

Learning to Listen to God's Voice

The ONE Thing That Changes Everything, Week 3 of 5

God has not remained silent. He has revealed himself in ways that are general, such as in nature and in our circumstances. He has also spoken in ways that are specific, especially through the Bible. And he speaks in ways that are personal, through the Holy Spirit.

HEART

I have a hard time with listening. I have to tune in. Sometimes I blank out on whole conversations if I'm not being careful and intentional.

And sometimes, I'm the same with God. I feel a little thick-headed when I realize God was trying to speak into my life and I wasn't really tuned in.

HEAD

There was a famous Bible character that had the same problem...

1 Samuel 3:4-10 NLT

4 Suddenly the LORD called out, "Samuel!" "Yes?" Samuel replied. "What is it?"
5 He got up and ran to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" "I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go back to bed." So he did. 6 Then the LORD called out again, "Samuel!" Again Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" "I didn't call you, my son," Eli said. "Go back to bed."

7 Samuel did not yet know the LORD because he had never had a message from the LORD before. 8 So the LORD called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" Then Eli realized it was the LORD who was calling the boy.

9 So he said to Samuel, "Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Speak, LORD, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to bed. 10 And the LORD came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening."

Intimacy with God comes through attentively listening to his voice.

God speaks in many ways, but I often come back to the four primary ways that Henry and Richard Blackaby and Claude King wrote of in *Experiencing God*:

- Through his Word, the Bible.
- Through his Holy Spirit.
- Through his people, the church.
- Through our circumstances.

4 Ways to Get Ready to Hear from God

1. Be expectant.

Jeremiah 33:3 ESV

Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

God has promised to speak. So listen, **believing** you're going to be led by him.

2. Be quiet.

Psalms 62:5 AMP

My soul, wait only upon God and silently submit to Him; for my hope and expectation are from Him.

3. Be dependent.

1 Cor. 2:10-13 CEV

10 God's Spirit has shown you everything. His Spirit finds out everything, even what is deep in the mind of God. 11 You are the only one who knows what is in your own mind, and God's Spirit is the only one who knows what is in God's mind. 12 But God has given us his Spirit.

That's why we don't think the same way that the people of this world think. That's also why we can recognize the blessings that God has given us. 13 Every word we speak was taught to us by God's Spirit, not by human wisdom. And this same Spirit helps us teach spiritual things to spiritual people.

4. Be teachable.

2 Tim. 3:16-17 GWORD

16 Every Scripture passage is inspired by God. All of them are useful for teaching, pointing out errors, correcting people, and training them for a life that has God's approval. 17 They equip God's servants so that they are completely prepared to do good things.

The fact is, we NEED to hear what God has said, and what God is saying. He speaks to point our lives in a direction that gets us ready for eternal life with him.

HANDS

Practice listening to God - be open vs. closed. Be quiet. Be still. And hear him!

HEART

God has broken the silence and has spoken to **YOU** through his word, his Spirit, his people, and the circumstances of your life. He's told you all about his purposes for you and his redemptive plan in Jesus Christ. So will you listen and surrender to his voice?