

What Does God's Voice Sound Like? Part 4

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I. Introduction

If you have trouble hearing God's voice, see if there's anything keeping you from God and therefore His voice. Is God anywhere to be found or are you far away from Him? If sin's involved, are you living in guilt or the Lord's forgiveness? Do you believe He's there waiting to help or not? Has Satan blinded you? Are you living out of your true identity? Are you afraid?

II. What's Keeping You from Hearing God's Voice?

Things that keep us from God, thus, from hearing His voice:

Are you facing God or away from Him? Satan is brilliant at using your circumstances against you. Through your circumstances, he will get you to turn away from God, e.g., Elijah (1 Kings 19), before you know it you're furious, anxious, depressed, afraid, hopeless, etc., etc.

Forgiveness, sin separates us from God; forgiveness reunites us (Romans 5:1-11). If we fail to receive forgiveness or give forgiveness, we cut ourselves off from God's voice (1 John 1:5-10; Matthew 6:15). And Satan loves using un-forgiveness against us (2 Corinthians 2:5-11).

Unbelief, when we refuse to believe, we put a barrier between us and the Lord (John 5:31-47). And it's not just unbelievers who struggle with unbelief, believers struggle with it too, especially when our circumstances blind us (Matthew 14:28-31). If you want to hear God, you have to believe in Him (Hebrews 11:6)...we can't hear Him not because He's not there—He's everywhere: Psalm 139:7-12—but because our unbelief keeps us from seeing Him.

Satan, his goal is to drown out God's voice with the "facts" of your life as interpreted by him. And if you fall for his lies, you'll be so blinded that you'll believe the worst about yourself, your life, and God (Ephesians 2:1-3; 4:17-19 cf. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 1 Peter 5:8).

A false identity, Satan's goal is to give you a false identity through any means: your parents, family, friends, enemies, circumstances, etc., etc. But you come into this world with a true identity given to you by God from birth (Psalm 139:13-16). What did Rabbi Saul, later known as the apostle Paul, think he was born to be? God's most zealous religious teacher, even if it meant killing Christians (Galatians 1:13-14). But what was Paul's true identity given to him by God from birth? To be God's most zealous religious teacher, even if it meant getting killed (Galatians 1:16; 2 Corinthians 11:22-33). Don't let Satan rob you of your true identity; stand in what God says, not in what Satan says about you (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Fear, behind every fear is a lie about us, our lives, and/or the Lord. But what did God say about our Lord Jesus Christ? Is there anything that is not under His power or control? Nothing! (Hebrews 2:8-9). Our lives may be chaotic, this world may be chaotic, but have we failed to see Jesus? It may look like everything's out of control, but in reality Jesus has EVERYTHING under His control (Hebrews 1:1-13) and you are seated with Him at the right hand of the Father! (Ephesians 2:4-6). Notice how Jesus can calm your storm and remove your fears with two simple words (Mark 4:36-40). There's nothing we should fear, not even death (Hebrews 2:14-15). We must set our eyes on Jesus in order to run with endurance the race set before us (Hebrews 12:1-2). Those who set their eyes on the Lord are not conquered by their circumstances, instead, they become conquerors (e.g., Joseph, Genesis 37-41).

All of the above are interrelated; Satan tries to use all of them against us each and every day. They're all present in Adam and Eve's deception: Were they facing God or away from Him? They were completely facing away from God (Genesis 3:1-8). Were they living in God's Forgiveness, no, they were living in guilt and shame (Genesis 3:7-8). Were they living in Unbelief, yes, in complete unbelief: God was now a monster who wanted to kill them, not their loving Father and they were creatures who deserved to live in the shadows instead of rule the earth (Genesis 3:1-10). Where was Satan, he was there, deceiving them, stealing their true identity, and driving them away from God and into unforgiveness, unbelief, and fear (Genesis 3:1-10). Were they living in a false Identity, absolutely, instead of being beloved children of God who rule the earth, they were terrified creatures hiding in the bushes whom God wanted to kill (Genesis 1:28; 3:7-10). Were they living in Fear, yes, they were terrified of God and their fear stripped them of everything, their status, position, and life (Genesis 3:7-10).

How Satan deceives a young man looking for a wife: when I met this young man, he was thoroughly confused about what it meant to be a man and how to look for a wife. He was dating a particular girl on and off. He was madly in love with her and wanted her as his wife. But there was a slight problem: she wanted to date other guys besides him! He was so convinced that she was "the one" that when he saw a vision of her glowing, he thought it was a definite sign from God that he was supposed to marry her.

As we began discussing it, the Lord opened his eyes and he realized that she was not marriage material: marriage is oneness not one + three others (Genesis 2:24). A wife honors her husband; she does him good and not evil all the days of her life (Proverbs 31:12). So he had to learn to test the spirits (1 John 4:1-3), to test his vision to see if it was indeed God speaking or Satan.

Since this woman wasn't going to work out, he then thought that perhaps he was meant to be single longer than he hoped for? How do we test this spirit? Well, aside from wanting a life partner with whom he can experience the blessings of oneness in life and ministry, he also wanted to fulfill the sexual desire burning within him. Since he was burning sexually, it was clear that God intended for him to marry now! not years from now (1 Corinthians 7:9).

Since he used to be overweight, he thought that he needed to workout obsessively otherwise girls wouldn't date him. Working out took precedence over finding a job and if he missed a workout, he would beat himself up. How do we test this spirit? First, who's supposed to be his Savior, exercise or God; who will provide him a wife, exercise or God? Anything we put in God's place is an idol (Exodus 20:3; Matthew 6:24). Second, what's his starting point, fat, unattractive guy? No! He's a marvelous and wonderful work (Psalm 139:13-16) who has a Father who loves him and will provide everything he needs, including a wife...within months, the Lord provide him a wonderful woman to marry!

III. Conclusion

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you that you were naked?..."