

LESSON 2

HEARKENING TO GOD'S VOICE

THE SPEAKING VOICE OF GOD

GOD SPEAKS CONTINUOUSLY AND FOREVER

Quotes from A.W. Tozer's *The Pursuit of God*

- “The whole Bible supports the idea that God is forever seeking to speak Himself out to His creation...and the idea is not that God spoke, or has spoken, but that God is now speaking. He is by His very nature continuously articulate, and His speaking is the most powerful force in nature. Indeed, His speaking is the only force in nature, for all energy is here only because the power-filled Word is being spoken.”
- “God’s speaking voice predates His written word by uncounted centuries, and it is His speaking voice that has never been silenced since the dawn of creation...It is His speaking voice that is sounding still throughout the far reaches of the universe.”
- “The Word of God has always been and always will be quick and powerful...in the beginning He spoke to nothing, and it became something! Chaos heard it, and it became order; darkness heard it and it became light. The New Testament bears out the truth that this has never changed. God is here, and He is speaking. But throughout the history of mankind, men have explained away the universal current speaking voice of God. When God spoke at the baptism of our Lord, for example, men who heard it explained it by natural means, saying that ‘it thundered.’ They said the same thing at Mt. Sinai, and modern science continues to this day explaining away the creative speaking voice of God through natural law. But still the Voice sounds and searches.... It is my belief that every good and beautiful thing which man has ever produced in the world has been the result of his response to the creative Voice sounding over the Earth, whether the inspiration was recognized as God’s voice or not.”

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Scriptures

- *"By the Word of the Lord were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth." (Psalm 33:6 KJV)*
- *"For He spoke, and it was done. He commanded and it stood fast." (Psalm 33:9 NKJV)*
- God's current speaking voice is referred to in these passages. It was not done by His written Word.

WHOEVER WILL LISTEN MAY HEAR HIS SPEAKING VOICE

- Even those persons who have never heard of the Bible have still been preached to with sufficient clarity as to remove every excuse from their hearts forever. (Rom. 1:20)
- God's word goes forth universally in such ways that the invisible things of God are clearly seen and understood through the things that are visible in creation. (Psalm 19:1-6)
- What God speaks, He always confirms! (Jeremiah 1:12)
- The Bible, the written word of God, is alive, powerful, and ever new because it corresponds to God's present Word in the universe. The Bible is everlasting simply because all of God's Words are everlasting. The Word of our God, once spoken, never passes away; rather it endures forever. (1 Peter 1:25; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:16; Isaiah 55:11)

HEARKENING TO GOD'S SPEAKING VOICE

HOW THE SERVANTS OF GOD HEARKEN TO THE CONTINUOUS, CURRENT, SPEAKING VOICE OF GOD

God speaks to us in various ways

- Through His Word (the Bible).
- Through His audible voice.
- Through the small, still inner voice of the Spirit.
- Through His servants.

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- Through circumstances.

We, His servants, can learn to hear the speaking voice of God by:

- Preparing our hearts.
- Seeking Him out of love only.
- Spending time with Him.

RIGHT RESPONSES TO GOD'S SPEAKING VOICE

Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-21)

- Before the Word of the Lord came to Him, Samuel was ministering unto the Lord, doing whatever he could in the house of the Lord without other motivation than to please God.
- Samuel heard while he was still and replied "*Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth.*" (1 Samuel 3:9 KJV)
- The Lord spoke a difficult prophesy to Samuel; Samuel did not speak it until Eli insisted – a confirmation of timing is needed in the delivery of a direct Word of God. (1 Samuel 3:15-18)
- Samuel grew in the Lord and in favor with man – he was always received by the people as a true prophet of God.

Daniel (Daniel 10:1-14)

- Daniel was fasting, praying and committing himself wholly to hearing the Lord's speaking voice because he was grieving over an earlier prophesy.
- God spoke in a vision after three weeks and told Daniel that He heard him the first time he prayed – but, the enemy entered into warfare against man's hearing or receiving the voice of God.
- Through Daniel's experience, we learn that persistence in yielding oneself to hear is often required, perhaps always required, when we have a need to hear.

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Peter (Acts 10:9-22)

- Peter was before the Lord in daily prayer.
- The power of the Holy Spirit took him over in prayer time and gave him a vision.
- God spoke new revelation to him.
- God confirmed later through subsequent happenings that he had heard correctly. (Acts 10:28)

Cornelius (Acts 10:1-8, 30-33)

- Cornelius, not yet God's servant and not a Jew, was praying, fasting, and trying to serve God in all the ways he knew when God spoke to him.
- He acted on God's word quickly.

Paul (Acts 9:1-9)

- Paul was serving the Lord the best he knew how when God's voice came in a manifestation of light.
- Paul immediately obeyed.

From Abraham (Gen. 13) to John in Revelation

- All were before the Lord in some way when they heard His voice.
- Some manifestation of light came with the voice and usually other confirmation followed quickly.
- They acted on what the voice of God instructed them to do and then other revelations of the voice of God were given.

It is God's prerogative to speak to His servants anytime He chooses, in any way He chooses, but is also His servants' prerogative to:

- Be available
- Be listening
- Call on Him when they have need to hear

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WARNINGS TO THOSE WHO DO NOT HEARKEN TO HIS VOICE

Lev. 26:27-28; Numbers 14:20-23; Deut. 28:15; Judges 2:20-23; 2 Kings 22:13; Neh. 9:16-17; Psalms 81:8-10; Jer. 7:22-34; Jer. 26:4-6; Eze. 20:8-13

THE NEW TESTAMENT CALLS FOLLOWERS TO HEARKEN IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S VOICE

Mark 7:14; Acts 4:19; Acts 15:13; James 2:5

CONCLUSION

IF WE WILL BE FAITHFUL WITH A LITTLE, THEN HE WILL MAKE US FAITHFUL OVER MUCH

Matt. 25:21-30, the Parable of the Talents

IF WE ARE TO MINISTER IN THE SPIRIT, WE MUST RESPOND OBEDIENTLY

If we are to minister in the Spirit, we must respond obediently to each and every command given us by the voice of God, whether it be a "logos" (written Bible word) or a "rhema" (current voice word). God holds us accountable for both.