter what you say because what you said was spoken through the Holy Spirit. God will give you words that they need to hear that will calm them down. Because of that, you go in pretty fearless."

And that's because the favor of man has not only been bestowed upon him, but also the incredible favor of God for the past 25 years.

Since 1986, Lara has been recognized as a gang expert by San Jose city and California state officials. Firehouse is part of the gang task force of the city of San Jose and provides gang intervention, crisis response and leadership to at-risk youth.

The organization has helped decrease crime in San Jose, including homicide and vandalism. Lara and his team have helped transition individuals and families into the mainstream of society as contributing members. Perhaps no one is a better example of this than Anthony Sanchez.

Sanchez is a protégé of Lara and a self-made millionaire.

Sanchez often accompanies Lara on his trips to the at-risk areas of San Jose, where they both know their lives can be snuffed out by a gang member at any time.

“When we go to these places, it’s all God,” says, Sanchez, 30. “We prepare the ground before we get there. We’re always praying, praying, praying because we don’t know what’s there until we get there. Sonny goes into these most dangerous of neighborhoods simply because he has the favor of God.

“When we go to these places, we know they are against us. I feel a lot more pressure on me because I’m younger and they don’t respect me as much as Pastor Sonny. I may not feel as confident or comfortable as he is, but I do feel a warmth of protection because of the anointing I know Pastor Sonny has upon him. I am alert to what is happening and what could happen. They don’t want us there, but we know that God wants us there because we are sent there to do His work and to see lives changed. That’s the comfort and protection that I feel when we go into these dangerous neighborhoods.”

Ruben Chavez, who worked with Lara on gang intervention for several years as a member of the San Jose Police Department and as the Chief of Police in Livingston, California, says it’s hard to miss God’s anointing on Lara’s life, and that’s what keeps him alive in even the most dangerous gang situations.

“Everybody knows about Sonny, and when you look at him, you think, ‘man, this guy is a great preacher,” says Chavez, who is now Chief of Police in Gustine, California. “Sonny has gained the respect of some of the most powerful and high-ranking people in city government, with police chiefs and with the police force overall. They know who he is and they trust him.

“He’s got no fear because he knows God has his back. He’s very bold, and he does things you wouldn’t think anyone would dare

do. He trusts God to take care of him, and that's exactly what he does. Pastor Sonny's got a unique gift and a vision. When I was chief of police in Livingston, gang violence and crime was reduced by 90 percent, and a lot of that is due to him and Firehouse. If that's not anointing, I don't know what is."

Headed for Hell, Redeemed by the Cross

Lara's work with Firehouse is long way from where Lara came from as a youth in the 1970s. Living under what he says was a "generational curse," his grandfather was a member of the Hispanic syndicate, and his father always carried a gun for various reasons.

Lara himself became a member of a gang and began to carry drugs at age 12, and he was shot for the first time carrying out gang activity at age 18. With his background, he figured, his life was predestined for nothing but trouble.

"I grew up in the streets where only the strong survive," Lara says. "I've stabbed people, I've been stabbed, I've had my head cracked open many times and I've had guns under my chin. My friends and I formed a gang to defend ourselves and what was ours, and I was the leader. I got kicked out of several schools. I went to school for all the wrong reasons.

"But eventually, God started working on me. John 10:10 says that Jesus came to give us life and life more abundantly. I eventually tried to find God, but I didn't know how to connect with Him. Eventually I got arrested and spent a great deal of time in prison."

Lara says it was after he turned 27 that he dropped to his knees and asked God, 'are you for real?' The voice of God came to him in 1979 and said to him, "serve Me or make this place (prison) your home."

"I was always wanting change, but I didn't know how to do it," Lara said. "I didn't want to go into a program that wasn't for

real. I needed to hear directly from Jesus. I asked him to put a desire in me to hear His Word. At first, I didn't want to read it. I couldn't read it. But the Holy Spirit wouldn't leave me alone."

Indeed, the Holy Spirit kept poking Lara when he was released from prison in 1984. He started his first Bible study in 1985, and Lara says God helped renew and redeem his marriage to his wife, Linda, that same year.

After working with several other agencies, including the Mexican American Community Services Agency, and making a huge impact on the culture of San Jose, the Laras started Firehouse in 1991 and has seen it grow by leaps and bounds.

Firehouse offers programs of intervention, which include mediation and crisis intervention; redirection and education of youth; rap sessions, which consist of individual or small process group discussion which helps you build trust and establish a healthy relationship with staff and peers; tattoo removal, which helps in the assistance in the removal of gang-related, hateful and incriminating tattoos (a program Lara says has saved many lives); and community service, which provides rewarding opportunities for youth to give back to the communities.

