

Do You Hear What I Hear?

“Said the night wind to the little lamb, do you hear what I hear?”

We are all familiar with this beautiful Christmas carol.

But “do you hear what I hear” is also a question with great significance.

Imagine in the garden of Eden Adam whispering to Eve, “Do you hear what I hear? It’s the voice of God” (Gen. 3:8).

Or your’e standing on the mountain with Elijah and he’s asking you, “Do you hear what I hear?” Isaiah had seen, and heard a powerful wind, a windstorm, an earthquake, and then he saw a fire.

1 Kings 19:12 “After the fire, there was a soft whisper”. In Hebrew, it means ‘a voice, calm, soft’. The voice was the voice of God.

Some believe the only way to “hear God’s voice” is to read the bible. We **should** read the bible but some have their own opinion and misunderstand or misinterpret what God is saying in the bible.

I have met a couple of people who put great importance on the fact that **they** “hear” the voice of God. Even

though sometimes what they heard did not agree 100% with the written word. Or with what made sense.

We always need to be cautious when we think we have heard from God. We must also consider, does it align with His word?

Remember in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John when Satan was tempting Jesus? Satan quoted scripture to Jesus.

But since Jesus **knew** every scripture, He quoted the scriptures **back** to Satan. And Jesus, by doing so, corrected Satan's intentional deception and told him to get away from Him.

Are we familiar enough with scripture? Do we know what we hear from a bible teacher on television, **IS** the word of God?

Could you and I do what Jesus did?

What about what we read on the internet or in a book?

Is **that** from the word of God?

What about...what we hear in church?

Uh hm, Some people may have trouble with that question.

But it is very important we read the bible so we'll know the bible. Then we will know if there **IS** a difference from what we are hearing.

If we are familiar enough with the bible, we can be confident enough when we “hear” something from the Lord.

Confidence comes through trusting and learning. And then more trusting. But first we need to “know” so we **can** trust and we **can** learn.

Trusting and learning has been an easy process for me over many years.

To move from believing everything I hear is from God, to examining what I hear before I believe it, and then knowing so I can accept what I have heard IS from God.

That’s been a process.

And I have probably “missed” God a number of times.

But I’m also sure I have rejected some things the enemy tried to sneak in on me many times.

This has resulted in me staying on “course” with the Lord.

And I know the enemy has tried. And the enemy will try.

He tried with Jesus. Why not with me? Or with you?

As the Lord sees I am learning to discern and learning to trust, He can trust me more and He can speak to me more.

I believe anytime we are going to tell people something they are trusting **comes** from the Lord, we need to be certain it **IS** from the Lord.

And it has been given to **US** to give, not to someone else to give.

Unfortunately I can relate an incident from many years ago. I listened to a pastor at a church preach a very good message.

It really was very inspiring. But there was something was nagging at me that it sounded familiar.

Then I remembered I had heard the same message on a cassette tape from Morris Cerullo. I mentioned this to the pastor, whom I knew well. He said, “Oh, yes, I was at one of his conferences and he gave me his notes”.

That the message was from the Lord I did not doubt. But this pastor had taken the message and preached it word for word. As if the Lord had given it to **him**.

And he didn't give any credit to the one who **did** receive it.

Now, on a positive note, I received an email from someone who had read a message the Lord had given me. He asked if he could pass it on to people in his congregation.

Now I know I had heard from the Lord, and I believe this pastor also heard from the Lord. My prayer was his people would also hear from the Lord.

Hearing from the Lord is a journey of trust. As I previously mentioned confidence comes through trusting and learning. Part of my struggle over the years has been overcoming “Would the Lord really speak to ME?”

Another part rose later, “If the Lord really ***DID*** speak to me, what am I supposed to do?”

After a long, difficult journey, I have now reached the place that when I am sure the Lord has spoken to me, and it does line up with what I would *expect* Him to ask or say, I will put my trust in Him, in what I heard, and I will proceed forward from there.

I have been experiencing the Lord **speaking** to me more and more.

Hmm, maybe I am just ‘hearing’ the Lord more and more.

Either way I am blessed. And I want you to be blessed too.

“Do you hear what I hear?” What about, “Do **you** hear what YOU hear?”

DO you hear what YOU hear?”

Are you listening to **what** you hear?

You know, we can hear without listening. We can also listen without really hearing.

If you're not sure about that, think about when you talk to your kids. They hear you but are they listening?

Or ask your wife or your husband if they listen to you.. You'll find out for sure. Hm, maybe not. Better to just start working on that.

The Lord does want to speak to you. But He desires that you hear Him. Because He's got **so** much good waiting for you.

When we think we might have heard from the Lord I think we need to be courageous and take a bold step forward.

If it's just a "small" thought, a small revelation, we should just trust we did hear and step out.

If it might be something major like a job, a move, something financial, first we should pray. Then second, talk to your pastor or with someone you trust. Thirdly, pray some more.

And then don't just sit back and wait for more confirmation. Put your trust in the Lord, tell Him, "Okay Lord, I am trusting I have heard from You."

And then take action.

If you think this is too simple, or too hard, let's read a biblical example.

Matt. 14:27-31 "But Jesus immediately said to them: 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.'

'Lord, if it's you,' Peter replied, 'tell me to come to You on the water.'

'**Come,**' He said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!'

Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. 'You of little faith,' he said, 'why did you doubt?'

Quite the story.

Okay, Peter was in the boat.

Jesus was standing nearby on the water.

Peter could see Jesus. And he was hesitant until Jesus said, "Come".

And Peter did! He trusted the Lord who was before him.

He got out of the boat. He walked on water. Water that had been full of waves and water spray.

But it was not calm under his feet.

But then his trust was overpowered by doubt and fear and his trust wavered.

The waves and the wind represented doubt and fear and they overpowered the trust Peter had put in Jesus.

And Peter started to sink.

We so often condemn Peter for his lack of faith. But he had seen the waves and felt the wind. And he stepped over the side.

Let's remember, there were about a dozen others in the boat. Only one showed courage.

Even if Peter did lose his courage, he was the only one who stepped out.

In the boat they **all** saw Jesus walking on water that was calm.

Without a strong wind making Him struggle to stand and walk.

When Peter got out of the boat, the water under his feet was calm also. And **he** wasn't getting blown around.

But he looked at the wind and he became afraid. He took his eyes off Jesus.

When he took his eyes off Jesus and looked at the wind his faith disappeared.

What did Peter ask Jesus to do? He asked Jesus to tell him to come.

And he heard Jesus saying, “Come”.

And Peter did.

But his trust and confidence in the Lord didn't last long.

I think we can all learn from Peter. If we look at all the positive experiences Peter had. Not look at his shortcomings.

Did Peter hear what the Lord said?

Do you hear what I hear? Do I hear what you hear?

I think the Lord is saying to each one of us, “Come!”

“Come, step out of your comfort zone and come.”

Paul Johnson

pauljohnson6086@gmail.com

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