**I Can Hear Clearly Now**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**John 14:26-28**

**Sunday Morning**

**July 9, 2023**

**John 14:26-28**

26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

28 You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I.

Saints, in the midst of our electronic generation of instant communication, information, and entertainment, is anyone listening to God?

God wants to communicate with us and has been speaking ever since creation. In the old testament, He spoke through prophets. In the new testament, through His Son.

**Hebrews 1:1-2**

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds...

Saints, God continues communicating now through the Holy Spirit.

**John 16:13**

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come"

Saints, the issue is not whether God is speaking, but if we are listening.

**Our Ears are tuned to whatever Holds our Hearts and Minds**

Saints, if this world is our main focus, we’ll hear its messages. However, if our hearts are set on Christ, we’ll take time to quietly listen for His guidance and instruction. But many people have never learned to discern His voice.

**What are the Primary reasons People Don’t Listen to God?**

**1. They don’t have a Relationship with Him**

Although the Lord calls everyone to salvation, those who reject His offer will find that they cannot hear His voice.

**Romans 3:10-12**

10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

**2. Many People don’t Expect the Lord to Speak to Them**

But this would be inconsistent with His character since He desires to guide His children throughout their lives.

**1 John 4:10**

"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins"

**3. The Messages of the World Drown out God’s Voice**

Saints, instead of being concerned about the things of this world, believers should seek to know what is going on in God’s mind and what He wants to do in their lives each day.

**1 Corinthians 2:16**

"For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ"

**4. They Don’t Think He has ever Spoken to Them**

Therefore, they don’t believe He ever will speak clearly to them

**John 10:27-28**

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.

**5. Their Minds are Closed to His Voice**

They no longer listen to hear Him speak

**Acts 28:25-27**

25 So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, 26 saying, 'Go to this people and say: "Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive;

27 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them."

**6. People are Too Busy**

If Christians don’t spend time with the Lord, their ears won’t be tuned to His voice.

**Luke 21:34-36**

34 "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. 35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

**7. They May Fear the Message**

Sometimes believers don’t want to hear what the Lord has to say because He may ask them something they don’t want to do

**2 Corinthians 6:14-18**

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." 18 "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

**8. Sometimes People are Angry with the Lord**

They don’t understand why He has allowed hardship and pain in their lives, and in anger, have closed their ears to His voice

**Ephesians 4:26-27**

26 Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil.

**9. They have Neglected Reading and Meditating on the Bible**

Ignoring the Scriptures increases worldly thinking while decreasing a desire to hear from the Lord through His Word.

**Romans 12:1-2**

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

**10. Some People have a Rebellious Spirit**

They try to satisfy the emptiness in their souls with the pleasures of sin rather than God

**1 Samuel 15:22-23 (New Living Translation)**

22 But Samuel replied, “What is more pleasing to the Lord: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.

23 Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols. So, because you have rejected the command of the Lord, he has rejected you as king.”

**11. Sin has Prevented them from Hearing God**

Anytime believers harbor sin in their lives, it blocks their spiritual ears. Sin will keep you away from the Bible and the Bible will keep you away from sin!

**Psalm 66:18**

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear"

**Isaiah 59:2**

"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear"

**How can we identify God’s voice?**

When we can’t discern whether we’re hearing from the Lord or from our own minds, look for these marks of distinction:

**1. His Voice will be Consistent with His Word**

Whatever He speaks in our hearts must match what He has spoken on the printed page.

**Psalm 119:160**

"The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever"

**John 17:17**

"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth"

**2. His Message will Often Conflict with Human Nature**

Sometimes the Lord may require of us something that seems beyond our abilities. But, He is faithful to enable us.

**2 Corinthians 9:8**

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work"

**3. The Lord Challenges our Faith**

Because He wants us to grow in faith, God sometimes calls us to face our fears and trust Him more.

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

**4. His Voice is Often Quiet and Still**

Instead of answering our prayers in dramatic ways, the Lord often speaks to our hearts quietly and unexpectedly in the normal course of the day.

**1 Kings 19:11-12**

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.

**Why Do we need to Listen to the Lord?**

He’ll guide us and provide what we truly need:

**Philippians 4:19**

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus”

**To Help us Make Decisions**

Because God is interested in every aspect of our lives, He wants to guide each choice we make:

**Romans 12:2**

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God”

**To be Encouraged**

No one can encourage our hearts like the Lord, but we have to listen to Him, or we’ll miss it

**Colossians 2:2**

“that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ”

**To Receive Comfort**

Sometimes we just need to be reminded that He loves us unconditionally and is always ready to help us through difficult circumstances.

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God

**To be Strengthened**

Whenever we need the will, determination, and confidence to keep going, God can strengthen us.

**1 Peter 5:10**

But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

**To Have Assurance of Salvation**

The only way to silence doubts is to listen to the Lord. He saved us once for all time and eternity.

**John 10:28**

“And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”

**To Benefit from His Protection**

When we follow the Lord’s guidance and make good choices, He protects us from wrong relationships and activities.

**What are the consequences of failing to listen to God?**

**1. The world will draw us away from Him if we ignore His voice**

**2. We’ll be easily deceived by all the other voices**

**3. We will make costly decisions based on human reasoning rather than divine guidance**

**4. We’ll make choices that appeal to the flesh and give us what we want**

**5. Our decisions could cause us to forfeit God’s best and all that He wanted us to have**

**6. We’ll miss out on the will of God for our lives and suffer consequences that could affect us for years to come**

**7. Our wrong decisions hurt our families because everyone suffers when one member refuses to follow the Lord’s guidance**

**8. There will be eternal consequences**

For unbelievers, their eternal destiny is at stake. But Christians who ignore God’s voice will lose heavenly rewards.

**In Closing:**

Are you listening to the Lord and walking obediently before Him every day? That is the only way to reap the greatest harvest in life now and receive eternal rewards hereafter. For unbelievers, their eternal destiny is at stake. But Christians who ignore God’s voice will lose heavenly rewards. No one can encourage our hearts like the Lord, but we have to listen to Him, or we’ll miss it!

**Let's Pray!**

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**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!**