Firehouse's Outreach program assists young people in becoming self-reliant and self-sufficient in all aspects of life. Its mobile outreach unit is a team of trained individuals who are contracted with the city of San Jose to identify at-risk youth and to build relationship. Firehouse's goal is to "ignite youth for success" and give them the necessary skills to be productive members of the community.

A Prime Example

The program worked miracles for Sanchez, who met Lara in 2007 and instantly became mesmerized with the message he preached. While Sanchez didn't get saved until 2015, his respect for

Lara never waned since they met, mainly because he saw much of Lara in himself.

“I knew immediately that this man had something to say,” says Sanchez, who was arrested more than 14 times in his early life. “He once told us that whatever doors God opens for you, no man can close them. He never said that was a scripture in the Bible, but I wrote that down. That’s something that a leader would say. Every decision I made after that I took that scripture to heart.

“He invited me to church, and gave opportunities to be responsible, and I took them. He is a very credible person in my eyes. He helped me get through his after-school program and to navigate my way out of the gang lifestyle through his mentorship. He helped me to understand who I am, and who I am in Christ.”

But Sanchez knew he simply couldn’t leave his gang. He had to fight his way out—literally. He had to fight three members of his gang to resign, and with God’s grace, he survived and “jumped out.”

That’s when he began to become a successful businessman. At 23, Sanchez made his first million through an online company. He parlayed that venture into several other businesses he now owns that helps him to give back to the community with both his time and money.

“We do fundraisers, we’ve provided a building for an after-school program for at-risk kids, and we have an outreach team as well,” Sanchez said. “I’m in a position now to give my money and to support things we really believe in, like Firehouse and Pastor Lara. We’ve seen a lot of changes in kids, a lot of behavior changes, and it’s very rewarding to see families reunited and to see these kids get back on the right path.”

Another Redeemed Life

Along with his wife, Linda, Lara has helped build a team that is making a huge impact for Christ in the impoverished areas of San Jose. One of his team members, Outreach Supervisor Jose Marquez, is a former gang member who says he was “deeply caught up” in a life that “was headed nowhere” prior to meeting Lara in an evangelism situation in 1993.

After first rejecting Lara and his “Jesus” message, at 14 Marquez began to listen intently to Lara’s words simply because of their similar backgrounds. When Marquez began to learn more about Lara’s life filled with drugs, violence, arrests and prison, he soon came to the realization that the life he led had little meaning. The desire to escape that life began to consume him.

Connecting himself with Lara—and Jesus—he thought, was the only way out.

“My parents were good people, it’s just that they worked all of the time and they rarely were able to spend any time with me,” Marquez says. “But in my neighborhood, there were two gangs, one northern gang and one southern gang, and we were part of the southern gang. When I started getting older, the older kids in our neighborhood began feeding us lies about how different the members of the northern gang were, kids that I had spent my elementary school years with. And that’s how it all started.

“At first we didn’t want to have anything to do with Sonny. We actually thought he was from a rival gang. And then his sister-in-law brought him in, and his message was positive. We liked what we heard, and he kept coming around. I liked his story of everything that he had been through. It was real, and he began to encourage us that there was something better in life.

“Sonny was able to get me a job when I was 18, and I began to realize that Sonny really believed in me. That was a good

feeling. I've been with Sonny since 2007, about 14 years, and it's an honor for me to work beside him and to help him, though Jesus, to save other people's lives."

Marquez has seen both good and bad times in his work with Firehouse. He has seen youth that he has personally worked with get killed through gang activity, and the enemy almost convinced him to give up because that experience.

Marquez says he's had more guns pointed in his direction than he cares to remember.

But thankfully, Marquez says, through his co-workers, and the Holy Spirit, he was convinced to stay with it.

"I've been doing this for a while, and I like to work with kids that are high risk and get to them before they are recruited by these gangs," Marquez says. "I have seen some of these kids really break out and make something of themselves. They are adult men now—some construction workers, some electricians and others—and they have families now. They've learned the life skills to keep them out of trouble.

"A lot of these kids we work with are stuck in the neighborhood, but we let them know that, with Jesus, there is light at the end of the tunnel. There's more out there to explore. I know that I have to keep running the race God has set before me, and that's what I tell these kids. They need to do the same thing and they will be rewarded."

No Fear

With the backing of the mayor's office and the city of San Jose, Lara and Firehouse has helped change the cultural landscape of the city of San Jose. And, he says, he will continue to infiltrate areas of the city—and other cities when needed—to spread the gospel of Christ without fear for his own life.

