



A Stand Alone Message | When You Need A Word

David Jordan | 08.30.26

Overview

This sermon explores what it means to hear from God in the middle of life's storms. Using the account of Peter walking on water, we examined three things required to truly hear from God: hearing the voice, believing the voice, and acting on what you heard. Through personal testimony and scripture, we were challenged to trust God no matter what our circumstances look like.

Icebreaker

Go around the group and answer this question: Have you ever been in a situation where you needed confirmation rather than more advice? What did that feel like?

Key Takeaways

- Hearing from God involves three steps: hearing the voice, believing it is from God, and acting on what you heard.
- Peter did not walk on water -- he walked on faith. His faith carried him across what his feet could not cross alone.
- Faith is not the absence of questions. Faith is taking your questions to the right person.
- God's silence is not his absence.
- When God speaks a word over your life, your circumstances do not have the final say.

- God often sees us in ways we cannot see ourselves, just as he called Gideon a mighty warrior in his weakest moment (Judges 6:12).
 - When the storms get loud, the word of God must get louder.
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Discussion Questions

Hearing the Voice

1. Pastor David described three things required to truly hear from God: hearing the voice, believing it is from God, and acting on it. Which of those three steps is hardest for you personally, and why?
2. Peter said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water" (Matthew 14:28). The pastor described this not as doubt but as a request for confirmation. What is the difference between doubting God and asking him for reassurance? How do you personally tell the difference in your own life?
3. Pastor David noted that Peter could not see Jesus -- it was dark, and he was responding to a voice. Have you ever felt like you were moving toward God in the dark, without being able to see clearly where you were going? What was that experience like?

Trusting the Word

4. Isaiah 55:11 teaches that God's word will not return to him empty but will accomplish what he intends. How does that promise change the way you hold on to something God has spoken to you, especially when you are still waiting for it to come to pass?
5. Pastor David shared that for seven hours, his wife's condition did not change, and yet he kept returning to the words, "I have got it," which he felt God speak to him. He repeated throughout the night, "I can trust you no matter what." How do you respond when God gives you a word but the circumstances do not change right away?

6. Pastor David said, "Before the promise was ever fulfilled, I had peace." Have you ever experienced peace before a situation was resolved? What do you think made that possible?

Getting Out of the Boat

7. The other disciples stayed in the boat while Peter stepped out. The pastor pointed out that the boat was not actually the safest place that night -- walking toward Jesus was. What is the "boat" in your life right now that feels like security but may actually be keeping you from moving toward God?
8. Pastor David referenced Judges 6:12, where the angel of the Lord called Gideon a mighty warrior even while Gideon was hiding in fear. What does it mean to you that God calls you something you do not yet see in yourself? How does that change the way you approach your current situation?
9. Pastor David asked the group to identify what word the Holy Spirit might be speaking to them. He offered several possibilities: come, trust, stand still, wait, forgive, go, fear not. Which of those words resonates most with where you are right now, and why?

Practical Applications

Consider choosing one or more of the following to put into practice this week:

- **Write it down.** Pastor David said three times, "Write it down -- you are going to need it." Take time this week to write down any word, scripture, or impression you feel God has been speaking to you. Keep it somewhere visible.
- **Identify your boat.** Spend time in prayer asking God to show you what you are holding onto for security that may actually be keeping you from stepping out in faith. Write it down and bring it back to the group next week.

- **Take your questions to God directly.** Instead of seeking more advice or more plans, set aside dedicated time this week to bring your situation directly to God in prayer. Practice saying, "Lord, I can trust you no matter what," and notice what happens in your spirit when you do.
 - **Find your word.** Read Joshua 1:9 and Psalms 46:1 slowly and prayerfully this week. Ask God to confirm or clarify the word he is speaking over your specific situation.
 - **Memorize one anchor verse.** Choose one verse from this sermon that speaks directly to what you are going through. Commit it to memory this week so that when the storm gets loud, you have the word of God ready.
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Closing Prayer

Close your group time by praying for each person to receive clarity on what God is speaking to them. Ask the Holy Spirit to give each member the courage to act on what they have heard, the faith to trust God before the circumstances change, and the peace that surpasses understanding as they wait on his promises to be fulfilled.

