**Do You Hear What I Hear?**

**By Pastor Fee Soliven**

**John 10:24-30**

**Sunday Morning**

**February 23, 2020**

**John 10:24-30**

24 Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." 25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. 26 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one."

**It’s very comforting to know that God loves us enough to make a plan for each of our lives**

Saints, in fact, He designed it before we were ever born. Nothing about our lives is an accident. Although God’s plan is the best possible path, it’s not always the easiest.

**Jeremiah 1:4-5**

4 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: 5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

**Galatians 1:15**

“But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace…”

Saints, we may have to climb a few mountains and walk through some dark valleys, but if we follow His instructions, we’ll discover the rewards of living according to His will. That’s why it’s important to ask the Lord to reveal His plan to us and be ready and willing to listen for His directions.

**Since God has a plan, we can be certain that He wants to guide us into it**

**Psalm 32:8**

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

5 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

To acknowledge the Lord means we consider what He says, recognize His great power, trust His guidance, and follow His instructions. He’s continually seeking to guide us, but if we’re not listening, we’ll miss His instructions and go the wrong way.

**When Jesus speaks, He wants us to listen**

Saints, as Jesus taught a large crowd, Jesus called for their attention by saying, “Listen to this!”

**Mark 4:1-3**

1 And again He began to teach by the sea. And a great multitude was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole multitude was on the land facing the sea. 2 Then He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in His teaching: 3 "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow.

Christ also announced:

**Mark 4:23-24**

23 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." 24 Then He said to them, "Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given.

Saints, it’s not only important to hear, but it’s critical to be discerning in our listening. At another time, Jesus called out, “Listen to Me,

**Mark 7:14**

When He had called all the multitude to Himself, He said to them, "Hear Me, everyone, and understand:

Saints, Jesus’ goal is that we comprehend what He says, when Jesus spoke to Nicodemus, He said,

**John 3:3**

Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

The phrase, “Truly, truly, I say to you” is used 25 times by Christ in the book of John. It was His way of emphasizing that what He was saying was authoritative truth that deserved full attention.

**How does God speak to us today?**

Saints, we know that the Lord spoke to people in the Bible, but He also wants to speak personally to each of His children today. This means we must be attentive because no one else can listen for us.

**James 1:19-20**

19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; 20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Saints, God’s primary way of speaking to us is through His Word. The Bible is not just an old book, but the inerrant, authoritative Word of God and the only source of truth. When we read it, we’re hearing directly from the Lord.

**Romans 10:17**

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ”

**Jeremiah 33:3**

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

**John 8:47**

Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

**Isaiah 30:21**

And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

All other methods of listening to God must be checked and compared with the scriptures to determine if we are accurately hearing Him. He also speaks to us through prayer.

Saints, Prayer is our way of communicating with God by talking to Him, but it’s also a time to be still and listen for His guidance. Instead of simply running through our list of requests and moving on to the day’s duties and activities, we need to learn to be still for a while to see if He has anything to say to our hearts.

The Lord may speak through our circumstances. When a situation is painful, we must remember that hearing from God is more important than our comfort and pleasure. He uses difficulties and suffering to grab our attention. In every event, God has something to teach us.

Saints, instead of focusing on why the situation has happened, our first question should be,

**“Lord, what do you want to say to me?”**

**Sometimes God speaks to us through other people**

It may come in the form of affirmation, confirmation, encouragement, or even reproof or warning. And the Lord may use anyone He chooses to deliver His message—even someone we may not like.

Saints, no matter the source, we should thoughtfully and prayerfully consider whatever is said.

**How can we identify God’s voice?**

When we are seeking to hear from the Lord, we must make sure that it’s His voice we are hearing and not our own thoughts or someone else’s ideas.

**Jeremiah 17:9-10**

9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? 10 I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

**God’s voice is always consistent with His Word**

Any message must agree with what the Lord has already said in scripture.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**His Voice is Quiet**

**1 Kings 19:11-13**

11 Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

God speaks to our hearts through His Holy Spirit in an inaudible but compelling way.

**The Lord speaks clearly**

Saints, if we’ll tune our hearts to Him by setting aside time to read His Word and listen for His Spirit to speak, He will give us clear guidance.

**To hear God's voice clearly, there are a few things we have to do**

**1) Quiet your mind**

**2) Place God as your number one counsel**

**3) Pay attention**

**4) Strengthen your relationship with God**

**5) Read your bible**

**6)Worship
7) Always pause and listen**

**How does the Lord get our attention?**

**Sometimes He uses a sense of restlessness**

Perhaps we have already planned a course of action but then develop an uneasy feeling about it. If we’ll pray and ask God for specific guidance, He might lead us in an unexpected direction.

**At other times God may get our attention with a gentle whisper**

Although His voice is soft and inaudible, it rings so loud and clear in our spirit that we know we’re hearing from Him.

**Why don’t we listen to God?**

**We may not believe that the Lord speaks today**

If that’s the case, we won’t be listening for His voice. But those who tune in to Him every day realize that He speaks personally to our spirits if we’re listening.

**Hebrews 11:6**

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”

**We might be afraid of what He will say**

What if God asks of us something we don’t want to do? This attitude displays a lack of trust and a failure to understand that His plan for our lives is always the best option.

**We could be angry with the Lord**

If we’ve blamed Him for something that happened in the past, we may not be interested in hearing anything He has to say.

**Romans 9:20-24**

20 But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?" 21 Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?

22 What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, 24 even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

**We could have a rebellious spirit**

If we’re refusing to give up a particular sin in our lives, we won’t want to hear the Spirit’s convicting voice.

**1 Samuel 15:23**

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king."

**What are the consequences of not listening to God?**

We know that the Lord spoke to people in the Bible, but He also wants to speak personally to each of His children today. This means we must be attentive because no one else can listen for us.

**We won’t receive His guidance and will miss out on His plan for our lives**

**We’ll listen to the wrong voices, be deceived, make costly decisions, and forfeit God’s best**

**Others will suffer**

An unwillingness to listen to the Lord affects not only us but our loved ones and associates.

**In Closing:**

**1. Have you ever felt a conviction regarding a particular sin?**

**2. If so, you have heard God’s voice.**

**3. How else have you sensed Him communicating with you?**

**4. As you’ve read the Bible, has a passage ever spoken to a situation you were facing?**

**5. What did the Lord say to you through His Word?**

**6. How has Scripture given you guidance, comfort, or insight regarding a circumstance in your life?**

**7. What do you need to do to increase your sensitivity to God’s voice?**

**Let’s Pray**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**