"I go back to the apostle Paul and the book of Acts. It says, 'don't be afraid, no one will attack and harm you, for many people in this city belong to me.

"God is sending us to these dangerous places because we are the light to darkness. God gives me verses like Proverbs 16:7, Psalm 23:1-5, Proverbs 3:5-6, 2 Timothy 1:7 and Psalm 91:1-16 because He doesn't want me to be afraid and because He wants me to know that He is with me."

For those who wish to escape the gang lifestyle or who need prayer, please contact Sonny Lara at linsonlara@.

Shawn Akers is an assistant online editor with Charisma Media.

CN Morning Rundown: The 8 Signposts That Biden Is Breaking Down America

Here's a quick summary of the top stories on :

The 8 Signposts That Biden Is Breaking Down America

The Bible tells us, "Do this, knowing the time, that it is high time to awaken out of sleep" (). Leaders across America are calling the nation to wake up to the escalating crisis we're experiencing under Biden's incompetent leadership.

We are in grave danger and it is not a time to be passive,

preoccupied with other things or pushing aside anything “political.” We are under the influence of an anti-Christ power structure of radical leftists who are united and deadly serious about toppling traditional American.

Are you aware that Joe Biden has put forth the most radical socialist agenda in our history?

Christian College Fights Biden Administration’s Order on Opening Dorms, Showers to Opposite Sex

A Missouri college is suing the Biden administration for requiring them to allow transgender male and females to be allowed housing in the opposite sex’s dorm rooms and shower spaces.

College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Missouri, filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) April 15.

The lawsuit challenges the U.S. HUD-issued directive which “forces religious schools to violate their beliefs by opening their dormitories, including dorm rooms and shared shower spaces, to members of the opposite sex,” according to the college’s website with the lawsuit details. Under this directive, the Fair Housing Act prohibits colleges from “discriminating” against students’ sexual orientation or gender identity.

Egyptian-Born Michael Youssef Takes on Christian Persecution in US

Having grown up in the Muslim-dominated country of Egypt, Michael Youssef knows exactly what it’s like to face oppression for his beliefs and to defend his faith.

However, it’s something that, decades later, the founder of Leading the Way ministry and founding pastor of The Church of the Apostles in Atlanta never dreamed he be forced to draw

upon while living in the United States of America. Yet here he is, like many other Christians in this country, battling a presidential administration that is becoming more and more hostile the gospel of Jesus Christ by the day.

His newest book, *Hope for This Present Crisis: The Seven-Step Path to Restoring a World Gone Mad* (Charisma House, 2021), explains how believers can combat this siege from within the U.S. It provides a diagnosis of the insanity of the current culture in America and a prescription to the moral decay that has beset our country. (eoa}

Read articles like this one and other Spirit-led content in our new platform, CHARISMA PLUS.

Revivalist Will Ford: How Jesus Responded to Racism

Will Ford is a revivalist, a leader in the prayer movement and a reconciler of races. His end goal is that of the Lord's—redemption. Ford travels the globe with his family's heirloom, a prayer kettle, passed down from his enslaved ancestors. He uses it as a catalyst for mobilizing prayer, unity, revival and true biblical justice.

On a recent *Fire Starter* podcast episode on the Charisma Podcast Network, Ford explained something that many in the body of Christ may not realize: Jesus experienced racism. As followers of Christ, our response to prejudice needs to be the same as His.

In New Testament times, there was a bitter racial divide between the Jews and Samaritans. Intense hatred between these

two groups prevailed. In Luke 9:51-56, Jesus wanted to cut through Samaria on his way to Jerusalem and sent word ahead to advise them of His plans. But the Samaritans sent word back that they would not receive Him.

Ford explains that when he was growing up, as a young African American man, there were certain neighborhoods he felt it wise not to cut through—white, Hispanic and Black. Many in our nation have shared same experiences. If Ford walked through particular sections of town, the people may not have received him. But he points out that instead of reacting as the disciples did, we need to respond like our Savior.

Jesus' disciples wanted to angrily call fire down from heaven to destroy the Samaritans. They wanted revenge but didn't realize from what spirit they were speaking. But Jesus harshly rebuked them.

And Jesus' response becomes even more astonishing! In Luke 10:25-37, a lawyer asks Jesus, "Who is our neighbor?" It is here that Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan. Will Ford points out that even when we have been on the receiving end of racism, we need to respond with a right spirit. "Let me tell you about the good police officer," "Let me tell you about the good Black man," or "Let me tell you about the good white man."

To receive hope and healing for your heart, listen to the rest of Will Ford's story in this week's *Fire Starter* podcast episode. {eoa}

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Ohio Governor Uses Lottery to Incentivize Individuals to Get Vaccinated

After an 11 day pause of vaccinations, due to reported adverse effects of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, Ohio is trying a new approach to encourage people to inoculate themselves against the coronavirus.

