HEARING & RESPONDING TO GOD’S VOICE, John 10:27

1) THE IMPORTANCE OF HEARING GOD’S VOICE: TO BE SAVED, Jn.10:27-28

“My Sheep hear My voice” To become one of Christ’s flock, we each heard and responded to Christ’s voice. Most of the time we do not hear the voice of Christ with our ear, but with our heart

The Holy Spirit witnessed to our heart that the words of Christ are true- and they are for me & you! When we hear & respond, we are born-again. 1 Pet.1:23, God’s word is like seed, and when we receive it into our hearts it begins to grow the nature of Christ within us.

John 14:6 We believe what Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life.” But those who are not Christ’s sheep do not hear His voice- they do not believe & follow His words.

When the Lord Jesus was brought before the Roman Governor, Pilate heard Jesus say that He is the truth, but Pilate did not have a heart that could listen or believe- he scoffingly said, “What is truth?” Pilate had a hard heart that would no longer respond to truth, to wisdom, Prov.1:20-23. (Pilate’s wife had a more open heart, Mt.27:19.) Pilate had his day of opportunity- but he missed it, and therefore was not ready for the day of calamity, Prov.1:24-27. Years later Pilate fell out of favor and committed suicide.

2) THE IMPORTANCE OF HEARING & RESPONDING TO GOD’S VOICE: TO COME TO FULL SPIRITUAL MATURITY, Heb.3:7-11. The Israelites in the wilderness heard God’s voice, but did not properly respond to it, continually complaining and disobeying. Instead of their hearts becoming more soft- loving and meek and submissive- their hearts become more hard. Many of the Israelites died young- only fulfilling part of God’s plan, dying in the Wilderness- because their hearts were not soft, to quickly obey the Lord.

**OUR LEVEL OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS LINKED TO HOW CLEARLY WE HEAR GOD’S VOICE, Jn.12:27-30**

LEVEL ZERO - “It thundered” This was the lowest level of discernment shown by some people at this event. These people did not believe that there was a voice from God- they said it had a natural explanation. “A voice from heaven did not reply to Jesus- it was just coincidence, just some thunder.” People far from God will explain away every supernatural event as just having a natural scientific explanation! They heard God’s voice but did not believe it.

LEVEL 1 – “An angel spoke to him.” These people understood that a voice from heaven replied to Jesus. They did not know that it was God’s voice, but they understood that the voice was supernatural, that Jesus was in touch with heaven! They did not understand the words, or they would have known it was God speaking- but they knew the voice of God was supernatural, that heaven had a message for them!

LEVEL 2 - John (and probably the other apostles) heard and understood the words that God spoke from heaven- John wrote them down in his gospel! Those who were already diligently following the voice of the Good Shepherd clearly heard the voice of God again, this time from heaven.

LEVEL 3 – Jesus also knew ***WHAT*** God spoke, but above that, He knew ***WHY*** God spoke it! Jesus answered and said, "This voice… came… for your sake.” Jesus fully understood the voice of His Heavenly Father, why God spoke from heaven! (Jesus did not need the confirmation of the Father’s voice, but knew the Father had spoken for the people around to be ministered to, to be lifted to a higher spiritual level. The people had another opportunity to believe in Christ, when God replied to Him from heaven.)

 Psa 103:7 He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.” Israel saw the acts of God but did not understand WHY God did the things He did. But Moses learned the ways of God, Moses understood WHY God spoke & acted as God did! We also want to know WHAT God speaks, and WHY!

WE STILL HAVE THESE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF HEARING GOD’S VOICE TODAY:

LEVEL 0 “That is not from God, there is some other logical natural explanation” (natural, carnal nature)

LEVEL 1 “Something spiritual is happening- maybe an angel or a spirit is here” (developing a spiritual life)

LEVEL 2 “God is speaking! What does it mean?” (if we don’t understand, perhaps we will only observe what is happening, like the Apostles did, although it is an opportunity to learn.)

LEVEL 3 “God is speaking, and I understand *why*.” (We respond and work with God!)

**HOW CAN WE LEARN TO HEAR GOD’S VOICE CLEARER AND CLEARER?**

1) DO NOT MISINTERPRET COINCIDENCE, OR CHANCE, OR OUR IMAGINATION, AS BEING GOD’S VOICE

Some things happen by coincidence or chance, or we misinterpret what they mean: if we really want to do something, we can find “confirmations” even though God is not speaking, Ezek.14:3.Lk.8:18.

Some people randomly point to a scripture & assume it is what God is speaking for the situation. In the O.T. God’s people were sometimes led by the casting of lots- like throwing dice, or flipping a coin, Prov.16:33. This continued up to Acts chapter 1, when Mathias was chosen as the man to replace Judas, Acts 1:26. HOWEVER, once the Holy Spirit came in Acts 2, the disciples never again cast lots! Rom.8:14.

2) LEARN TO DISCERN THE “GO” AND “STOP” OF THE PEACE OF GOD IN OUR SPIRIT, Col.3:15. In this scripture we are told that the peace of God is to be a “referee” or an “umpire” in our heart. A referee stays silent, or peaceful, while a sports game is proceeding correctly, but stops the game when something is wrong. In a similar way, the Holy Spirit gives us peace when we are correctly following God- but can take away that peace and trouble our spirit when we should “stop” because there is a problem. This is a New Testament spiritual application of the Urim and the Thummin, Lev.8:8 & Num.27:21.

3) LOOK FOR CONFIRMATIONS THAT GOD IS SPEAKING TO YOU, 2 Cor.13:1. God will give confirmations to yourself, or through other people or circumstances. This gives us security and better perspective.

4) WE SHOULD LISTEN TO WHAT OTHERS SAY THAT GOD IS SPEAKING, 1 Thess.5:20-21.

Draw nearer to people who are close to God- and you will also be getting closer to God! The Apostle John drew the closest to Jesus- heard Him say who would betray Christ- and later in life, John heard the secrets of God, and wrote the Book of Revelation!

5) IN FAITH, FOLLOW WHAT GOD HAS SPOKEN TO YOU- “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God,” Rom.10:17. If we don’t listen & obey what God has already spoken to us, we harden our heart from being able to hear from God again: “Today, if you hear His voice, harden not your heart”

6) WHAT IF YOU HAVE NOT HEARD FROM GOD FOR A LONG TIME?

2 Kings 6:1-7 Losing the axe head is symbolic of losing the sharp cutting edge of God’s word, Mt.3:10. Elisha asked “where did the axe head fall?” Return to the last place or time that you heard from God- are you following it? God might not be speaking anything further to you, because you are not yet following what He already told you to do! Apply a piece of wood- the cross! Return & respond to His last word to you and then you will get further guidance! You can regain the sharp cutting axe head of the spoken word of God. (The Israelites thru disobedience had to wait 38 years before God spoke again!)