

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

6.5.2022

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Samuels Call and Ministry

1 Samuel 3: 1 – 9, 19 – 20, 7: 3 – 5, 10, 12

How familiar are we, as believers, recognizing when God is speaking to us? Hearing God, speaking to us, is one of the greatest benefits of our salvation. Sadly, many Christians have a hard time hearing the voice of God. Learning to clearly hear the voice of God, is very valuable to our spiritual life in Christ, and comes through obedience. Do we realize that God constantly is speaking unto us and giving unto us direction? One reason that we do not always hear the voice of God is that we are always too busy pleading with God about our problems. Today's lesson gives unto us three perspectives in learning to hear God speaking unto us.

First, we must realize, that yes God is very capable of speaking unto us. Often time, we cannot hear God, because we do not truly believe that he speaks unto us. The lifestyle of the believer in this world has become so busy that there is no longer time to slow down and hear God speaking. In spite of this, the Lord constantly speaks unto us and gives unto us direction.

John 10: 2 – 3,....he that entereth in by the door is the Shepard of the sheep....the porter openeth, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calleth his own sheep by name, and he leadeth him out....

As Christians, we can, and do hear the voice of God, but, we do not always recognize that what we are hearing is Gods voice. Often time, we mistake the voice of the Lord for our own thoughts. As we realize that God does speak to us, then will we understand that he will make his desires become our desires.

The second thing that we are taught is that we must learn to listen to the Lord. In order to do this, our heart must be open to what the Lord has to say. God longs to give unto us his mercy and his grace which will show unto us the way in which we should walk in our spiritual life. Listening to God starts with knowledge of his word. Meditation and prayer, through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit will help us to examine our heart, so that we might hear what God has to say. Only through spiritual peace of mind are we able to commit ourselves and stay humble in a daily walk with God. Listening to God takes a lifetime, and it grows stronger daily as we develop our relationship with him. As we study and pray, the Holy Spirit gives unto us the sense that God has something to say, therefore, we must take the time to consider the reality that God is now speaking unto us, and has prepared our hearts to hear what he has to say.

Isaiah 30: 21,....thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, this is the way, walk ye in it....

For those who would listen, their ears (spiritual ears) will hear the word. God's grace toward us is never changing, and he is always there to guide us into the way of truth. All that he desires is that we would listen to his voice, hearken to his word, trust in his everlasting love, and rely upon his sufficient grace, so that the love of Christ may guard our hearts, and that every step that we take may be directed by him and toward him.

The third thing that we learn is that part of hearing God speak means committing ourselves to being a servant of the Lord, always ready to do his will. Our commitment to God shows unto others how important he is to us, which is the witness of our salvation. The more that we commit ourselves to the service of the Lord, the more that he will strengthen us to become what he has created us to be. This means that Christ is absolute in our lives. When this begins to take place, then will we become fruitful in our service to him. This means that our life in Christ brings honor to him through our words, actions, and behaviors, and gives glory to God.

Romans 12: 1,....I beseech ye therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service....

God, through his great mercy and grace has given unto us, not only life eternal, but purpose for Christ. Therefore, we offer ourselves unto him, to use as he sees fit, for his eternal purpose. For this reason, God has already set us apart for his purpose, and has declared us acceptable for his purpose and plan. There is nothing that we have to wait on, for he is ready to receive the sacrifice of our every day lives, to his service, immediately.

1 Samuel 3: 1 – 9,....the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord....when Eli was laid down....and Samuel was laid down to sleep....the Lord called Samuel, and he answered, here I am....the Lord called Samuel yet again....now Samuel did not know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed unto him....the Lord called Samuel the third time....Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child....therefore Eli said....if he calls thee....say, speak Lord, for thy servant heareth....

Just as Israel was in the time of Eli and Samuel, the church today has become discreditable through dishonest and immoral acts. For this reason, God must work through the members of the body of Christ, to reveal his plan and his purpose to bring the church back on track with his eternal plan of salvation. In order to become accustomed to God speaking unto us, and through us, we must first become obedient to his will. Like Samuel, we do not always recognize the voice of God, and often time, it is because we do not have the intimate knowledge needed to be familiar with Gods voice. But through our faithfulness, and willingness, to learn, God will prepare us for every moment that he wants to communicate with us. Through our intimate relationship with God, he will begin to reveal unto us the truth of his eternal will.

1 Samuel 3: 19 – 20,....Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and he did let none of his words fall to the ground....and all Israel knew....that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord....

Once God establishes the truth of his word within us, then is he able to fulfill the promises that he has given unto us through his word. His grace, his goodness, his wisdom, his knowledge, and his understanding, both in things natural and in things spiritual, establishes the witness of our salvation to all mankind. Through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit we learn how to apply the word of God to our daily lives.

1 Samuel 7: 3 – 5,....and Samuel spake....if ye do return unto the Lord, with all your hearts, then put away the strange Gods....and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve him only, and he will deliver you....and Samuel said....I will pray for you unto the Lord....

Our service to God is to urge people to repent and return to the Lord with all their hearts. As this happens, then will those in the body of Christ want to prove their loyalty to God through outward, spiritual acts. This does not mean that the church does not have God with them, it just means that the church is serving other worldly idols as well. This is because there are those who want to intermingle their spiritual lives with worldly prosperity and power. Through confession and repentance, which brings about a renewed spiritual relationship with God, we then experience a constant, self-examination and self-denial, which opens us up to more of Gods love and spiritual maturity.

1 Samuel 7: 10, 12,....As Samuel was offering up burnt offerings, the Philistines drew near to battle....but the Lord....discomfited them, and they were smitten....Samuel took a stone....called the name of it Eben-ezer....the Lord hath helped us....

Living holy lives, through the meditation of Gods word and prayer are crucial to our spiritual victories. With this will also come thanksgiving for these victories, which should be a priority in our lives. This is because God wins these battles through us, we cannot do it of our own strength, we must rely upon the strength of God. Through these battles, God will give unto us things, so that we remember that it was him who helped us, so that we will never forget the power of the true and living God.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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