

Dig Deep – Growing Up in the Lord – Digging Deep in the study of God’s Word and delighting in the law of the Lord.

Baby in the womb has senses:

1. Sight
2. Smell
3. Touch
4. Taste
5. Hearing

“I’ll have no other for I love you only!

I’ll never forsake you or leave you alone!

I love you! O, how I love you!

I love you! O, how I love you!

I’ll have no other for I love you only!

I’ll never forsake you or leave you alone!”

Sound is muffled... it’s not quite clear, but you can still detect tones, inflections, sense the spirit of the person speaking – joy, peace, anger, sorrow, depression.

Consider this time that the baby in the womb is like that of us, in our unregenerate, unborn-again state. God has always been speaking to us, trying to reach out to us, trying to get our attention, but His voice has been muffled with so many other voices and distractions that sometimes it’s really difficult to detect. Nonetheless, I’m sure many here as they reflect on their lives can testify how God has always been with them, reaching out to us in our past circumstances and experiences.

Hearing and discerning the Lord’s voice, is for me, the most important part of our walk with God.

Now consider the birth of this baby that has been in the womb for 9-10 months, like that of our born-again experience. Through the blood, the water, and the Spirit we can now see and enter the kingdom of God.

Language acquisition:

Old School Grammar/Vocabulary (reading/writing) vs Comprehensible Input (focused on auditory)

So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Rom 10:17)

Not by reading, speaking, or writing, but by hearing... and hearing by the Word of God.

...and His name is called The Word of God. (Rev 19:13b NKJV)

The most important skill we must have as children of God is hearing the voice of our Father, Jesus.

Joh 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

I've known one too many ministers that have gone to seminary school only to come out believing less in the Lord and His word than when they registered for that school. Though they may have studied hours upon hours and spent semester after semester in classes,

- they know more reasons that make others doubt the validity and veracity of God's word...
- they know more of social justice causes...
- they know more how to do violence to the word by manipulating it to tickle and scratch the itching of the ears of their listeners...

They haven't been hearing the voice of the Lord. I can tell by their fruit and the hiss of the serpent in their doctrine preaching another gospel, another Jesus and another spirit.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. (2Ti 4:3-4 NKJV)

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves. (Mat 23:15 NKJV)

They have gone to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and have forsaken coming to the tree of life.

We need to take heed what we hear.

Examples of God Talking to Man

Have you ever considered taking notice of the many testimonies of conversations that have taken place between God and those who have heard the LORD? The LORD shows us that there is reciprocity (a mutual exchange) in communication between God and man.

Between God and...

- Adam
- Cain
- Noah
- Abraham
- Rebekah
- Jacob
- Moses
- Joshua
- Gideon
- Samuel
- David
- Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Amos, Zechariah...

Do you find any one word dialogues?

If you will look into the matter, you will see the conversations between God and man are rich in the exchange of communication.

If we have the Spirit residing in us, and live in a new and better covenant, then why shouldn't we?

1. In order to hear Him, you must deliberately decide to be a lover of God's word/law.

MEM. O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they *are* ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word. I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me. How sweet are thy words unto my taste! *yea, sweeter* than honey to my mouth! Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. (Psa 119:97-104)

2. There must be a willingness to be taught... to learn through obedience.

The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to *him that is* weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned. The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back. I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. (Isa 50:4-7)

Then said Jesus unto them, **When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.** (Joh 8:28)

3. There must be a readiness to hear 1st (swift to hear, slow to speak), being of very few words.

Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God *is* in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. (Ecc 5:1-2)

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: (Jas 1:19)

4. There must be a readiness to mix the Word of God with your faith, through compliance and obedience.

This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?... He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, *doeth he it* by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? (Gal 3:2,5)

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*. (Heb 4:2)

And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision. And it came to pass at that time, when Eli *was* laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see; And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God *was*, and Samuel was laid down *to sleep*; That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here *am* I. And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here *am* I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down. And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here *am* I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again. Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him. And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here *am* I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child. Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth. And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle. In that day I will perform against Eli all *things* which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end. For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever. And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision. Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here *am* I. And he said, What *is* the thing that *the LORD* hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide *it* not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide *any* thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee. And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It *is* the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good. And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD. And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD. (1Sa 3:1-21)

The Spirit and the Word are always in agreement when rightly divided and accurately understood. It is important to be balanced in your knowledge of the Word as you develop a discerning ear for the voice of the Lord.

- Being ignorant of the word makes it difficult to validate what you heard.
- Listening to too many voices makes it difficult to validate what you read.