

DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

READ HEBREWS 1: 1-2; 7-14

- God has at different times and in different ways dealt with his people. However one of the things that has remained the same from the beginning of scripture is the desire that He has to speak to us and for us to obey.
- As we heard in a previous study, God called A-bram (Abraham) in *Genesis 12 vs 1-9*.
- God's desire is to speak to his people Israel. *Ex 15 vs 26 "Hearken diligently to the voice of the Lord"*
- **What is the ongoing primary requirement? Hearing and obeying the voice of the Lord.**
- In *Exodus 19 vs 3-6*; God brought Israel to himself and asked them to "obey my voice" v5 and to "keep his covenant" v5
- *Deut 28 v 1 "And if thou shall hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God." v 2 "if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God."*
- The consequences if the voice of the Lord is ignored are revealed in v15 - requested to hearken to the voice of the Lord. Disobedience will lead to curses.
- *Jer 7 v 23 "Obey my voice and I will be your God."*
- *Jer 7 v 24 "but they heartened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their heart."*
- Many people who call themselves Christians today are living as Israel did, not hearing and obeying the voice of the Lord. As a result they are missing out on the blessing of God.
- In *John 10 vs 3-5*; Jesus is here pictured as the Good Shepherd. However the message is the same as the old testament.
 - Hearing His voice - v 3
 - Just like Israel, God knows His people and His people know His voice - v 4
 - A heart that is reserved for Christ should not allow other things to take God's place. Only His voice should be heard and obeyed - v 5
 - Hearing God's voice is not about being from a certain background culture / creed / country / tradition.
- It's not sufficient just to read the bible, we must also hear the voice of the Lord. What is the Lord saying, what is He asking me to do?
- **In this account in John's Gospel Jesus calls his followers sheep.** - *My sheep hear my voice*, he acknowledges that he is the voice in which we are to listen to.



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- It's personal (hearing His voice)
- It's intangible you cannot see it, but you can hear it.
- It's present in the sense of time

• **Personal**

- We can't follow Him if we don't hear what He has said or is saying. Every voice is individual/unique. God's voice is unique. That's why Jesus said that His sheep know His voice. A stranger's voice is different. v 5
- Voice recognition is now being used in banks as a means of accessing high security safes. The safe will only open to the voice that it has been programmed to accept.
- In like manner we should be only opening the door of our hearts to the correct voice. To His voice. That's why many are confused and not resting in the Lord because they have opened the door to other voices. There are many counterfeits but only one that we must open the door too. *Revelation 3:20: "I stand at the door and knock."*
- When we walk with Him, everything that we need is provided. *Psalms 23 v1 "The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want"*

• **Intangible relationship (non physical)**

It can't be touched, it is only by hearing that we can hear - *Romans 10v17 "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."*

- Hearing God's voice is not necessarily associated to a church. God's voice is not restricted to a certain time or certain place.

• **Always present in the sense of time.**

- Obey my voice was the basic requirement of the Old Testament and it's the same in the New Testament. Not only in the Old Testament and New Testament but also today.
- Not every self confessing Christian hears God's voice. Does that mean that God speaks to some and not to others? No, but if we're not listening how will we hear what is being said.
- *Matthew 4v4 "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the Word (mouth) of God"* How can we be sure that it really was God's voice that we heard The voice of God always agrees with scripture.
- *2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"*
- Satan has counterfeits - *Isaiah 8 vs19-22*
- But God's Word gives direction. *Psalms 119 v 105*
- God's voice will always give you peace. *Col. 3 vs 15 "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts"*