

Encounter Church  
Sunday October 18, 2026

Above the Noise  
God Still Speaks

INTRODUCTION: Friends, God still speaks! When the Holy Spirit put this series on my heart, what was also highlighted was that distractions are keeping us from hearing the voice of God.

But also what was highlighted, is that many of us are turning to other sources to receive guidance and we're ignoring the voice of God!

***The most important voice you will ever hear in your life is the voice of God!***

**GOD STILL SPEAKS! AND HE INVITES US TO LISTEN!**

**Main Text for the Series:**

Isaiah 30:21 (NLT)-“Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, “This is the way you should go,” whether to the right or to the left.”

John 10:27 (NLT)- “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

***Hearing God begins with a heart that is willing to listen and ready to respond!***

**Hearing God's voice “Above the Noise” begins with a surrendered heart!**

**TODAY'S TEXT:**

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (NLT)- “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."

## **1. God Speaks When We Don't Expect It.**

The voice of God was rare in those days. ***Yet God called out to Samuel.***

***Good spoke to Samuel when he didn't expect it and even when he didn't recognize God's voice.***

***Could God be speaking to you right now but you don't expect and don't recognize his voice?***

In Exodus 3 a man named Moses is tending his father-in-laws sheep far into the wilderness and he sees a bush burning but it's not consumed by the fire.

Moses moves closer to the bush and God speaks to him from the bush.

DO YOU THINK MOSES EXPECTED THAT?

***Hearing God begins with a heart that is willing to listen and ready to respond!***

## **2. We Can Be Doing Work for God and Still Not Recognize His Voice**

Samuel served in the temple and even slept next to the ark of God but still didn't recognize God's voice. He was learning!

***Church activity is important friends but it should never replace your relationship with God and hearings voice!***

***"Above the Noise" begins with with a surrendered heart to God and not just the work of God!***

***We can be near the things of God and still struggle to learn and recognize his voice!***

Luke 10:38-42 (NLT)- "As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. (39) Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. (40) But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me." (41) But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! (42) There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her."

***Hearing God begins with a heart that is willing to listen and ready to respond!***

### 3. Learning to Recognize God's Voice Takes Humility

Eli helped Samuel understand what was happening! We grow to recognize God's voice through the scripture and the couple of other mature believers.

Acts 13:1-3 (NLT)- "Among the prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch of Syria were Barnabas, Simeon (called "the black man"), Lucius (from Cyrene), Manaen (the childhood companion of King Herod Antipas), and Saul. (2)One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them." (3)So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way."

This man Saul/Paul has an encounter with a resurrected Jesus who has ascended to heaven to his rightful place.

His life has been radically changed by this encounter and he went from murdering Christians to building the church and preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ all over that region.

He wrote 13 of the 27 Books of the New Testament.

Yet the prophets and teachers at Antioch hear from God and lay hands on Saul and Barnabas and send them out on Paul's first missionary journey!

***What does that take? HUMILITY!***

***Are you willing to invite other mature believers into what you think God is saying to you?***

1 Peter 5:5 (NLT)- "In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

***"Above the Noise" begins with with a surrendered heart to God!***

### 4. Our Response to God's Voice is just as important as recognizing His voice.

What was Samuel's response to God's voice? "***Speak Lord, your servant is listening!***"

***Hearing God begins with a heart that is willing to listen and ready to respond!***

***Samuels posture was one of availability and surrender. Listening includes a willingness to obey.***

Psalm 81:13-16 (NLT) Oh, that my people would listen to me! Oh, that Israel would follow me, walking in my paths! (14)How quickly I would then subdue their enemies!How soon my hands would be upon their foes! (15)Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him; they would be doomed forever. (16) But I would feed you with the finest wheat. I would satisfy you with wild honey from the rock.”

Samuel responded with “Speak Lord, Your Servant is Listening!”

CONCLUSION: God still speaks! What competes with God’s voice for your attention? Busyness? Worry? Constant Social Media? Your own agenda?

***“Speak Lord, your servant is Listening! “***

***My challenge to you this week.***

***Spend at least ten quiet minutes each day reading Scripture, praying and considering how to obey what God has already made clear to you. Then listen for his voice and what else he might be saying to you.***

LET’S PRAY