

Is That You God?

***Title page

Many believers don't know that they have the privilege through their personal relationship with Jesus to hear the voice of God. One of the greatest tragedies of Christendom today is believers that are convinced that God only speaks to a special few.

IN our clip, we see Mother Theresa hearing God speak to her through the starving Children of Calcutta, India.

***Review

So now, in this day and age, men and women all over this earth are doing atrocities of all kinds and saying that God told them to.

Couple that with men and women in the church saying all sorts of crazy nonsense and putting God's name on it, it's no wonder that we have an entire generation of people that are skeptical when it comes to God speaking.

So the question is, Why are believers today NOT hearing the voice of God?

What I hear folks saying today is that MAYBE through this circumstance or that situation that God is telling me such and such.

DANGEROUS!

Reasons:

1. We don't believe God would speak to us. Worthiness, Sin, God has set the standard too high.
2. We don't recognize His voice when He speaks: Samuel and The Shepherd
3. There is something preventing us from "hearing." Stopped up ears

Story of Gary

Psalm 40:6 "My ears you have opened"

Open - hollowed out, digged, bored, excavated, and made a passage through

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Part 2

***Ways or methods of God's voice:

- *** 1. His Word
- *** 2. Other people in our lives
- *** 3. Our circumstances
- *** 4. Directly through our Spirits.

***What are some things that prevent us from hearing God's voice?

Mark 4 Thorns. These are the same thorns that show up on the crown of thorns that is placed on Jesus' head at the crucifixion.

Qundaul plant with thorns about 1.5 inches long.

Jesus in his explanation of what these thorns represent said that they were "worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things."

*****Worries of the world**—or life. These are often necessary things that are part of our life, work, school, paying bills, running errands, etc. General worries of life can get in the way. This is why it is important to take time everyday to quiet yourself and listen.

Psalm 42:10 tells us to "Be still and know that I am God." This word "still" comes from a root word that is defined as "drop hands", "go limp", and "relax."

When you're on vacation, doing nothing is relaxing!

John Ortberg, the life you've always wanted

1 Kings 19

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

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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.

Deceitfulness of riches: This speaks to the falsehood that money is everything and takes away our trust in God

Desires for other things: The desire and greed of materialism. But this can also be anything that distracts us from our number one priority..our relationship with Jesus.

Why are you so desperate to hear God's voice? Sometimes, when God is silent, He has already spoken but we didn't like what we heard.

***Practically Speaking:

***1. Quiet. Worship music, talk radio, TV, etc.

***2. Listen

Faith, believe that He will speak and He will
James 1

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.

***3. Write it down

Write down what you pray and what you think about it.

I like to write out my prayers because a lot of the time I find the answer to the prayer in the prayer itself. God will show me I'm asking the wrong thing, or my focus is on a minor issue instead of the major one.