

Listening to God
1 Samuel 3:1-19

God Wants you to know Him; and will speak to you in a variety of forms for you to follow Him.

“Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.”

1 Samuel 3:8b-11

Then Eli understood that the Lord was calling the boy. 9 He told Samuel, "Go and lie down. If He calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10 The Lord came, stood there, and called as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel responded, "Speak, for Your servant is listening." 11 The Lord said to Samuel, "I am about to do something in Israel that everyone who hears about it will shudder.

GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW HIM,
AND WILL SPEAK IN A VARIETY OF WAYS
FOR YOU TO FOLLOW HIM

1 Samuel 2:22-23, 25.

Eli was very old. Eli heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they were sleeping with the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting...But they would not listen to their Father.”

1 Samuel 2:26

By contrast, the boy Samuel grew in stature and in favor the Lord and with men.

1 Samuel 3:7

Now Samuel had not yet experienced the Lord, because the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

LISTENING TO GOD REQUIRES A FILTER
NOT A FORMULA

WHAT WE HEAR HAS TO SOUND LIKE THE GOD OF
THE BIBLE

GOD SPEAKS IN A VARIETY OF WAYS (v.1)

When you read scripture God speaks to his people in a variety of ways: words spoken from heaven, words written on tablets, preaching and prophetic words, answered prayer, visual demonstrations, counsels and consensus, thoughts, dreams, visions, symbols, words form others, signs in creation, angels, music and song, spiritual gifts, the breaking of bread and immersion in river water, common sense, conviction, of sin, impressions of conscience, and of course a chatty donkey.

The bible does not offer a systematic treatment for how God speaks and how to recognize his voice. It assumes that God speaks in manifold and mysterious and unexpected ways. God speaks from outside and God speaks from within, God asks questions and gives answers, God speaks in noise and in silence. The universe crackles with the sound of God's voice.

—Adam Mchugh, *A Listening Life*

WE DO NOT LISTEN ALONE

“(v.21) The Lord continued to appear in Shiloh, because there He revealed Himself to Samuel by His word. (4:1) And Samuel’s words came to all Israel.”

WE NEED TO REFLECT ON WHAT WE HEAR

CULTIVATE YOUR NEW CREATION EARS

“I only say what my Father has told me to say, and I only do what my Father has told me to do.”

“As we listen, our ears become more sensitive,
and like Jesus, we will hear God all the time.”

—Oswald Chambers

WE LISTEN WITH OUR FEET (v.9, 10)

“Speak Lord, for your servant listens...”

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SPEAK IN A VARIETY OF WAYS FOR YOU TO
FOLLOW HIM.