

**HEARING THE VOICE OF THE LORD  
PART 2—WHAT IS GOD SAYING?  
1 SAMUEL 3:1-15; JEREMIAH 37:2-3, 17**

**Introduction**

We saw last week how that the young child, Samuel, did not recognize the voice of the LORD at first.

Unfortunately, many folks don't recognize the LORD's voice at first. This often leads to missing out on the blessings that come from being in the center of the LORD's will!

**We began looking last week at how we can recognize the voice of the LORD as He calls us to follow Him.**

**We looked at a variety of WAYS THAT THE LORD HAS SPOKEN TO MAN THROUGH THE AGES—Both Mankind In General And To His Own People. God has always had His ways of communicating to mankind!**

**The main way God speaks today is through His completed Canon of Scripture—The Word of God, and its Author—The Holy Spirit of God, that indwells His People—The Church of God!**

The real problem is NOT that God is not speaking, but rather that MOST PEOPLE are not listening! Just like King Zedekiah of Judah in **Jeremiah 37:2, 17.**

**So, IF GOD IS STILL SPEAKING TODAY (AND HE IS), WHAT IS GOD SAYING?**

**I. THERE IS GOD'S CALL TO SALVATION!**

**God has commissioned His Church to preach the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! In fact, the Gospel is to be the center of all that we do for Him as a Church!**

*Mark 16:15—“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”*

**HEARING THE VOICE OF THE LORD  
PART 2—WHAT IS GOD SAYING?  
1 SAMUEL 3:1-15; JEREMIAH 37:2-3, 17**

*Romans 1:16—“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”*

**So, What Does God's Call To Salvation Involve?:**

**A. God's Call To Salvation Involves The Call To See Oneself As A Sinner!**

Most people like to think they are OK just like they are.

*Proverbs 20:6—“Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?”*

But how does the LORD view man? (**Romans 3:9-12, 23**)

**B. God's Call To Salvation Involves The Call To See God's Penalty For Sin!**

Our sin IS a big deal!

*Romans 6:23—“For the wages of sin is death...”*  
*The second death in the lake of fire in Revelation 20:14-15.*

**C. God's Call To Salvation Involves The Call To Reject All Means Of Self Effort! (**Romans 3:19-20**)**

Most all religious activity is nothing more than man's efforts to merit himself before a holy God—But it is ALL in vain!

*Isaiah 64:6—“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”*

**D. God's Call To Salvation Involves The Call To Consider Christ.**

*John 5:39-40—“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. 40And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.”*

*John 14:6* reveals that Jesus Christ is the ONLY way of Salvation!

HEARING THE VOICE OF THE LORD  
PART 2—WHAT IS GOD SAYING?  
1 SAMUEL 3:1-15; JEREMIAH 37:2-3, 17

*Romans 5:8-9—“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”*

*Romans 10:9-10—“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*

**1. The Call To Consider Christ Is A Call To Repentance (And Faith).**

*Acts 3:19—“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out. . .”*

*Acts 17:30—“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:*

*Acts 20:21—“Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

**2. The Call To Consider Christ Is A Call To Rest.**

*Matthew 11:28—“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”*

Rest in what Christ has done for you!

So, *THERE IS GOD’S CALL TO SALVATION*...Have you answered that call?

**II. THERE IS GOD’S CALL TO SANCTIFICATION (HOLINESS)!**  
*(1 Thessalonians 4:1-4)*

HEARING THE VOICE OF THE LORD  
PART 2—WHAT IS GOD SAYING?  
1 SAMUEL 3:1-15; JEREMIAH 37:2-3, 17

**A. The Call To Sanctification Is A Call To Be Set Apart From Self And Sin Unto God For His Purposes!**

He calls for purity and holiness and provides both the POWER and the PATH for that to be accomplished in our lives!

*1 Peter 1:15-16—“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”*

*2 Peter 1:3—“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:”*

**B. The Call To Sanctification Is A Call To Be Conformed To The Image Of Christ.**

*Romans 8:29—“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.”*

In Romans 12:2, the Apostle Paul said that we are not to be conformed to this world: but rather we are to be transformed by the renewing of our mind.

In Galatians 2:20 he said that the key to his living the Christian life was Christ living in him and that it was a life of faith!

*SALVATION...SANCTIFICATION...*

**III. THERE IS GOD’S CALL TO SERVICE!**  
*(Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:22-25)*

Every Christian is to be in full-time service to the Lord 24/ 7 /365!

**A. God Has Both Equipped Us And Called Us To Serve Others In Jesus’ Name!**

**B. There Is NO Christian That God Has Not Called To Serve!**  
No matter who you are, God has something for you to do!

HEARING THE VOICE OF THE LORD  
PART 2–WHAT IS GOD SAYING?  
1 SAMUEL 3:1-15; JEREMIAH 37:2-3, 17

C. **There Is NO Christian To Whom God Has Not Given The Spiritual Gifts And Abilities Needed To Accomplish God’s Will For Their Lives!**

D. **Understand That God’s Call Can Be General Or Specific!**

1. **What Is A General Call?**

Exp. Every Christian has a call to reach the world with the Gospel.

*Acts 1:8– “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*

- a) The Great Commission was given to the local Church—but we are the local Church!
- b) Every Christian has been called by God to be a missionary!
- c) Whether it is across the street or around the world, our mission is still the same, to live and spread the truth in Jesus’ name!

2. **What Is A Specific Call?**

It is a call to serve God in a special capacity in a certain place! (*Acts 13:2-7*)

- a) We need to be honest with ourselves and God as to whether He is calling us to serve Him in a special capacity or in a certain place and respond to Him in surrender.
- b) If not, then it is certain that God has called us to minister where we are at and to give so that others can go to the ends of the earth!

HEARING THE VOICE OF THE LORD  
PART 2–WHAT IS GOD SAYING?  
1 SAMUEL 3:1-15; JEREMIAH 37:2-3, 17

3. **God Wants Us To Put Ourselves In The Offering Plate First!**

We are to be as like the Churches in Macedonia that the Apostle Paul spoke of!

*2 Corinthians 8:5– “And this they did, not as we hoped, but **first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.**”*

- a) God wants our willingness to go **anywhere** that He leads or do **anything** He tells us to do!
- b) When He has that, He will show us where to go!

4. **The Key Is Surrender Of Our Will To His Will!**

5. **The Question Is, “Who Is Lord Of Our Life?”**

*SALVATION...SANCTIFICATION...SERVICE...*

IV. **THERE IS GOD’S CALL TO SACRIFICE!**

Every child of God has been called to sacrifice **his desires, his wants, his wishes, and his plans** and replace it with what God would have for him! *Mark 8:34– “And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 35For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel’s, the same shall save it.”*

**Conclusion**

The voice of the LORD is not silent. He speaks to the heart of His people and calls them to follow in His steps.

How have you responded to the LORD’s call to Salvation, to Sanctification, to Service, and to Sacrifice. The LORD **is** speaking. The question is are WE listening?

As Eli advised Samuel so long ago, I encourage you to respond to His voice today with, *“Speak, Lord, thy servant heareth.”*