

## Heart for the World Bible School

### HOW TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE WITHIN YOU "Discovering How to Let God Be the Author of Our Story" 1 March 2023

#### I Samuel 3

##### I. Introduction:

Today, we will learn how our lives would become a more powerful witness of God working through us and with us to help us know Him better and make Him known to all around us.

Today, we want to talk about learning how to hear and discern God's voice speaking within us. We are going to look at the story of a little boy named Samuel, who discovered how to hear God and changed history.

The main point of today's lesson is that:

**Hearing God's voice is the key to knowing God's victory in every area of our lives!**

A. When some hear people say, "God spoke to me" they think that is weird, goofy, or spooky. For others they think that is certainly just something for the "super spiritually elite." But Jesus said in John 10:27, "***My sheep hear (listen to) my voice***". This is very rarely an audible thing but as the Bible describes in I Kings 19:12, a "*gentle whisper*."

1. God not only wants you to hear God for yourself but He wants you to share life-giving words He gives you for others. One of the really important things we are called to do is "translate God" to others. We call this "the prophetic." We're going to see how in I Cor. 14:31 the Bible says, "*You all can prophesy*." You see one thing that we know from scripture is that "God has a lot of good things to say to people, and many of those things He wants to say through us!"
2. God doesn't want us to be just good people, He wants us to become prophetic people. We want to see how, when every day normal people begin to hear from God, their impact goes from natural to supernatural. They go to a whole new level of being used by God.

What we're going to see from this story is that even if you're just an 11 or 12-year-old boy, you can hear from God. In fact, if you are a Christian you have heard God speak, but so many haven't recognized it or haven't learned to cultivate that discernment that allows it to become a regular, instead of an unrecognized, part of your life.

them. Of course, as we learn in Equip 201, that has a lot to do with a quiet time and especially learning to hear from God through His word. 90% of what He says happens there.

*Colossians 3:16-17*

*Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord. Giving thanks in all things.*

**B. It keeps us on the path to discovering our life's purpose.**

Maybe some of you remember the hymn "In the Garden" ... It speaks of this morning intimacy. He speaks and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their singing..."

God is continually, quietly seeking to direct our lives.

*Isaiah 30:21... You shall hear a voice behind you, this is the way walk in it.*

*James 1:5, If any of you lacks wisdom let Him ask of God.*

*Prov. 3:5-6 He shall direct your paths.*

Bill Hybels says it so eloquently,

*"Every life that has really counted for God inevitably can be traced back to a series of unplanned promptings from heaven that have charted a course for a life we could have never foreseen. When people hear from Heaven their life is never the same."*

**C. God's whisper in a time of suffering has the power to turn dark days into doorways.**

*Psalms 107:19-20*

*They called out to God in their distress and he sent His word and healed them.*

The faith that overcomes the world doesn't come just by talking to God; it comes from hearing from God.

Henry Blackaby in the book, *Experiencing God* said, "We don't know the whole truth of any situation until we hear from Jesus". We see part of the truth, the facts of our senses but we don't see the truth of God's intervention until we get a word from God.

Our natural senses look at our circumstances to interpret God and our future; faith looks to God to interpret our circumstances and our future. In the natural, the disciples may think a man born blind has sinned or his parents have sinned, but

*Isaiah 55:11*

*So is my Word that goes out of my mouth, it will not return void but it will accomplish the thing for which I sent it.*

Hannah in chapter 1, saw after not being able to get pregnant, that if she would surrender her agenda completely to God, He could speak a word and activate a miracle. That word came through Eli and sure enough Samuel was born and 5 other children to boot.

**III. So how do we begin to hear from God and translate more of God to others? Let's look at this story, I Samuel 3:1-5.**

- A. **We see that God is always speaking but the problem is we're not hearing.** It says in vs. 7, that the "Word of the Lord was rare." People weren't expecting it, weren't tuned into it.

**Discernment is something that is developed.**

*"But solid food belongs to those who by reason of use, have their senses trained to discern between good and evil." (Hebrews 5:14)*

1. Some people don't realize that we not only have these outer ears and eyes we have inner ears and eyes, too. (Eph. 1:17-18 talks about the eyes of our heart). They have to be trained. (examples learning to hear a baby's heart beat-fetal scope or musical notes)
2. What we learn is the difference between our soul and our spirit. Our soul is where our emotions, thoughts, ideas, and impulses come from, mostly produced as reactions from circumstances around us. Our spirit is the deepest part of us, where we know God. So often in a situation it is the distraction of our circumstances that keep us from the revelation of our spirit. So, we see that Eli tells Samuel to be still, lay there purposing in your heart to listen. Sometimes we don't hear God because we aren't willing to be still long enough, or we are expecting some spectacular miracle. (Max Lucado)
3. It is quite significant that it was Samuel's desire to hear and his willingness to learn that made it possible for Samuel to discern God's voice. God speaks through relationship. Just like in a marriage, true communication isn't rushed; it comes from seeking the heart of the Beloved.

In fact, I believe that most of what God wants to tell us is not dramatic direction for our life, but it is just revelation of His heart, who He wants to be for us and in us- how He loves us, how He has forgiven us... so that

Today, I want to really pray for you to be activated in hearing the voice of God. I am wondering how many of you would be willing to intentionally make it a priority of your life to listen for the voice of God. I'd like to challenge you to do it for the next 30 days. It would be great if you spent time each day in the word, with a journal, asking God to speak and writing what you think he says and then sharing it with a spiritual partner. I'd encourage life groups to make this a key part of your time together, listening together to God and sharing what He says.

In ministry time, we would like to especially pray for people who need a word from the Lord that could turn a dark day into a door way. We'd like to pray for your spirit to receive a whisper from God.