

God is Speaking – Am I Really Listening?

One of the most commonly twisted and misused phrases that I know of is, "...the Lord told me" The next part of the conversation is always some valuable tidbit of inside information which may or may not be valid! This morning as I pause to reflect on my own personal relationship with God, I must ask the question, am I really listening?

There is a passage in scripture where a young boy whose life has been appropriated to serve God receives a call from the Lord; ***"Now the boy Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation. And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see, and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the LORD where the ark of God was, and while Samuel was lying down, that the LORD called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am!"*** (1 Samuel 3:1-4 NKJV)

It is interesting to me that the wise old man in this story is not the one who is approached by God, but rather the young willing servant.

Oswald Chambers gives us an interesting commentary on this passage and especially our inability to really hear God when he says; ***"The destiny of my spiritual life is such identification with Jesus Christ that I always hear God, and I know that God always hears me (John 11:41). If I am united with Jesus Christ, I hear God by the devotion of hearing all the time. A lily, or a tree, or a servant of God, may convey God's message to me. What hinders me from hearing is that I am taken up with other things. It is not that I will not hear God, but that I am not devoted in the right place. I am devoted to things, to service, to convictions, and God may say what He likes but I do not hear Him."***

Chambers, O. (1986). My utmost for his highest: Selections for the year. Grand Rapids, MI: Oswald Chambers Publications; Marshall Pickering.

Perhaps too often, and I am speaking for myself, I am too quick to run to others for answers, solutions and sympathies for the difficulties that I encounter on the road of life. Rather than running elsewhere, my emotional and spiritual needs are better met in the presence of my Father.

We are fond of singing the phrase, "better is one day in your courts than thousands elsewhere...." But do we really believe that enough to make it a priority in our lives?

Jim Freed

Listen to what Charles Spurgeon says in the Treasury of David about that verse; ***“Under the most favorable circumstances in which earth’s pleasures can be enjoyed, they are not comparable by so much as one in a thousand to the delights of the service of God. To feel his love, to rejoice in the person of the anointed Savior, to survey the promises and feel the power of the Holy Ghost in applying precious truth to the soul, is a joy which worldlings cannot understand, but which true believers are ravished with. Even a glimpse at the love of God is better than ages spent in the pleasures of sense. “I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.” The lowest station in connection with the Lord’s house is better than the highest position among the godless. Only to wait at his threshold and peep within, so as to see Jesus, is bliss. To bear burdens and open doors for the Lord is more honor than to reign among the wicked. Every man has his choice, and this is ours. God’s worst is better than the devil’s best. God’s doorstep is a happier rest than downy couches within the pavilions of royal sinners, though we might lie there for a lifetime of luxury.”***

Spurgeon, C. H. (2009). The treasury of David, Volume 3: Psalms 56-87 (435). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

I believe that what the Lord is saying to me personally today is that I need to practice the devotion of hearing. My life is so complicated that I neglect the practice of childlike simplicity. This needs to be rectified if I truly desire to hear God.

Let’s close with the words of Jesus Himself who said, ***“Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.”*** (Luke 18:17 NKJV)