

# Hearing The Voice

Just like with a father and a child it is important that we learn to listen for and respond to the voice of our Heavenly Father.

## Before He Comes, God Promised a Messenger

**Malachi 3:1–3 NKJV**

**1** “Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the Lord of hosts. **2** “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire And like launderers’ soap. **3** He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the Lord An offering in righteousness.

Without preparation we are not ready for the coming of the Lord.

**Isaiah 40:3–5 NKJV**

**3** The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. **4** Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; **5** The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

At God’s coming, there will be no pride in His presence. The twisting of our nature from iniquity must be made straight. The rough parts of our lives must be made smooth.

How does this happen? It starts with a voice.

The voice of the Lord *has* spoken and the voice of the Lord *is* speaking.

God sends His grace to prepare us. This is called prevenient grace.

Despite our ignorance God is still reaching out to us with grace (cf. Acts 17:30–31). God is speaking to us through others and even through creation (Romans 1:19–20).

# God Is Speaking to You Whether You Know It or Not

## 1 Samuel 3:1–10 NKJV

1 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. 2 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, 3 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, 4 that the Lord called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am!" 5 So he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." And he said, "I did not call; lie down again." And he went and lay down. 6 Then the Lord called yet again, "Samuel!" So Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." He answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." 7 (Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, nor was the word of the Lord yet revealed to him.) 8 And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. So he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you did call me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord had called the boy. 9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10 Now the Lord came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."

God was speaking to Samuel and he did not know who it was. Sometimes we may be confused and think it is just another person speaking.

Eli told Samuel that he *must* say, "Speak Lord for your servant is listening." We must be listening for God's voice and ask Him to speak.

When God speaks to you it is for a purpose. He doesn't speak without reason.

Like Samuel, we often need to be trained to recognize and respond to the voice of God.

If we don't obey the sound of His voice, He will not muscle you and force you to do so.

God spoke and the worlds were and He ought to be able to speak to us.

## We Need to Identify and Listen for the Voice

We are more competent in listening to our soul and following our emotions than we are in listening to God and living spiritually.

When we identify the voice of the Lord, it changes everything in our life.

We have to grow and develop our sensitivity to God's voice.

Parents, we need to teach our children to recognize that you are the voice. They need to learn to hear THE VOICE, they need to learn to hear your voice. Why do we listen? Because the person behind the voice. A child loves her father, but still has to learn to listen to his voice.

Wherever you are in life, there's a voice that is THE VOICE, for that time and place. We have to learn to listen to the voice of authority.

## **If You Have An Ear**

If you have an ear to hear God's voice He will:

- Call you
- Correct you
- Warn you
- Prepare you for the future. You can be prepared for the future without knowing it by simply listening and obeying God's voice.
- Teach you
- Encourage you
- Strengthen you
- Lead you all the way through

God will speak through a number of ways like Scripture, preaching, prophecy, etc. It is our responsibility to listen and obey.

## **Before The Second Coming, God Will Send Messengers**

Before Jesus returns for His people, God will send messengers to prepare the hearts of all who have ears to hear what He the Voice.

## **Conclusion**

It is important that we learn to recognize and respond to the voice of the Lord. If we desire to find our purpose and be led by God into our future, this is a crucial practice.

God loves you and is speaking to you. He is ready to speak to whoever wants to hear.