

HEARING (AND OBEYING) GOD'S VOICE

- LISTENING TO GOD IS THE **MOST IMPORTANT PART** OF OUR TIME WITH HIM – IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO KNOW HIM AND TO BE ONE WITH HIM:
 - "Be still and **know** that I am God". – PSALM 46:10 (EX. 33:11,13,18 ; EPH. 1:17)
 - "Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to **listen** rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools..." – ECCLESIASTES 5:1
 - The Biblical word for listen means: to **reverently** and attentively listen, with the **intent to follow or obey**.
- YOU CANNOT BE A TRUE DISCIPLE (LEARNER & FOLLOWER) OF JESUS UNLESS YOU LEARN TO HEAR HIS VOICE & FOLLOW/OBEY HIM:
 - " My sheep follow me **because they know my voice**... My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." – JOHN 10:4, 27
 - Martha and Mary (LUKE 10:38-42)
- WHY SHOULD WE LISTEN TO GOD & OBEY / FOLLOW HIM ?:
 - "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life..." – JOHN 14:6
 - "My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart, for they are **life** to those who find them and **health** to a man's whole body." – PROVERBS 4:20-22
 - "Blessed are those who **hear** the Word of God **and obey** it." – LUKE 11:28
 - JOSHUA 1:8 - ISAIAH 48:17-18 - PSALM 16:8, 11 - PSALM 25:14 - PROV. 8:32-35
- WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DON'T SEEK GOD & LISTEN AND OBEY HIM ?:
 - JEREMIAH 32:32-35 - PSALM 81:8-16
- WHEN GOD IS OUR "TREASURE" & "FIRST LOVE", AND WE WANT INTIMACY WITH HIM **MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE**, WE WILL ALWAYS HEAR HIM:
 - MATTHEW 6:21,33 - REVELATION 2:1-4

"The voice of the Spirit of God is as gentle as a summer breeze -- so gentle that unless you are living in Complete Fellowship and Oneness with God, you will never hear it."
– Oswald Chambers (I KINGS 19:11,12)

"Knowing God's voice comes from an INTIMATE LOVE RELATIONSHIP with God."
– Experiencing God

Our heart attitude should always be: "Speak Lord, your servant is listening." (I SAMUEL 3:9)

LISTENING TO GOD

HINDRANCES TO HEARING GOD

1. WE DON'T KNOW GOD (BE IN THE WORD REGULARLY)
2. LOW SELF ESTEEM - Many people don't know or feel that they are God's child & often think "Why would God want to talk to me?"
3. GUILT - Satan lies and gives a person a false sense of guilt.
4. TOO BUSY - The cares of the world crowd God out of our lives.
5. UNBELIEF - You need to believe that God wants to speak to you through His Holy Spirit.
6. ANGER AT GOD - If you're angry at God you won't want to listen to Him.
7. SIN - There needs to be a turning away from sin (repentance)
8. REBELLIOUS SPIRIT
9. YOU REJECT THE PERSON OR CIRCUMSTANCES THAT GOD IS USING TO SPEAK
10. UNTRAINED TO LISTEN TO GOD

TRAIN / LEARN TO LISTEN TO GOD

- LISTENING/HEARING IS AN ACTIVE PROCESS
- YOU NEED TO TAKE TIME TO LISTEN
- MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD AND ASK QUESTIONS:
 - What are you telling me God ?
 - How does what I sense in Prayer /Circumstances/Godly people Confirm what I hear ?
 - How can I do/obey/follow ?

ANTICIPATE AND EXPECT GOD TO SPEAK (IT'S THE BIBLICAL PATTERN)

BE READY TO RESPOND TO WHAT YOU HEAR (WILLING AND OBEDIENT)

LOOK FOR A CONFIRMATION (PRAYER/ CIRCUMSTANCES/ GODLY PEOPLE)

God speaks through: His Word, Prayer, Circumstances, & Godly people.

ESSENTIALS TO LISTENING TO GOD

1. TIME & EFFORT

- YOU NEED TO TAKE TIME TO SEEK GOD AND LISTEN TO HIM

"If you have so much business to attend to that you have no time to pray, depend upon it, you have more business on hand than God ever intended you should have." -

D.L. Moody

2. STILLNESS (PSALM 46:10)

- YOU NEED TO HAVE QUIET AND STOP ALL YOU ARE DOING
(**FOCUS & CONCENTRATION**)

3. SECLUSION

- YOU NEED TO GET ALONE WITH GOD

4. SILENCE

- YOU NEED TO LET GOD DO THE TALKING

5. SELF-CONTROL

- BE DEVOTED TO GOD; BE DISCIPLINED; STICK WITH IT; DON'T GIVE UP

6. HUMILITY & SUBMISSION (JOHN 10:27; ISAIAH 1:19,20; EXODUS 33:13)

- YOU NEED TO HAVE A SOFT & WILLING & OBEDIENT HEART
- BE WILLING TO DO WHATEVER GOD TELLS YOU TO DO
- BE WILLING TO BE WHATEVER GOD WANTS YOU TO BE

“ God gives the gift of humility, which brings a softness of heart –
a gift that will always cause you to listen to God.” – Oswald Chambers

- YOU CAN'T BE INTIMATE WITH GOD UNLESS YOU **SUBMIT ALL TO HIM AND BECOME ONE WITH HIM**