

Leadership Tip!

Everyone you know has a daily battle to fight. Encouraging words is one of the best resources you can give them.

THE VOICE
“The Daily Battle”

“Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.” – 1 King 19:11b-12 (NIV)

STARTER QUESTIONS:

Without looking at your Bibles, what happens in verse 10 and 11a?

Within this set of verses (10-12), it says that God spoke to Elijah three times, but it also says that Elijah only heard what God was saying to him once. No doubt, Elijah thought that he was in a tough spot, but his preoccupation with worry caused him to miss where he was, to whom he was speaking, and what God had already done for him.

Conversation – interactive communication between two or more people.

MAIN REASON IDEA:

You don't have to wait for the whisper to interact with God.

This is an interesting idea; this interactive communication with God could include others- people other than God and ourselves.

Think of a form of communication; music, art, speech, text, etc. Now remember something that inspired you from that communication that seemed to be straight from God himself. Share your findings.

Often people will remember such a time when they sit down and think about it but miss it when the world closes in on them.

Why do you think that is?

Just like Elijah, we lose that interactive part of our communication. This becomes a one-way train of thought where our problems block out anything other than something dramatic that grabs our attention, at least temporarily. It is important to believe that God in heaven is having an interactive conversation with us throughout our day. We just need to move from the back of the cave of our daily battles and be attentive to God's voice in whatever form it takes.

“Remember the LORD in everything you do, and he will show you the right way.”

Proverbs 3:6 (GNT)

Throughout your day, make note of what God is showing you. Then go back to the Bible and see how it applies in context to the other scripture. Often you will see a new perspective to a problem or see an answer you never thought of before. When you do this, you will see the true depth of the conversation that God is having with you. This can be quite a humbling experience.

If you have time, pick one or two thoughts that came to mind and research them in the Bible. Use the concordance Bible or the Bible app and talk about what you find.

FINAL THOUGHTS:

Communication can be a tricky thing for some people. Not knowing what to say or how to say it can be paralyzing to some. The good news is this is never the case when we talk to God. He already knows what you want to say before it even comes into your mind. The important part is that you are having that conversation, even if you say nothing. Let your heart speak for you and God will answer.

“I used to read five psalms every day - that teaches me how to get along with God. Then I read a chapter of Proverbs every day and that teaches me how to get along with my fellow man.”

Billy Graham

Welcome Home Billy, We'll miss you.

THE VOICE
"The Daily Battle"
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Benefits of learning to hear God's Voice:

- Comfort

"Your words are what sustain me ... They bring joy to my sorrowing heart and delight me."
Jeremiah 15:16 (LB)

- Guidance

"Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."
Psalm 119:105 (NLT)

- Strength

"... Your promises to me are my hope. They give me strength in all my troubles; how they refresh and revive me!"
Psalm 119:49 (LB)

- Happiness

"Happy is the one who reads this book ... and obeys what is written in it!"
Revelation 1:3 (GN)

- Resistance

"I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you."
Psalm 119:11 (NIV)

- Success

"... Meditate on (the Word) day and night, so you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."
Joshua 1:8 (NIV)

- Compliance

"Therefore, doest thou what the pastor of the church sayeth, lest things not go well for you all of your days."
Hesitations 3:16 (HBV)

"Jesus answered, "You're off base on two counts: You don't know your Bibles, and you don't know how God works. ...don't you read your Bibles?"

Matthew 22:29-31 (MSG)

How do you get into God's Word?

1. Hear it

"Faith comes from hearing the Word of God."

Romans 10:17 (NIV)

Coastal Core Value: *"We believe that God's Word, when taught in a clear, accurate and relevant manner, provides power for salvation and strength for today's living."*

2. Read it

How do you win the first battle of the day?

- Place
- Plan
- Persistence

31 Day Bible Reading Plan <http://www.vbcoastal.com/read>

3. Discuss it

"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (NIV)

4. Meditate on it

"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."

Joshua 1:8 (NIV)

5. Apply it

"Now that you know these things, do them. That is the path of blessing."

John 13:17 (Living Bible)

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you."

Psalm

"The Lord spoke to Joshua... 'be strong and brave. Don't be afraid, because the Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go.'" Joshua 1:1 & 9 (NCV)