On May 12th, Republican Gov. Mike DeWine announced the Buckeye State's new incentive program dubbed the "Ohio Vax-a-Million," which is a weekly lottery starting May 26. Vax-a-Million is financed by the federal pandemic relief funds and will be open for Ohio residents that are 18 years old or older and have had at least one COVID vaccine dose. The weekly winner will receive 1 million dollars.

A few days after the initial announcement, vaccination rates jumped up from 16% to 28%.

Director of the Ohio Health Department Stephanie McCloud, said, "This dramatic increase in vaccinations indicates that the Vax-a-Million drawing has been impactful in creating momentum for vaccinations throughout Ohio. We are grateful that the drawings are helping spur Ohioans to take this important measure to protect their health, their loved ones and their community. We are seeing increasing numbers in all age groups, except those 80 and older, who are highly vaccinated already, Although the rate among that group is decreasing, it is doing so at a less rapid pace, demonstrating some positive impact even in that group."

Ohio has also announced an incentive program for students ages 12-17 that will award a full, four-year scholarship to attend Ohio public universities. The scholarship includes tuition, room, board and books.

Ohio isn't the only state trying the lottery method to motivate people to take a vaccine—New York and Maryland are incentivizing their residents with prizes as well.

The CDC resumed the distribution of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine April 24, but with warnings of the risks. {eoa}

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Christian Freedom Under Grace

Christian freedom under grace is freedom from the excesses of our sin nature and from the demands of religious law for righteousness. The Spirit supersedes religious law. It strengthens us so that we can live in freedom, which is not the license to sin. Paul says: “For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another” (Galatians 5:13).

In Galatians 5:4, Paul says: “Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.” We draw grace from God by humility towards Him which is best described in 1Peter 5:5-7 which says: “be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time, Casting all of your care upon him; for he careth for you.” See also James 4:6-10, Philippians 4:6-7, Proverbs 3:5, Psalms 37:7, 55:22, Proverbs 3:5-6, Isaiah 26:3-4, and 55:7-9. When we

abandon all of our cares in favor of God's peace, He replaces them with the mind of Christ. We lose our chains.

The Mosaic Law was only a temporary schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. When we have Christ, we no longer need a schoolmaster. Jeremiah 31:31-34 tells us: "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

1 John 2:20, 27 says: "But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."

Those with the Holy Spirit have a spiritual discernment which is called the mind of Christ (see 1Corinthians 2:9-16). This discernment replaces religious law and becomes our new paradigm. Notice that we learn of this from the Word of God. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God; otherwise, we would not know how to arrive at this place.

Paul says: "But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law" (Galatians 5:18). The Holy Spirit, through the fruit of the Spirit, brings us to the place of freedom from religious law by moderating our tendency towards excess due to the law of sin (see Galatians 5:22-23). He describes the law

of sin as the human weakness that we all share (see Romans 7:14 thru 8:2).

Peter speaks of “having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2Peter1:4). Lust produces our excessive attachments, and brings us into bondage to things. Sin is slavery (see 2Peter 2:18-19). This is why it is difficult for us to resist it without Christ. Our motivation for not sinning is not the living up to the demands of religious rules and regulations, which have no transforming power, but it should be the maintaining of our liberty in Christ after we have been freed from the slavery of sin by the Holy Spirit. Paul asks in Colossians 2:20-22: “Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?”.

Inner peace and strength from God, which are fruits of the Spirit, keep us detached from the corruption of this world. They create a buffer between us and the world. We can be in the world, but not of it without physically isolating ourselves. This is different from solitude for prayer or fasting under the Spirit. Without the Spirit, isolating ourselves in order to escape the world doesn't do us any good because this turns out to be another attempt to attain righteousness without Christ.

For more information and a FREE download of Peter Aiello's entire book, visit

Email comments to aiello235@.

Tim Tebow Returns to Gridiron: Comeback Not What You Expect

Tim Tebow is returning to the NFL with the Jacksonville Jaguars after leaving in 2012. The outspoken pro-life advocate has garnered many fans over the years, both for his athletic wins as a former quarterback and for his faith-filled philanthropist efforts.

Tebow faced many challenges during his time off the field, hit especially hard by cancel culture in 2020. He's also had some major life wins such as marrying his wife, Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters in Jan. 2020.

Check out this Charisma News Update for the surprising factor of Tebow's return to the gridiron.

Why You Must Be Intentionally Intergenerational in Ministry

It was only a five-minute encounter. But that brief meeting changed my life.