

Series: God Is a Talker

Lesson 3: The Living Word and the Cost for Not Listening

Main Goal:

To move from simply agreeing that God still speaks to understanding the cost of not hearing Him.

Key Truths:

- Hearing God is not optional; it is essential for the believer.
- Not hearing God is not merely a disappointment; it can become disobedience.
- God has always spoken to His people, and He still speaks today.
- A conversational walk with God should become normal for the believer.

1. Why Hearing God Is Such a Struggle

A. Cultural Bias

Many believers in Western culture have been taught, directly or indirectly, that God no longer speaks personally. This is more cultural than biblical. Around the world, many Christians live with a strong expectation that God speaks, moves, heals, delivers, and guides.

B. Spiritual Dullness

Jesus repeatedly said, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says.” The issue is often not that God is silent, but that we have become dull of hearing.

Hebrews 5:11 says, “We have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.”

The downward path of spiritual dullness:

- Drifting: We begin moving away from what we have heard.
- Doubting: We begin questioning what God has said.
- Dullness: We become spiritually insensitive.
- Despising: We begin resisting or rejecting spiritual truth.
- Defying: We begin living in disobedience toward God.

C. Distracted Busyness

Many believers miss the treasures of God because they are too busy with other things. Even good things can distract us from the most important thing: walking closely with God.

D. Other Voices

Many voices compete for our attention:

- Our own thoughts
- Other people's opinions
- Cultural messages
- Social media
- Past experiences
- Spiritual deception

Because of these voices, we must learn to discern the voice of God.

2. Why Hearing God Is So Essential

God has not stopped speaking. The God who spoke in Scripture is still the God who speaks today.

Hebrews 4:12 says, “For the word of God is living and active.”

God’s Word is not dead information. It is living and active. We are invited into relationship with the Author of Scripture.

Important distinction:

- God’s written Word is like a map that shows us the way.
- God’s spoken guidance is like GPS that gives real-time direction.

God’s Word gives us the truth and boundaries for life, while His Spirit gives us guidance for specific moments, decisions, and situations.

Psalms 77:19 says, “Your road led through the sea, your pathway through the mighty waters, a pathway no one knew was there.”

God knows pathways we do not know exist. Hearing Him matters because He can lead us through situations we could never navigate on our own.

3. Why Hearing God Is So Near

Hearing God is closer than many believers realize. God is not waiting for us to become experts before He speaks. He is a Father who loves to talk to His children.

Spiritual dullness does not always mean we are cold toward God, but we must honestly ask whether we are truly hot toward Him.

Revelation 3:15-16 says, “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot.”

The church in Revelation thought they were fine, but Jesus revealed their true spiritual condition. Yet His invitation was not rejection, but relationship.

Revelation 3:20 says, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and eat with him, and he with me.”

Key Takeaway:

Your new normal is one open door away.

God is speaking. The invitation is to hear His voice, open the door, and walk with Him in daily conversation.

Application Questions:

- Have I made peace with spiritual dullness?
- Am I too busy to hear God clearly?
- What voices are competing with God’s voice in my life?
- Am I approaching God as a living person or only as a subject to study?
- What would it look like for a conversational walk with God to become my normal?

Closing Prayer Focus:

- Thank God that we get to call Him Father.
- Thank Him for placing His Spirit within us.
- Invite Him to speak.
- Tell Him that your heart is open to Him.
- Ask Him to awaken your spiritual hearing.