

Restoration Fellowship

Activate Your Faith: Whispers of Heaven: Hearing the Voice of God

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Big Idea: *Hearing the voice of God when darkness is loud and silence is unbearable.*

I. Scripture Promises and Key Scripture:

- “*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*” — John 10:27 (NKJV)
- Hebrews 1:1–2 Isaiah 30:21 Revelation 3:20

Point: God’s voice is not reserved for “super Christians.” It is promised to those who diligently seek Him, wholeheartedly.

- “*If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.*” — Jeremiah 29:12–14a (NLT)

II. The Many Voices We Hear

Question: How do we know it’s God’s voice?

- “*Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.*” — 2 Corinthians 11:14

Discernment begins with knowing the character of the speaker.

- The enemy’s voice: chaos, uncertainty, **condemnation**.
- God’s voice: peace, truth of scripture, **conviction**.

Condemnation vs. Conviction

Condemnation (from Satan):

- Source: “The accuser of the brethren” (Revelation 12:10)
- Tone: Harsh, hopeless, crushing
- Effect: Shame, despair, hiding from God
- Message: “*You are bad, you’ll never change.*”

Conviction (from the Holy Spirit):

- Source: John 16:8 — “*He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.*”
- Tone: Loving, clear, corrective
- Effect: Repentance, humility, hope
- Direction: Draws us toward God
- Message: “*That action was wrong, but come to Me — I forgive and will transform you.*”

III. The Voice of God: The Still Small Voice

The Story of Elijah (1 Kings 16–19):

- Elijah challenged 450 prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel.
- God answered with fire — the people cried, “*The Lord—He is God!*”
- After victory, Jezebel threatened Elijah’s life. He fled, depressed and afraid.
- God met him in the wilderness, fed him, and sent him on a 500-mile walk to Mt. Sinai.
- In the cave, Elijah expected God in power — but God came in a **gentle whisper**.

Lessons from Elijah:

- God meets us in despair without condemnation.
- His whisper is tender, loving, compassionate.
- You must be close to hear a whisper.
- God often speaks in the quiet places, after we settle our hearts.

Reflection & Response

- **Testimony:** God speaks through His Word, through whispers, and through conviction.
- **Prayer Time:** Come forward if you desire a word from the Lord.

Takeaway: God’s voice brings peace, hope, and direction. The enemy condemns, but the Spirit convicts and restores. Listen for the whisper.

Family & Small Group Questions:

1. When have you felt desperate to hear God’s voice, like Elijah or during a personal wilderness season? How did God meet you?
2. How do you personally distinguish between condemnation from the enemy and conviction from the Holy Spirit? Can you share an example?
3. Elijah expected God in power but heard Him in a whisper. What practices help you quiet your heart enough to hear God’s gentle voice today?

Kids (Under 12)

1. If God whispers, what are some ways we can make our hearts quiet enough to listen?
2. How can you tell the difference between a voice that makes you feel scared or ashamed, and God’s voice that brings peace and love?
3. Elijah was afraid, but God spoke kindly to him. What does this teach us about how God feels about us when we’re sad or scared?