

Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Date: July 27, 2014

Title: "Speak, Your Servant is Listening"

Focus: It is natural for God to speak to humanity. - Hearing God Series (1 of 10)

Relationships are by nature living and interactive. They involve an ongoing exchange between to at least two people. The most basic representation of a relationship is two people talking to one another.

However, when it comes to God, this seems to change. If for no other reason than we cannot envision talking to God and He talking to us.

God Express Himself to Humanity

Because we believe,

- 1) God does not speak to man
- 2) If He God does speak he does so to *important* people,

This concept is difficult to accept.

Consider who Samuel is. Though one day he will be the premiere prophet in Israel, at this point he is but a child under the tutelage of Eli.

Until people accept that God speaks, it will be *impossible* to experience the voice of God.

What obstacles do you have to talking with God

Communication with God is Meant to be Two-Way (speaking, listening, responding)

Is this not the case with anyone?

Only when two people in relationship are discussing, back and forth, can growth be made.

Do we think God is threatened by our thoughts, wishes, perspectives, or opinions?

Do we believe He is disinterested in hearing what we have to say?

1 Kings 19:1-14; As Elijah engaged YHWH in conversation he came to relate to Him, understand His working, and was comforted in his distress.

Talking with God is not Merely Seeking Direction.

We associate talking with God as *praying*. And Praying is asking for a need or what God wants done.

If this is the only contact you have with God, then you are not experiencing what it means to talk with Him.

Intercession or petition, prayer, is but a portion of a richly interactive relationship God wants to have with you.

Imagine how you would react if someone only talked to you when they needed something.

If all we seek from God are marching orders (what to do) then all we are focused on is *doing*, not *being*.

Being able to converse with God is the essence of a relationship with Him. It is in the relationship God shapes and molds a person's being.

People Must be Taught How to Communicate with God

This is because God voice is not *automatically* recognized or naturally discerned. Sure if He were to speak in the presumed booming voice, but what about the still small one?

Samuel confused it for the voice of Eli, because, "Samuel did not yet know the Lord, nor had the word of the Lord yet been revealed to him" (v. 7).

We need to learn what His voice sounds like, and doesn't.

Often people are lead to believe God speaks in an angry condemning tone. When in reality, they are confusing the voice of God with that of another, themselves, or Satan.

Like with the tuning of an instrument, a person can learn to pick out the correct pitch of God's voice.

How do we learn to hear God?

1) By learning from those who know God's voice - Eli taught Samuel to recognize and respond to YHWH's voice.

Those who know God are obvious. God's character, as demonstrated in the Bible, is present in their lives. Don't seek to emulate their actions, learn from their person.

2) By spending time with God. People can never hear God if they won't take the time to.

3) Learn what His sound is with certainty from an inerrant source, the Bible, then seeking it out in the world around you.

By becoming familiar and accustomed to the thought and impulse of God *in your life*.