



Putting God in the Center of
Life's Toughest Decisions

Part 4: Is That You?

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Upcoming Sermon Series

- February GPS: Where You At?
March No Hidden Agenda
April My Friend Tim
May Family and Marriage Series

Characteristics of God's Voice

- Always consistent with God's Word (the Bible)
- Often conflicts with human wisdom
- Clashes with my human nature
- Challenges my faith and demands courage
- Speaks of His heart for people
- Brings peace into every situation

Characteristics of God's Voice

Disobedience

Distraction

Distance

Deception

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. - 1 Peter 5:8

1 Samuel 3:4-10

⁴Then the LORD called Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am."⁵ And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

⁶Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸The LORD called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy.⁹ So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

(Continues on back)

Are you listening...

- 1) Expectantly? 1 Samuel 3:4-10
- 2) Quietly? My soul, waits in silence for God only; from Him is my salvation. - Psalm 62:1
- 3) Actively? Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. - Colossians 3:16
- 4) Openly? All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- 5) Carefully? For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. - Hebrews 4:12
- 6) Gratefully? Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. - Philippians 4:6
- 7) Humbly? Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. - Psalm 46:10

Key Verses: Isaiah 30:20-21

Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them. Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Principle:

Even though we may make a wrong decision,
we are still being led by a very right God.

On The Way Home

What does the voice of God sound like to you?

Group Life Discussion Questions



- 1) Who do you believe has the most famous voice of all time? I would vote for James Earl Jones! Whose voice do you most easily recognize on the telephone? Why?
- 2) Check out Grant's list of God's voice characteristics. In your experience, would you add anything to the list?
- 3) Have you ever felt God's guidance clashing with your human nature? What happened and what did you do?
- 4) How can you practice active listening with Jesus Christ?
- 5) Which of the 7 listening positions is the most difficult for you? How could you change that?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?