

## **GOD IS SPEAKING; ARE WE LISTENING?**

Text: Deuteronomy 28:2: "And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God."  
Matthew 11:15: "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."

Matt. 13:9; Matt. 13:43; Mark 4:9; Mark 4:23; Mark 7:16; Luke 8:8; Luke 14:35; Revelation 2:7; Revelation 2:11; Revelation 2:17; Revelation 2:29; Revelation 3:6; Revelation 3:13

John 1:51: "...Verily, verily, I say unto you..."(25 times this phrase is used).

Hebrews 3:7, 15; Hebrews 4:7: "...To day if ye will hear His voice...."

There were two men walking through a rather busy and bustling downtown district when one of the men grabbed his friend by the arm and said, "Wait a minute; do you hear that?" His friend replied, "Hear what?" And the answer was, "Why! That's a (and he named a rather exotic bird)." His friend said, "There's not that kind of bird within a hundred miles from here. And besides, if there were, there's no way you could hear it with all of this noise." The two men walked for another two blocks and the man grabbed his friend's arm one more time and exclaimed, "Look on the ledge on the second floor of that building in front of us." The friend said, "How in the world could you hear that bird from two blocks away?" The man explained, "I'm a bird watcher; I have been birding for most of my life."

A few years ago, a man was visiting his pastor's house and he said to his pastor, "Did you know you have at least 18 different crickets in your bushes?" The pastor inquired, "How do you know that?" The visitor responded, "I heard them." The pastor continued, "I never heard one." It was soon discovered that the visitor had a PHD in entomology, a special degree in understanding the biology and management of insect and arthropod pests of plants, animals, and humans. This man was so skilled that he could identify 225 different crickets by ear alone! He was even known to travel down the road at thirty miles per hour and with his window down, hear and identify a cricket without stopping.

One man had birds in his heart; the other had crickets in his heart. We hear what we are attuned to hear. Have you ever been in a situation with 30 to 40 kids on a playground and one child cries, "Mamma?" Invariably and quickly the mother of that child moves as fast as she can toward that child. Simply put, she loves her child; she knows her child's voice. Here's a contrasting comparison. Billy Little and Charles Cochran

were reared in a community in a Houston neighborhood near the railroad tracks. Charles' and Lisa's rehearsal dinner took place at Charles' house. During the meal a train came by literally shaking the house. I commented about the proximity of the train, wondering how you sleep or remain undisturbed. Charles replied, "You get used to it." Billy once told me that a young man reared in the same community was walking toward the train tracks but was preoccupied to the extent that he walked right in front of a speeding train to his death. He got used to it. God is speaking! That's not the problem. The problem is far too many of us are not listening. If we are not listening for God, we will not hear from God. If we have "ears to hear" what God is saying, we will surely hear Him speak to us. If we give expression to God's impression, we'll become impressionable.

#### 1. THERE IS NO PLACE WHERE GOD CANNOT BE HEARD.

Psalm 19:1-4; Psalm 29:1-9

#### 2. GOD WANTS TO TALK TO MEN AND WOMEN.

Genesis 3:8-9; Exodus 33:11; Revelation 3:20.

#### 3. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL SPEAK TO YOU.

John 16:12-14; I John 2:27; Matthew 10:19, 20

#### 4. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH EVENTS.

Genesis 45:5, 8; Genesis 50:20

#### 5. RESPOND IMMEDIATELY TO GOD'S VOICE.

Hebrews 3:7-8,15; Hebrews 4:7; Psalm 95:6-11; I Samuel 3:10b: "...Speak; for Thy servant heareth."

In the 1960s a Swiss scientist discovered that quartz crystal could be used as an efficient and accurate way of telling time. Quartz crystal is a source of natural energy. The property that makes quartz an electronic miracle is the fact that, when compressed or bent, it generates a charge or voltage on its surface – a phenomenon called the Piezoelectric effect. The scientist offered it to the leading watchmakers in Switzerland. The Swiss watchmakers mocked him and would not even consider a patent or use for this discovery. In 1968 60% of all watches were made in Switzerland with 80% profit. After being rejected, the Swiss scientist took his product to Seiko and Texas Instruments who seized the day, and the rest is history. By 1978 only 10% of all watches were being made in Switzerland and 55,000 watchmakers in that country were laid off.

Don't miss the blessing of God's perfect will because of not listening to God.

6. BEGIN LISTENING TO GOD ON THE FIRST DAY OF EVERY WEEK.

Revelation 1:10-18.

Colossians 1:18: "And He is the Head of the body, the church: Who is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence."

7. REBELLION AGAINST GOD WILL SILENCE THE VOICE OF GOD.

Isaiah 59:1, 2; Jeremiah 19:15

8. CHRIST'S ATONING BLOOD ALLOWS US ACCESS TO THE VOICE OF GOD.

Numbers 7:89; Hebrews 13:20, 21; Hebrews 4:16

9. LET OUR LORD'S HIGH VALUE OF YOU EMBOLDEN YOU TO HEAR HIS VOICE.

Isaiah 43:4; Ephesians 1:3-6; Ephesians 2:4-6

Allow me to tell you the beautiful love story of Johnny Lingo and Sarita on the fictional Pacific Island of Kiniwata and the neighboring island of Nurabandi.

CONCLUSION:

Revelation 3:20: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me."

Song of Solomon 5:2: "I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my Beloved that knocketh, saying, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled...."

When we listen to our Lord a special benefit takes place, i.e., the more we hear, the more of God's voice we shall hear. Mark 4:24: "And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given." Our Lord longs to talk to you, more than you desire to talk to Him. God is speaking. The question is, are we listening?

-Pastor Pope-