

## Frequency Conditions & Attitudes of Hearing from God

Pastor John Carmichael

[1Sa 3:1-10 NASB95] 1 Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD before Eli. And word from the LORD was rare in those days, visions were infrequent. 2 It happened at that time as Eli was lying down in his place (now his eyesight had begun to grow dim [and] he could not see [well],) 3 and the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God [was,] 4 that the LORD called Samuel; and he said, "Here I am." 5 Then he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, lie down again." So he went and lay down. 6 The LORD called yet again, "Samuel!" So Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he answered, "I did not call, my son, lie down again." 7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor had the word of the LORD yet been revealed to him. 8 So the LORD called Samuel again for the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli discerned that the LORD was calling the boy. 9 And Eli said to Samuel, "Go lie down, and it shall be if He calls you, that you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10 Then the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for Your servant is listening."

- "I just want to hear from God!" OR "Why is God not talking to me?"
- Being able to hear from God is one of the most important things we can learn. (See last weeks messages for more.)
- We get a glimpse into how one of the Bible's most influential prophets, Samuel, first heard from God.
- The Bible does not give us all the details. Why was the Word of rare? What does that mean? Was God not speaking? Were they not hearing? Was it because of the sin of Eli's sons?
- Yet, the Bible does give us details about where they Eli and Samuel were sleeping. We see the condition and attitude of Samuel when he first heard from God.

**From Samuel's call, what are that conditions and attitudes of hearing from God.**

**Here are seven conditions and attitudes of hearing from God.**

### **I. God speaks to us when we are at peace.**

A. V. 2&3 – Both Eli and Samuel were lying down.

B. [1Ki 19:11-13 NASB95] 11 So He said, "Go forth and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD was passing by! And a great and strong wind was rending the mountains and breaking in pieces the rocks before the LORD; [but] the LORD [was] not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, [but] the LORD [was] not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake a fire, [but] the LORD [was] not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing. 13 When Elijah heard [it,] he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, a voice [came] to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

C. Being too busy and preoccupied can hinder us from hearing from God.

### **II. God wants us connected with healthy Godly church-based relationships.**

A. V. 3 – the lamp of God. According to Revelation, these represent the church. Samuel had a healthy relationship with Eli and the temple.

B. Don't allow the anti-church lie get you out of healthy relationships in church.

### **III. God wants us to be in His Presence.**

A. V. 3 – where the ark of God was. The ark presented the Presence of God.

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- B. [2Ki 3:15-16 NASB95] 15 "But now bring me a minstrel." And it came about, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him. 16 He said, "Thus says the LORD, 'Make this valley full of trenches.'"
- C. When we stay in His Presence through prayer and worship it opens us up to hearing from God.

### IV. God will give us confirmation.

- A. V.4-10 – God called 4 times.
- B. [2Co 13:1 NASB95] 1 This is the third time I am coming to you. EVERY FACT IS TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES.
- C. Seek for confirmation from God about what you believe He is saying to you.

### V. God will work with us as we grow spiritually.

- A. V. 7 – Samuel did not know the Lord or His Word.
- B. [Rom 12:2 NASB95] 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- C. Renewing our mind to hear from God is a process.

### VI. God speaks when we are willing to hear.

- A. V. 9-10 – Speak, LORD
- B. [Jer 33:3 NASB95] 3 'Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'
- C. God speaks to us when we seek for His words.

### VII. God speaks when we are willing to obey.

- A. V. 10 – for Your servant is listening.
- B. Eerdman's Bible Dictionary states, "True 'hearing,' or obedience, involves the physical hearing that inspires the hearer, and a belief or trust that in turn motivates the hearer to act in accordance with the speaker's desires."
- C. God speaks to people who have already given God a "yes."

- **God has revealed the conditions and attitudes of hearing Him so we can hear Him frequently not rarely.**