

# Principles for a Listening Life

June 3, 2018

WONDERFUL MERCY CHURCH

# Prophetic Word for the Year

- This is the word: *Listen*
- **Proverbs 22:17** PASSION TRANSLATION  
“Listen carefully and open your heart. Drink in the wise revelation that I impart.”
- **LISTEN.** It’s not a new word from the Lord. It is ancient and it is powerful
- 1 Samuel 3:1-20

# Principle #1: Rank Amateurs Can Listen To God

- We're made in God's image—designed for relationship with him and Holy Spirit and Jesus
- It's in our DNA to listen to and recognize God's voice!
- **John 10:16** NLT  
“I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.”

# Principle #1: Rank Amateurs Can Listen To God

- **1 Samuel 3:7a NIV**  
“Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord...”
- Samuel had no experience listening. Zero. He was a rank amateur. And still the voice of God came to *him*
- The take way: you can listen; it’s in you to do so



## Principle #2: Suboptimal Conditions Are Not Deal Breakers

- “What you folks have done here is, you’ve dug a very deep well. What you folks have done here is, you’ve dug a very deep well. God supplies the groundwater of his Holy Spirit, the living water, but he doesn’t dig wells. Digging wells takes time and cultivation. And you guys have been digging deeper and deeper and deeper. And repairing the walls of the well. And you have a very deep well in this place, spiritually speaking.” [Pastor David Housholder, sermon for WMC, Feb. 4, 2018]

## Principle #2: Suboptimal Conditions Are Not Deal Breakers

- Things could hardly be bleaker than when Samuel comes on the scene; the well was dry
- “He [Samuel] ministered before the Lord under the guidance of Eli at a time when God wasn’t speaking to His people very often. The spiritual leaders were corrupt, and God’s people weren’t obeying His law anyway, so why should God say anything new to them?”  
[Warren Wiersbe, *Bible Exposition Commentary*]

## Principle #2: Suboptimal Conditions Are Not Deal Breakers

- That's our thought, too: why should God say anything to me given how things are?
- Why? Because he's a good, good Father who's determined to be good to his sons and daughters



## Principle #3: God Will Do Whatever It Takes To Get Through To Us

- Three times God speaks. Three times Samuel hears something but gets the *Someone* wrong
- No problem: God will speak to someone else, in this case Eli, in order to get through to Samuel
- **1 Samuel 3:8b** NIV  
“...Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy.”
- It’s not a human achievement, this sudden insight. It’s divinely given: God’s voice, in the form of a thought. And Eli listens.



# Principle #3: God Will Do Whatever It Takes To Get Through To Us

- It's enormously freeing to know that when it comes to listening to God the pressure's not all on us
- It's encouraging, too, to find that listening is something we can increase in
- Samuel does—as he grows his listening ear becomes more and more attuned to God's voice: *“As Samuel grew, the Eternal One guided him and none of His words were lost on Samuel.”* [v. 19 VOICE]

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