



## HEARING GOD'S VOICE

**Imagine the God who spoke creation into existence speaking into your heart!**

1. John 10:11-30 *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep... other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd... My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me..."*
2. Many in the Old and New Testaments have heard God speak. God spoke to Elijah in the cave (as he was hiding from Jezebel).
  - 1 Kings 19:1-18 *...but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small (delicate whisper) voice...*
3. But one person stands out as a shining example, the young prophet, Samuel, in 1 Samuel 3.
  - Vv 8-9 *And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. So he arose and went to Eli (Israel's High Priest), and said, "Here I am, for you did call me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord had called the boy. 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.*

### **If you want to hear God's Voice...**

1. EXPECT GOD TO SPEAK TO YOU! After the third time Samuel went back to his bed and anticipated the Voice of the Lord. And it came! We, too, can anticipate God to speak to us in ways that we will be able to understand. (John 10:11-30)
  - However, if we doubt, the Bible tells us that we will not receive anything from the Lord. (James 1:6-8)

2. If hearing His voice is important to us then we must BUY BACK THE TIME. This is an exchange and will require (forced) effort. Remember, the flesh is weak but the Spirit is willing (Matthew 26:41).
  - Ephesians 5:15-16 *See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming (buying back) the time, because the days are evil.*
  - Circumspectly: Living life carefully with honor, purpose, and courage; avoiding those who tolerate and enable evil.
3. DEDICATE A PLACE where you can meet with God, away from distractions. Give Him the highest priority during this time.
  - Matthew 6:5-8 *...But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly...*
4. Always have a notepad and pen available to WRITE DOWN what God may say to you. What we have to say to God is not nearly as important as what God wants to say to us.
  - Habakkuk 2:2-3 *Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.*
5. BE PATIENT and give yourself time. Jesus said that His sheep DO hear Him. Developing the ability to hear God's voice requires time, effort, and trial and error.

### **Application**

1. Can you imagine the Creator of the universe speaking into your heart! What could happen in your life if He did?
2. What does Exodus 33:11 tell you about Joshua?
3. If hearing God's Voice is important to you, what are you willing to change in order to better hear God's voice?