

Speak O Lord 1 Kings 19:9-15

On Father's Day I shared that God created humanity in His image, to be His image bearers in this world, and to live out His creation mandate as such!

To bear God's image means many things, but if we simply look at what we see God doing, from the very first chapter of the Bible forward, **we see a God who continually & consistently speaks!**

He spoke creation into existence. He spoke to the patriarchs, Moses, judges, to kings, to and through the prophets. He spoke through the living Word – Jesus Christ. He spoke through the apostles and through the written Word.

God is a God who speaks, He is not silent! And He never changes!

So... does God still speak today? If so, by what means does He speak? And how can we be sure it's God speaking & not the world, our flesh or the devil?

"You learn to know the voice of God through an intimate love relationship with Him!" – Experiencing God

It's through a relationship with God that His voice can be heard & discerned!

Let me just share how this is also true in my relationship w/ my wife!

- I can pick my wife's voice out of a crowd!
- I usually know when my wife speaks, whether she's really talking to me!
- I can even discern what my wife wants to say to me without her even saying it!

A close & intimate relationship makes this kind of communication possible!

Do we have such a relationship with God? Do we recognize and discern His voice in the same ways?

- **Can we pick His voice out of a crowd, with other voices pulling for our attention? The more we're in relationship with Him the easier it will be!**
- When He speaks, can we tell if He's really speaking to us?
- Can we discern what God wants without Him needing to say a word?

The stronger our relationship is with God, the stronger our awareness of what He is saying to us will be!

Scripture must be what guides us in our discernment of what God is saying! God will not contradict Himself, so if anyone thinks that God is saying to them something in opposition to what He has said in Scripture, it must be rejected!

The Scriptures were never intended to be just a history book from God, it's God's love letter to His children, it's the words of Jesus spoken to His bride!

God spoke into His creation because He wanted to establish a love relationship with His people, with us!

Relationships 101 - Healthy relationships are built on good communication. Communication is the key to a healthy relationship!

Back when Kristin & I were dating we use to talk for hours. Why? B/c our relationship was a high priority, & there was so much we wanted to get to know about each other, as well as talk about a potential shared future!

Unfortunately, there's been times we've neglected that kind of communication & the result has been feeling disconnected & distant in our relationship!

Then we say things like...

Isn't the same true with God? **We were created to be in communion w/Him!** & just like in all other relationships, our communication needs to be healthy.

Our communication must be two-sided, meaning both parties have opportunities to speak and to listen.

In our relationships with God, do we make speaking to Him, and hearing from Him, a high priority?

When people say they don't hear from God, it's not b/c He isn't speaking!

- God speaks, but the lines of communication go both ways!
- Are we putting ourselves in places where God's voice is heard?
- Are we neglecting to hear what God has already said?
- Are we trusting the Holy Spirit to be alive & at work in us & through us?

To know the voice of God starts with a healthy relationship with Him! A healthy relationship with God begins with good communication!

God is still speaking today, but maybe not in the ways you would expect. It may not come in the wind, earthquake or fire, but His voice can be heard!

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