

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Hearing God - Listening Prayer

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor
February 2, 2020



How personal does your relationship with God feel to you?

1 Samuel 3:10 (NLT) 'And the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening."'

1 Kings 19:11-13

Psalms 27:8 (NLT) 'My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me." And my heart responds, "Lord, I am coming."'

John 10:27 (AMP) "The sheep that are My own hear My voice *and* listen to Me; I know them, and they follow Me."

John 14:25 (AMP) "I have told you these things while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you."

- **God is speaking...**

- **Hearing God is vital for life.**

Deuteronomy 6:4 (NKJV) "Hear O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD"

Romans 10:17 (NLT) "So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ."

Hebrews 11:6 (NLT) "And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him."

Matthew 4:4 (NLT) But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Mark 4:9 (NLT) Then he [Jesus] said, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

The problem is not that God isn't speaking, but that we have not learned to listen.

Big Idea: Learn to hear God through listening prayer.

How do you practice listening prayer?

- **Quiet your heart before the Lord.**
- **Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you and to lead you into truth.**
- **Read a passage of Scripture thoughtfully 2X.**
- **Ask God specific questions related to the passage and your life**
- **Journal your prayers and impressions of God's answers.**
- **Respond in faith and apply what you have heard from God.**

Because listening prayer is subjective ask questions to clarify that God has spoken.

- **Was it clear word or just an impression?**
- **Does it exalt Christ?** (Colossians 1:15-20)
- **Is it consistent with Scripture?** (Proverbs 30:5-6)
- **Do other Christians confirm this word?** (Proverbs 20:18, Proverbs 15:22)
- **Will it produce good fruit & spiritual growth?** (John 15:1-16)
- **Does God cause it to actually take place?** (Isaiah 55:11)

Hearing God is a gift of grace made possible though Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 1:1-4 (NLT) Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. ² And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. ³ The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honour at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. ⁴ This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave him is greater than their names.

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation (NLT), The New King James Version (NKJV) and the Amplified Bible (AMP).



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we live out our identity as a Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**Hearing God
#5 of 7 - Feb. 2, 2020**

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?
- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you?

3) How personal does your relationship with God feel to you? Is your prayer life more of a monologue or a dialogue? Explain. Do you desire to grow in your ability to hear and respond to God?

4) Review 1 Samuel 3:10, 1 Kings 19:11-13, Psalm 27:8, John 10:27, and John 14:25. What do these passages tell us about God speaking to His people?

5) Why is “hearing God” vital for life? What do these passages tell us in this regard? Deuteronomy 6:4, Romans 10:17, Hebrews 11:6, Matthew 4:4, Mark 4:9.

6) Take some time to work through the steps and practice Listening Prayer. Share with your IC what the experience was like and what you sensed God saying to you.

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- Read a passage of Scripture thoughtfully 2X.
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- Respond in faith and apply what you have heard from God.

7) Discuss the importance of the clarifying questions and use these to evaluate what you have heard from God.

8) Read Hebrews 1:1-4. In what way is Jesus, God’s definitive word to us?



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