

**Four factors that impact our “hearing”
(Samuel)**

1 Samuel 3:1-20 Meanwhile, the boy Samuel served the LORD by assisting Eli. Now in those days messages from the LORD were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon.

² One night Eli, who was almost blind by now, had gone to bed. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle[Ⓢ] near the Ark of God. ⁴ Suddenly the LORD called out, “Samuel!”

“Yes?” Samuel replied. “What is it?” ⁵ He got up and ran to Eli. “Here I am. Did you call me?”

“I didn’t call you,” Eli replied. “Go back to bed.” So he did.

⁶ Then the LORD called out again, “Samuel!”

Again Samuel got up and went to Eli. “Here I am. Did you call me?”

“I didn’t call you, my son,” Eli said. “Go back to bed.”

⁷ Samuel did not yet know the LORD because he had never had a message from the LORD before. ⁸ So the LORD called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. “Here I am. Did you call me?”

Then Eli realized it was the LORD who was calling the boy. ⁹ So he said to Samuel, “Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, ‘Speak, LORD, your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went back to bed.

¹⁰ And the LORD came and called as before, “Samuel! Samuel!”

And Samuel replied, “Speak, your servant is listening.”

¹¹ Then the LORD said to Samuel, “I am about to do a shocking thing in Israel. ¹² I am going to carry out all my threats against Eli and his family, from beginning to end. ¹³ I have warned him that judgment is coming upon his family forever, because his sons are blaspheming God[Ⓛ] and he hasn’t disciplined them. ¹⁴ So I have vowed that the sins of Eli and his sons will never be forgiven by sacrifices or offerings.”

¹⁵ Samuel stayed in bed until morning, then got up and opened the doors of the Tabernacle[Ⓜ] as usual. He was afraid to tell Eli what the LORD had said to him. ¹⁶ But Eli called out to him, "Samuel, my son."

"Here I am," Samuel replied.

¹⁷ "What did the LORD say to you? Tell me everything. And may God strike you and even kill you if you hide anything from me!" ¹⁸ So Samuel told Eli everything; he didn't hold anything back. "It is the LORD's will," Eli replied. "Let him do what he thinks best."

¹⁹ As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him, and everything Samuel said proved to be reliable. ²⁰ And all Israel, from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south, knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the LORD. ²¹ The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh and gave messages to Samuel there at the Tabernacle.

I. Being in the "right" spot 3:1

-May not be in the right church

-May not be in the right environment

-May not have dealt with sin and or "stuff" correctly

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

II. Knowing the Lord

May not be saved

May not be growing or maturing

1 Corinthians 3:1, 2 Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid

food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.

III. Following good counsel

Seek out folks who love the Lord

Seek out people who are committed to the Bible

Be careful about who you listen to

Proverbs 11:14 For lack of guidance a nation falls,
but victory is won through many advisers.

IV. Willingness

He was listening to good counsel

He was willing to listen and act

He was willing even though it was hard!

He was blessed

Are we responding to His prompting?

Are we counting the cost of obedience versus disobedience?