

Title: "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

Scripture: I Samuel 3:9-10

Speaker: Vic Redding

Event: Sunday Morning Service

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I Samuel 3:9-10 *"Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth."*

At this time, Eli was the high priest. Before these two verses, Samuel was growing in knowledge of the Lord. He wasn't experienced at hearing the voice of God. When Samuel first heard the voice of God, he thought it was Eli. This happened again, and Samuel went to Eli again. Eli began to realize that the voice Samuel was hearing was the voice of God. He gave him some instructions as to what to do if he heard it again. This is what we find in verses 9 and 10 of I Samuel.

Heareth is an action word. It requires some action to it. Samuel would act on what was said and be obedient with a desire and intention to do whatever the voice of God told him to do.

We are confronted with two questions today:

1. Does God still speak to men?
2. How do we hear God speak to us?

There are three things to know about the voice of God:

- a. From a biblical standpoint, when you are saved, God fills you with his Holy Spirit.
- b. God never ever, ever, ever, contradicts his word.
- c. God often speaks in a still, quiet voice. When God wants to get in touch with his children, it's usually not too loud.

Four ways we can hear from God:

God has ways of communicating with his children. On our phones and computers we have the option of replying to an email, deleting it, or ignoring it. Too many times we are ignoring or deleting the voice of God. There are two things to know before we go further about how to hear from God: **(a)**. Sin will interrupt us from hearing the word of God. If there is unconfessed sin in our life, God will not speak. **(b)**. Every believer has the Holy Spirit residing in them, but it does not always have control.

1. **God speaks to us through his word:** Psalm 119:92-93 *"Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction. I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me."* When we study and read the Bible, God is able to communicate with us through what his word says. If we aren't in God's word, we aren't hearing from God. When God speaks to us through his word, one of the key ingredients is faith. We have to have faith that his promises are true and that he will uphold them. God is ALWAYS faithful. In Jeremiah 1:12 Jeremiah said that God watched over his word to perform it. *"Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it."*
2. **God speaks to us through prayer:** Daniel 6:10 *"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."* Prayer is a two-way form of communication although we often treat it as a one-way shopping list. When we pray, we need to have some quiet time to allow God to speak to us. We need to get quiet and listen to what he has to say. In Psalm 40:1 David said *"I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry."* Why would David mention this? Because he got an answer from God. He knew that God had heard him and responded. If we'll simply listen, he'll speak.
3. **God speaks to us through other Christians:** I John 1:7 *"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."* God did not create us

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to live alone. We have friends, family, and spouses to share our lives with. We are encouraged in the Bible to encourage one another. We are to bear one another's burdens. We are to confess our faults to one another. We should talk about the word of God and seek advice with our Christian friends. If we seek advice from lost people, we will get worldly advice. A lost person will not be able to give you Godly advice.

- 4. God speaks to us through our circumstances:** Acts 27 gives the account of Paul being taken to Rome. Paul knew that nothing good would come through this journey because of the storm that was coming. God used that storm as an example to show others that Paul's words were true. We do not view our storms as an opportunity – we view them as problems. God can try to teach us something in our circumstances. There is no time limit on our struggles. During this time, we need to pay attention to what God is trying to tell us/teach us and most of the time that is to depend on him. God will use circumstances to guide us in a good way.

Romans 8:28-29 *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."* God wants us to stay near him so that we can hear him.