

ARE YOU LISTENING TO GOD? ARE YOU HEARING HIS VOICE?

(Wellsford Fellowship – 8/11/98 – EKB)

1. In *1Sam 3:1-10*, the young boy, Samuel did not hear what God wanted to say to him until he said, **“Speak Lord, your servant is LISTENING.”** God is speaking to us, but we will not hear what he is saying **until we take time to listen.**
2. On Friday, while we were visiting folk in the church, my attitude became rather negative towards the Fellowship. I saw some things that I thought were good, but some I wished were different. So I asked God to show me His attitude to the church. **I opened the Word and read, listening to hear what He would say to me.** As I read, *Jer 24:7* stood out at me, as the Holy Spirit pointed me to what God thinks of His church, and it said, “I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the Lord. They will be My people, I will be their God, and they will return to Me with their whole heart.” If I had not taken **time to inquire of God and listen to His answer**, I would have been seriously mistaken.
3. Jesus, our Shepherd says, “We follow Him for **we know His voice,**” and, “**We hear His voice,** He knows us, and we follow Him,” *Jn 10:4,27.*
4. Last week, while we were at Moerewa, the Holy Spirit spoke clearly into my spirit as I awoke one morning. He said to me, **“Your inability to hear is because of your inability to listen.”**
5. The Holy Spirit is our teacher as Jesus said, *Jn 14:26.* He is to teach us all things and lead us into all truth, *Jn 16:13.*
6. But no matter how much Jesus speaks to us, or the Holy Spirit speaks to us, we will not hear unless we are listening to them.
7. One day while reading *Is 51* I noticed that *verses 1,4, and 7*, all start with “Hearken” in the KJV. Then a few moments later, I saw “Hearken” as two words “Hear, Ken”. My called name is “Ken.”
8. **Relationship with God**, or knowing Him is eternal life, *Jn 17:3, Jer 2:13.*
Relationship is made up of **communication + companionship + common tasks.**
Communication is talking and listening, **with twice as much listening** as talking.
Companionship is spending time together.
Common tasks are working together for a common goal with God, *2Cor 6:1.*
Revelation is the result of relationship with God.
Obedience is the right faith response to revelation from God.
Rewards from God, *1Cor 3:8,14*, result from obedience to God.
9. One key to hearing from God is **asking the right question, and then listening carefully** and quietly before God. David “inquired of the Lord,” *1Sam 30:6,8, 1Sam 23:2,4, 2Sam 2:1, 2Sam 5:19,23.* (Once Joshua failed to inquire of the Lord and was greatly deceived. *Josh 9:14.*)

10. Some believers pray for much time, over many issues before God, and then hurry on to some other activity without taking any time to listen to God, and to what He is saying. After prayer, read God's Word and listen to what He is saying, *Ps 119:18, Eph 1:17, Col 1:9*. Ask God to speak to you regarding key issues and sit listening carefully.
11. One day Jesus visited the home of friends. One lady sat at His feet **and listened to His Word**, *Lk 10:39, Deut 33:3*, but the other became very busy preparing a meal. After a while she came and complained to Jesus that her sister had left her to do all the preparation, *Lk 10:40*. Jesus' reply was that **"one thing is necessary**, Mary had chosen it, and it would not be taken away from her."
ONE THING IS NECESSARY - LISTEN TO JESUS. *Lk 10:42, Pro 4:20-22, Mat 4:4, Mat 17:5*.
12. The Lord speaks to us by His Word, the inward witness of the Holy Spirit, by visions, dreams, prophecy, preaching, audible voice, signs, common sense and other ways.
13. *Pro 3:5,6* says to trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths. In other words, **do not try and work out your own way, but instead ask God what to do and listen to His reply.**
14. Finally a prophetic statement for you from *Ac 22:14,15*. The God of our fathers has chosen you to know His will, to see the Just One, to hear the voice of His mouth, and to be His witnesses to all men of what you have seen and heard.