

PAYING ATTENTION

The voice of God came to Jesus at all the great moments of His life.

Baptism – Mark 1:11. When He began His earthly ministry.

Mount of Transfiguration – Mark 9:7-9. Confirmation that He would continue to go the way of the cross.

When the Gentiles sought Him – John 12: 27 –36. The human side of Jesus needed strength to face the ordeal of crucifixion. **He was troubled.**

It was also for the benefit of those who heard it as well.

What the Father God did for Jesus, He will do for you.

If we are having trouble with our Christian experience, then it is usually because we are having a hard time hearing God.

The problem isn't that God is mute, but that we are not paying attention.

Define hearing and listening. Hearing is one of the five senses of a person and it is the ability to perceive sound by detecting vibrations through an organ such as the ear. Listening also known as 'active listening' is a technique used in communication which requires a person to **pay attention** to the speaker and provide feedback.

First: Don't go in for the quick fix

There is no method to follow. Your relationship with God is the key to hearing when God speaks to you. The object of prayer is intimacy with God, not quick answers. Over time you will know His voice. The sheep know the shepherd's voice because they spend time with Him.

John 10:2-4 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep [the protector and provider]. The doorkeeper opens [the gate] for this man, and the sheep hear his voice *and* **pay attention** to it. And [knowing that they listen] he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out [to pasture]. When he has brought all his own *sheep* outside, he walks on ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice *and* recognize his call.

AMPLIFIED BIBLE

Second: Don't ask unless you are willing to accept God's answers

Jeremiah 42 and 43

Don't ask for guidance unless you are prepared to act on it and have a desire to know and do all the will of God. He is always willing to make His purpose known, but He will not show you His will if you are merely considering doing it.

Third: Don't expect God to shout

Psalms 46:10 Be still and know that I am God.

Being Quiet is essential to effective listening. You can't jam your mind with carnal influences 12 hours a day and expect God to reveal His plans to you during a commercial.

There are many voices competing for your attention. But they only serve to distract. **Pay no attention** to them and **pay attention** to God's voice alone.

1 Kings 19:11-13 Elijah paid attention. He heard what to do and he did it.

Fourth: Watch out for a plug in the line

Isaiah 59: 1-2 Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened at all, that is cannot save, nor His ear dull with deafness that it cannot hear. Your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.

If you are passively or openly rebelling against God in some area of your life, you are putting a plug in the pipeline God uses to deliver His messages.

Unconfessed sin is a major plug.

Fifth: Be willing to be God's fool

1 Corinthians 3:18-20 Don't fool yourself. Don't think that you can be wise merely by being up-to-date with the times. Be God's fool—that's the path to true wisdom. What the world calls smart, God calls stupid. **THE MESSAGE**

God's guidance may follow our human reasoning but it may cut across all our thoughts

God's ways are not our ways and His thought are higher than our thoughts

Six: Balance the Spirit and the Word of God and the counsel of believers

Balance is everything.

The inner ear is the means whereby we have balance.

If something goes wrong with the inner ear, we stagger and stumble and lose our balance.

So it is with hearing God. We need to develop our spiritual inner ear to listen and pay attention.

Then we will not lose our balance and stumble and stagger at the promises of God

Romans 4: 18 - 21

Abraham did not stagger at the promises of God because he:

Developed a relationship with God and did not look for a quick fix.

He was willing to accept the voice of God and do it and not just consider doing it.

He was willing to be quiet and know God. Out of the city, into the desert.

He was willing to confess his sin so the pipeline would not be plugged up.

He was willing to be God's fool.

He was willing to believe God even when he was asked to offer up Isaac as a sacrifice.

God's guidance will never go against scriptural principle.

The bible is the direct revelation of Himself to man.

It is the most accurate way of hearing God.

If you look to other sources for guidance without the Word of God, you can open yourself to deception.

Were you distracted and paying attention to something or someone else?

Let's be quiet for a minute or two and hear, listen, and pay attention to God.

What did He say?