Encounter Church
Sunday November 01, 2026

Above the Noise
The Listening Heart

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS CHILDREN

John 10:3-5 (NLT)-"The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice."

Proverbs 3:6 (MSG)- "Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track."

THE LISTENING HEART

Isaiah 55:2-3 (NLT)- "Listen to me, and you will eat what is good. You will enjoy the finest food. "Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, and you will find life."

We really need to ask ourselves this question, "Do I have a listening Heart?"

Isaiah 28:12 (NLT)- "God has told his people, "Here is a place of rest; let the weary rest here. This is a place of quiet rest." But they would not listen."

God's voice is clearest in a prepared environment!

I'll never forget praying one time, "God please speak clearly to me." Then I heard God speak clearly. This is what He said, "I always speak clearly, you'e not hearing clearly."

So what can keep you and me from hearing God clearly?

Luke 8:5-8 (NLT)- "A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it. Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!" When he had said this, he called out, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

So what can keep you and me from hearing God clearly?

1. The Contaminated Heart

Luke 8:12 (NLT)- "The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved."

James 1:21 (NLT)- "So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls."

2. The Immature Heart

Luke 8:13 (NLT)- "The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation."

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NLT) "Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."

So what can keep you and me from hearing God clearly?

3. The Distracted Heart

Luke 8:14 (NLT)- "The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity."

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NLT)- "Since we are surrounded by so many examples of faith, we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially sin that distracts us. We must run the race that lies ahead of us and never give up. We must focus on Jesus, the source and goal of our faith…"

THE CONTAMINATED HEART. THE IMMATURE HEART. THE DISTRACTED HEART. THIS CAN KEEP US FROM HEARING GOD!

SO WHAT IS A LISTENING HEART? ONE THAT HEARS GOD CLEARLY?

4. The Prepared Heart

Luke 8:15 (NLT)- “And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God’s word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.”

“Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

SO HOW DO I PREPARE MY HEART

1. **REPENT**
2. **REFOCUS**
3. **REVIVE**

2 Corinthians 7:1 (MSG)- “With promises like this to pull us on, dear friends, let’s make a clean break with everything that defiles or distracts us, both within and without. Let’s make our entire lives fit and holy temples for the worship of God.”

God’s Voice is Clearest in a prepared environment!

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU THROUGH THIS MESSAGE?