

VOICES (Part 2) – Learning To Listen To God

Sunday, July 1, 2018

10:30 AM

1 Kings 19:9-13 New International Version (NIV)

13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

Last week we talked about all the voices we hear and how they can have an impact on our lives.

- The voices that speak into our lives can be very powerful
- They can be so powerful that they can take the place of that which God wants to speak to us

1. The Voices Within

- a. These voices come from our own thoughts and are often filled with fear, doubt and improper perspective
- b. These voices can sometimes take on a false sense of humility that sounds right, but keeps us from walking in the destiny and strength that God has for us

2. The Voices Without

- a. These are the voices that originate from others that sometimes initiate or help reinforce the negative voices that are already coming from within us.
- b. The problem with these voices is that they don't see things from God's perspective
- c. These voices are filled with a lack of compassion and understanding, a worldly perspective, selfishness, self-serving criticism, misinformation, ignorance, bias and even hate

3. The Voices From Below

- a. These are the voices that come straight from the pit of hell. Our enemy is real and he has a voice. That's why he is called the father of lies.
- b. He and his minions deceive, they manipulate, they malign the truth to fit their purposes. They sow doubt and fear.
- c. Their goal is to steal, kill and destroy

4. The Voices From Above

- a. Elijah has heard the voices from within, the voices from without, and the voices from below. It was time he hear the voices from above
- b. The voices from above are the truths spoken to us from God The Father, God The Son, and God The Holy Spirit
- c. They will always tell us the truth. They can not lie and would never deceive us
- d. My Sheep know my voice

John 10:4 New International Version (NIV)

4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

John 10:27 New International Version (NIV)

27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

- e. They say things like...
 - i. I created you, I love you, I have a purpose for you
 - ii. I will forgive you, I will restore you, I will heal your past and give you a future
 - iii. You are my son, my daughter in whom I am well pleased
 - iv. I will never leave you, I will never forsake you, I am with you always
 - v. You are not alone, there are many others going through the same trials you are and some have it worse than you
 - vi. I'm not done with you
 - vii. My ways are right and good and bring blessing to your life
 - viii. I am for you not against you
 - ix. You are an overcomer
 - x. Nothing can separate you from my love
 - xi. You can do anything because I will give you strength
 - xii. I will go with you and lead you in the way you should go
 - xiii. With me all things are possible

2 more things...

Not every voice from within and without are negative, but they must be in line with the voice of God in order for us to accept them

Not every voice from above will be gentle. God may need to share hard truth with us but you can be assured that even the harshest is truths will be shared in love and for our good and it will be absolute truth

We closed with this thought... There is a voice you need to hear today. So step out and listen to what He has to say to you...

This morning I want to take this message one step further

Learning to listen to the voice of God

How?

Learning To Listen To God

1. The Desire to Hear

There are three factors that determine our desire to hear

a. Faith

To believe that we can hear from God is first and foremost to believe in a real and present God who interacts with His creation

It is believing That God WANTS to and WILL speak to us

b. Hunger

Psalm 63:1 New International Version (NIV)

A psalm of David. When he was in the Desert of Judah.

¹You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.

Matthew 5:6 New International Version (NIV)

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled

c. Fear

Some people don't want to hear from God because they have already imagined what he will say or they are afraid to be held accountable to the directives of a real and living God

Exodus 20:18-20 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁸When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance ¹⁹and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die."

²⁰Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning."

2. Turn The Speakers On

At home we have a sound bar on our tv.... The tv can be on but until we turn the sound bar on there is no sound

The differences between being deaf and blind

If you are deaf, you can see the pictures but not hear the truth of the content of the audio. You could make up your own script to what you see, but chances are it would be far from the truth

On the other hand if you were blind but heard the audio, while the images in your mind might not exactly match what's in the screen you would still have the truth of the content that you heard

I say this to illustrate the importance of us hearing from God. How do we hear? We turn the speakers on (but before we turn the speakers on need to turn other things off)

Psalm 46:10 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰ He says, "Be still, and know that I am God..."

What are the speakers?

- a. Supernatural manifestations of God's voice
- b. The written word - reading, studying, memorizing and meditating on God's Holy Word

Hebrews 4:12 New International Version (NIV)

¹² For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

- c. Bible study with other believers - iron sharpens iron
- d. The preaching of the word - listening to God anointed preaching and exposition of the Word
- e. Worship & Prayer - Open Channels of communication with God
- f. The Altar - places of communion with God

3. A Willingness to Listen

There is a big difference between hearing something and listening to something

Listening implies concentration, attention and focus on what is being heard

It also implies understanding

Sometimes we willfully and purposely refuse to listen because we don't like what is being said... thus the term selective hearing

Do you practice selective hearing with God?

Acts 28:24-28 New International Version (NIV)

²⁴ Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. ²⁵ They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: "The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your ancestors when he said through Isaiah the prophet:

²⁶ "Go to this people and say,
"You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving."

²⁷ For this people's heart has become calloused;
they hardly hear with their ears,
and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts
and turn, and I would heal them.^[a]

²⁸ "Therefore I want you to know that God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!"

Most people are imploring God to speak, when it's our hearing that needs to be adjusted.

- Andre Womack

4. Aiming for Obedience

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As an earthly father, I get frustrated when my kids don’t listen.... After a while I want stop trying to speak to them about certain things because I know it won’t do any good

Why should God speak to us, if we have proven over and over again that we have no intention of obeying his voice

Hebrews 3:12-19 New International Version (NIV)

¹² See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. ¹⁴ We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end. ¹⁵ As has just been said:

“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts
as you did in the rebellion.”

¹⁶ Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt?

¹⁷ And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies perished in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? ¹⁹ So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.

The more we practice obeying what we have already heard the more we will hear the voice of God

30 Day Challenge to listen to God's Voice

- Get up each day and ask God for the faith to believe that He wants to speak to you
- In Hunger ask for Him to speak to you
- Ask the Holy spirit to remove all fear of hearing God's Voice

- Turn on the Speakers – Commit 5 – 10 minutes to one of the activities listed above

- Stay focused and pay attention to what God is saying to you. Repeat it back to God in an audible voice or write it down so you can preserve it for later

- Ask God for the strength to Put it into practice