

Sep 27, 2026

2026_09_27 Competing Voices





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Listening is hearing God with a heart ready to
respond to his voice in faith.

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4

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After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother John and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. He was transfigured in front of them, and his face shone like the sun; his clothes became as white as the light.

Matthew 17v1-8 (CSB)

5

Verse Text Slide

Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it's good for us to be here. If you want, I will set up three shelters here: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

Matthew 17v1-8 (CSB)

6

Verse Text Slide

While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased. Listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown and were terrified.

Matthew 17v1-8 (CSB)

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Verse Text Slide

Jesus came up, touched them, and said, "Get up; don't be afraid." When they looked up they saw no one except Jesus alone.

Matthew 17v1-8 (CSB)

8

Verse Text Slide

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient. We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also.

Ephesians 2v1-3 (CSB)

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THE WORLD

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“All the harm the soul receives is born of its enemies...the world, the devil, and the flesh. The world is the enemy least difficult to conquer; the devil is the hardest to understand; but the flesh is the most tenacious, and its attacks continue as long as the old self lasts. To gain complete mastery over any of these three enemies, one must vanquish all three of them; and in the weakening of one, the other two are weakened also. When all three are overpowered, no further war remains for the soul.”

St. John of the Cross

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World = created universe (Romans 1v20)

World = humanity (John 3v16)

World = patterns of human society that skew God's intended design (1 John 2v15-16)

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“The world is that system of values in any given age which has at its center our fallen human perspective which displaces God and his truth from the world, and which makes sin look normal and righteousness seem strange. It thus gives great plausibility to what is morally wrong and for that reason makes what is wrong seem normal.”

David Wells

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THE FLESH

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“[The flesh] is the corruption that sin has introduced into our very appetites and instincts.”
Eugene Peterson

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17

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I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want.

Galatians 5v16-17 (CSB)

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“What’s easy to miss in the modern view of things is that our strongest desires are not actually our deepest desires...our deepest desires – usually to become people of goodness and love – are often sabotaged by the stronger surface-level desires of the flesh.”

John Mark Comer

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The flesh is *relational resistance* to God.

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“The relational resistance view maintains that σάρξ is not simply ingrained inclinations to behaviorally sin, but more fundamentally ingrained inclinations to resist the Spirit of God and to live autonomously from his life-giving presence. Christ-followers do not come into the Christian life with merely habituated sinful desires, dispositions, and their resultant sinful behaviors (the deeds of the flesh), but more profoundly Christ-followers bring with them the habituated, idolatrous proclivities of their pre- and post-conversion attempts to live autonomously from God. So, this view is sensitive to the fact that while Christians do need to turn more frequently to the Spirit’s empowerment and thereby refrain from sin, such acts of submission to the Spirit are complicated by habituated relational resistance to the Spirit.”

Dr. Steve Porter

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23 Group

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"But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel did not obey me. So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own plans."

Psalm 81v11-12 (CSB)

24 Group

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25 Group

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THE DEVIL

26 Group

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27 Group

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Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, because I came from God and I am here. For I didn't come on my own, but he sent me. Why don't you understand what I say? Because you cannot listen to my word.

John 8v42-47 (CSB)

28 Group

Verse Text Slide

You are of your father the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies.

John 8v42-47 (CSB)

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Verse Text Slide

Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Who among you can convict me of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? The one who is from God listens to God's words. This is why you don't listen, because you are not from God."

John 8v42-47 (CSB)

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Verse Text Slide



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“There is no neutral ground in the universe: every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan.”

C.S. Lewis

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We are always listening to some voice, so we must learn which voices keep us from hearing the voice of Jesus.

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