

Listening and Adhering to God's Voice
(1 Samuel 3: 1-11; Acts 7: 51-52; Hebrews 1: 1-2; Hebrews 3: 6-11)

Introduction

In the previous message, we spoke about the need for the Holy Spirit in our lives and to live FULLY in His Spirit and out of the flesh to please God. That means that every decision we take, especially concerning our purpose and place in the church must be through His Spirit and purely out of the flesh. But how are we supposed to know the difference between His voice and our fleshly voice and when God is speaking to us through the Holy Spirit?

*It helps to open your bibles up to the actual verses when going through the summary

Hebrews 1: 1-2

Spoke to fathers in prophets in the past
In these last days has spoken to us in His Son

John 14:25-26

Now we've read Christ told the disciples that the father will send the Holy Spirit to abide forever and to teach you all things and bring remembrance of all things He (Christ) said. That means since Christ is away from earth, He will speak and teach us through the Holy Spirit here on earth.

Let us first look at how God spoke to the prophets in the Old Testament.

1 Samuel 3: 1-11

Verse 4-5: Lord called Samuel, he answered Here I am and ran to Eli. Eli said he didn't call him go lay down

Verse 6: Lord called again and Samuel answered Here I am and ran to Eli. Eli he didn't call, go lay down

Verse 7: Samuel did not yet know the Lord or Word of the Lord

"Know"= Hebrew word **Yada`** (yaw-dah')

- to know, learn to know
- perceive, find out discern
- know by experience

Verse 8: Lord called once again and Samuel rose and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am for you called me." Eli figured the Lord was calling.

Verse 9: Eli told Samuel to go lie down once again and if he hears Him calling again say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."

"Listening"= **Shama`** (shaw-mah')

- to listen, obey
- with attention, interest
- have ability to or power to hear

Verse 10: So what did Samuel do? When God called He told God, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” He basically laid down his whole life to God calling himself servant. He also opened his ears in order to have the ability or power to listen.

If we want to hear God or the Holy Spirit speak that’s what we must do. We need to open our ears to listen and humble ourselves down as a slave or servant to God. It’s like what was spoken in the last message, taking that step fully out of the flesh and into His Spirit.

Hebrews 3: 6-11

Verse 7: “Holy Spirit says, ‘Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, as in the day of trial in the wilderness.’”

Let’s look at an example this happening.

Acts 7: 51-52, 54-60

Verse 51: “uncircumcised hearts and ears always resisting the Holy Spirit”

The Jewish leaders closed their hearts and shut their ears off from the Holy Spirit so were not able to hear God’s voice.

Verse 55: Stephen was FULL of the Holy Spirit

“Full”= Greek word **Pleres** (play'-race)

- filled up
- a surface, covered in every part
- hollow vessel that is filled up
- complete
- permeates the soul, passes through every part, saturates

Verse 57: The Jewish leaders and persecutors physically “covered their ears” and “rushed at them in one impulse and in one accord”

Verse 58-60: Through all that, Stephen shut out the world and took the beating. Nothing else mattered, not even life itself here on earth because he was FULL of the Holy Spirit and not thinking in the flesh.

Conclusion

Knowing God’s voice is difficult but must start somewhere. We must first open up our hearts and ears and tell God, “Speak, for you servant is listening” just like Samuel did. Humbling himself down as a servant was a way of opening his heart and then saying he was listening was him opening his ears. That’s where it all starts when trying to hear God speak to us through the Holy Spirit.

We cannot close our hearts and ears as the Jewish leaders and persecutors did to the Holy Spirit and expect to find our place in the church. Like Stephen, we must be able to drown out our own feelings and in addition to that everything and everyone around us and do exactly what God TELLS us to do. How was Stephen able to do that in the mist of getting beaten and staring straight into the face of death? When everyone is yelling and telling him he is wrong in what he is doing, how did he know what he himself was hearing and doing was right? The Word said he was “filled with the Holy Spirit.” Just like in the previous message of stepping out of the flesh and fully in the Spirit, we must be filled in the Holy Spirit to surpass all struggles and adversaries. That’s what we are going to look at in the next message: The actual filling of the Holy Spirit in order to fully do God’s will in the church and to propel forward.