

Do Not Settle for Deafness

Pastor John Carmichael

[Jos 9:1-15 NASB95] 1 Now it came about when all the kings who were beyond the Jordan, in the hill country and in the lowland and on all the coast of the Great Sea toward Lebanon, the Hittite and the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite, heard of it, 2 that they gathered themselves together with one accord to fight with Joshua and with Israel. 3 When the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, 4 they also acted craftily and set out as envoys, and took worn-out sacks on their donkeys, and wineskins worn-out and torn and mended, 5 and worn-out and patched sandals on their feet, and worn-out clothes on themselves; and all the bread of their provision was dry [and] had become crumbled. 6 They went to Joshua to the camp at Gilgal and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a far country; now therefore, make a covenant with us." 7 The men of Israel said to the Hivites, "Perhaps you are living within our land; how then shall we make a covenant with you?" 8 But they said to Joshua, "We are your servants." Then Joshua said to them, "Who are you and where do you come from?" 9 They said to him, "Your servants have come from a very far country because of the fame of the LORD your God; for we have heard the report of Him and all that He did in Egypt, 10 and all that He did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon king of Heshbon and to Og king of Bashan who was at Ashtaroath. 11 "So our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spoke to us, saying, 'Take provisions in your hand for the journey, and go to meet them and say to them, "We are your servants; now then, make a covenant with us.'" 12 "This our bread [was] warm [when] we took it for our provisions out of our houses on the day that we left to come to you; but now behold, it is dry and has become crumbled. 13 "These wineskins which we filled were new, and behold, they are torn; and these our clothes and our sandals are worn out because of the very long journey." 14 So the men [of Israel] took some of their provisions, and did not ask for the counsel of the LORD. 15 Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them, to let them live; and the leaders of the congregation swore [an oath] to them.

- Joshua depended on what he saw and his own understanding. V.14 is the key here.
 - He did not ask (require or demand) for the counsel (mouth) of the LORD.
- One of the most important things a person needs to do is find the will of God for their lives.
- Jesus gave us some principles about hearing His voice or receiving direction from God.
- [Jhn 10:27 NASB95] 27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;

What do we need to know about hearing the voice of God?

Here are four principles from this verse that will help us to hear His voice.

I. My Sheep

- God desires to speak to His people, everyone.
- That has to get down on the inside – until we are convinced, we will settle for deafness.
- [Rom 8:14 NASB95] 14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
- Being led by God is the mark we are sons.
- God wants us filled with the knowledge of His Will. [Col 1:9 NASB95] 9 For this reason also, since the day we heard [of it,] we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
- Why? He wants us to have uncommon results.
- [2Ch 1:11-12 NASB95] 11 God said to Solomon, "Because you had this in mind, and did not ask for riches, wealth or honor, or the life of those who hate you, nor have you even asked for long life, but you have asked for yourself wisdom and knowledge that you may

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rule My people over whom I have made you king, 12 wisdom and knowledge have been granted to you. And I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings who were before you has possessed nor those who will come after you."

- Solomon's knowledge and wisdom connected him to everything else.

II. Hear My Voice.

- How do we hear the voice of God?
- Ask in faith. Notice: don't live in fear of missing God. [Jas 1:5-8 NASB95] 5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, 8 [being] a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.
- In our spirit, through inner promptings (urges, motivations, inspirations). [1Th 5:23 NASB95] 23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - [Pro 20:27 NASB95] 27 The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, Searching all the innermost parts of his being.
 - The spirit of a man is the candle (or revealer of dark things).
 - NET Bible: This is the inner spiritual part of human life that was breathed in at creation (Gen 2:7). The "lamp" is the metaphor in the line; it signifies that the human spirit functions as a conscience, enabling people to know and please God, and directing them in choices that will be life-giving.
 - We are to learn to be led from within our spirit.
 - Spirit is trained by the Word of God ([2Ti 3:16-17 NASB95] 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.).
 - Other: Bible, preaching (teaching), Godly counselors, unusual circumstances, and gifts of the Spirit.

III. I know them.

- His voice is heard by those whom He knows.
- Two aspects: He made you. He knows all your make-up (personality, motivations). Also, this can be thought of as an intimate relationship.
- More than knowing they exist, but an intimate knowledge.
- Two main ways
 - Time – spend time with God.
 - Intensity – all your heart.

IV. They follow.

- FB Note: "Hear" and "Follow" are in the present tense, indicating ongoing and consistent activity.
- Willing and obedient – [Isa 1:19 NASB95] 19 "If you consent and obey, You will eat the best of the land; **– eat the good of the land.**
- Psalm 23 – When we follow, there are still waters and green pastures.

- Do not settle for deafness!
- Know that God wants to and can speak to you.
- Live consistently with Jesus through prayer, Bible, worship, and church.

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- Decide to be led by the Holy Spirit through listening to the Holy Spirit.
- Believe that God is leading you to amazing places.