

I Am

Sunday, July 10, 2022
10:30 AM

Through God's Mighty Love and Work, we can say with confidence...

I AM saved...

I AM redeemed...

I AM born again...

I AM a new creation...

I AM a temple of the Holy Spirit...

I AM Loved and I AM Forgiven

I AM a Mighty Warrior

Today, we will look at the life of Samuel and find yet another characteristic of who we are in Christ

I AM a LISTENER of God

We find this characteristic revealed in 1 Samuel Chapter three...

1 Samuel 3

3 The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions.

2 One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. 3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. 4 Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." 5 And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

6 Again the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

8 A third time the Lord called, “Samuel!” And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.”

Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. 9 So Eli told Samuel, “Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

11 And the Lord said to Samuel: “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. 12 At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. 13 For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God, and he failed to restrain them. 14 Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, ‘The guilt of Eli’s house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.’”

15 Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the Lord. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, 16 but Eli called him and said, “Samuel, my son.”

Samuel answered, “Here I am.”

17 “What was it he said to you?” Eli asked. “Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you.” 18 So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, “He is the Lord; let him do what is good in his eyes.”

19 The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel’s words fall to the ground. 20 And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord. 21 The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.

Like the other "I AM's," the ability to be A LISTENER OF GOD is made possible because of the Work of God

I AM a LISTENER of God, first and foremost, because God SPEAKS

This is an ATTRIBUTE of our God that is made clear again and again throughout the scriptures and one that sets Him apart as the one true God

Deuteronomy 4:7, 33

7 What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him?

33 Has any other people heard the voice of God speaking out of fire, as you have, and lived?

Deuteronomy 5:22-27

22 These are the commandments the Lord proclaimed in a loud voice to your whole assembly there on the mountain from out of the fire, the cloud and the deep darkness; and he added nothing more. Then he wrote them on two stone tablets and gave them to me.

23 When you heard the voice out of the darkness, while the mountain was ablaze with fire, all the leaders of your tribes and your elders came to me. 24 And you said, “The Lord our God has shown us his glory and his majesty, and we have heard his voice from the fire. Today we have seen that a person can live even if God speaks with them. 25 But now, why should we die? This great fire will consume us, and we will die if we hear the voice of the Lord our God any longer. 26 For what mortal has ever heard the voice of the living God speaking out of fire, as we have, and survived? 27 Go near and listen to all that the Lord our God says. Then tell us whatever the Lord our God tells you. We will listen and obey.”

Exodus 20:1, 22 (When God spoke the 10 commandments)

20 And God spoke all these words:

22 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites this: ‘You have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven:

Hebrews 1:1-2

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

And like the Other I AM Statements we appropriate (take a hold of it and make it real for ourselves) their truth in our life through our participation by faith and action on those truths

I AM saved...

I AM redeemed...

I AM born again...

I AM a new creation... through faith in Jesus' work on the cross, by repenting of my sins and by asking him to come into my life as Lord and Savior

I AM a temple of the Holy Spirit... through faith in the Gift of the Holy Spirit and by asking him to pour out his Spirit baptizing me in his presence and allowing him to take up residence in my heart

I AM Loved and I AM Forgiven... through faith in the nature of God's unconditional love and mercy and by living those same virtues out in my life towards others.

I AM a Mighty Warrior... through faith in his calling and power that works in my life and by stepping out in obedience to allow His purposes to be fulfilled

Likewise, I AM a LISTENER of God through faith in a God who speaks and by opening up my heart to receive His words of truth and life

Many times Jesus said, *"Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear"*

And in the book of Revelation, we are told no less than 8 times, *"whoever has ears to hear let him hear"*

It is interesting that this lesson of listening is set against the backdrop of those who are not listening.

The word of the Lord was rare

There were not many Visions

Eli's eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see

Eli was lying down in his usual place

The lamp of God had not yet gone out

Though they are older, though they should be wiser and more experienced, though they serve in positions that portray a posture of listening to God; it is the young, inexperienced, Samuel who actually hears the voice of God

Yet another indication that this ability comes by faith not by works

We need a generation of Samuels who will hear and listen to the voice of God

And it doesn't matter if you are young or old, if you are new to the faith or have been a follower of Christ for decades

How can I become a Listener of God

1. By believing that God speaks

7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

2. By knowing how God speaks

- The Word of God
- The Life, teaching and example of His Son, Jesus
- Godly appointed Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastor's and Teachers
- Prayer
- Worship
- Dreams and Visions
- Wise Counsel of Others (needs to align with the Word of God)
- Difficulties
- Circumstances
- Inwardly with thoughts and feelings
- Creation

3. By positioning ourselves to hear God's voice

3 ...Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was.

4. By acting on what we hear

James 1:22

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

11 And the Lord said to Samuel: “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. 12 At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. 13 For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God, and he failed to restrain them. 14 Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, ‘The guilt of Eli’s house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.’”

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17 “What was it he said to you?” Eli asked. “Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you.” 18 So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, “He is the Lord; let him do what is good in his eyes.”

Ezekiel 3:4

4 He then said to me: “Son of man, go now to the people of Israel and speak my words to them.

He goes on in this chapter to tell Ezekiel that if he does not warn (speak) them that he will be held accountable for their blood, but if he does warn them (speak) and they do not listen, he will not be held responsible because he has done what God asked of him.

5. By continuing to walk in relationship with our God and listen to His voice

19 The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel’s words fall to the ground. 20 And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord. 21 The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.