

Paradise Lost and Restored: Hearing God's Voice (Part 3)

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I. Introduction

Do you ever notice how self-critical we are? Why are we constantly putting ourselves down and noticing every mistake we make? Could it be that someone wants us to believe that there's something wrong with us so that we'll never reach our true potential? How do we overcome this self-critical view of ourselves...is there another voice we can turn to?

II. How Do We Silence the Critical Voices Inside Us that Want to Steal Our Identity?

The voices in your head are fighting over your identity, do you ever notice how much you criticize yourself? We criticize everything about ourselves, our appearance, food choices, career choices, relationship choices, even parking choices. We say the nastiest things to ourselves and we think others see us this way too.

This is not accidental. The battle between God and Satan over you is over your identity. Satan wants to keep you from it; God wants to remind you of it every time you start believing that you need a new life (new face, body, job, career, car, house, address, etc.)....and God's voice is always encouraging...Satan's discouraging,

Adam and Eve, Genesis 2-3, when God made them, they were perfect, no flaws in their appearance, position in life, address, relationship, no flaws anywhere. But then Satan shows up and convinces them that there's something wrong with their position in life, address, appearance, etc. So instead of ruling over the earth, Adam and Eve find themselves in the bushes covered with fear, guilt, and shame. But then God speaks and restores their identity. And though it's now more difficult, man's been ruling earth ever since.

Moses, Exodus 2-4, 11-15, what were Moses' self-critical thoughts, how did he see himself? In the beginning he saw himself as a deliverer: he delivers a fellow Jew by killing an Egyptian, which gets him exiled from Egypt, and women who are oppressed by shepherds. But by the time God speaks with him, Moses doesn't see himself as a deliverer, even though this is what he was born to be.

Have you ever heard God speak? Examples...Lester, Don, Mark, Tom, and Ricardo.

III. Conclusion

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.