

# *“Your Servant Hears”*

## **1 Samuel 3:1-10**

September 19, 2021

**INTRO:** Let me ask you 2 strangely related questions:

*Ever wondered why some people “hear” God while others don’t?*

**AND...**

*Have you ever spoken to someone who wasn’t really listening?*

Today I hope to put those 2 questions together missionally & visually... using biblical characters and commentators, to help you **answer 6 other questions:**

### Question 1:

Is it possible to know if, when, & what God is speaking to you?

### Question 2:

How can you KNOW that God speaks AND what He is saying?

### Question 3:

Does God speak in clear, every-day, understandable language?

### Question 4:

What are the key, biblical-essentials to hearing God speak?

### Question 5:

Why do some remain confused & live without hearing God?

### Question 6:

Can we be sure that God spoke AND still speaks to His servants?

## CONTEXT:

- Series
- Samuel
- Sermons (Bible cloth / section 22)
- *Scriptures* (1 Samuel 3:1-10 plus others)
- **Speaking**

**T/S:** Let's start at the beginning & get a biblical baseline:

### 2 Timothy 3:16-17

*ALL Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting & training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

### **Question 1:**

**Is it possible to know if, when, & what God is speaking to you?**

- If "Yes," how?
- If "No," why not?

*"Is the Bible (or God's speaking) locked in mystery, only opened to the religious elite? Or... can an ordinary person sit down and know what the living God has to say to them?"  
(the answer might shock you...)*

**VIDEO #1:** *"The God Who Speaks... to ALL"*

**Question 2:**  
**How do you KNOW that God speaks**  
**& what He is saying?**

- What do you KNOW about the words of God?
- What do you KNOW about The God of Word(s)?

***We KNOW God... and His Word, will & ways won't change!***

- JDP

**ANSWER: Hebrews 1:1-2a**

- *"...HE has spoken to us..."*
- *"...HE HAS spoken to us..."*
- *"...HE HAS SPOKEN to us..."*
- *"...HE HAS SPOKEN to US... by His Son."*

**God is speaking at ALL times to ALL people**

**Psalm 19:1**

*"The heavens declare the glory of God..."*

**Romans 1:20**

*For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So, they are without excuse.*

**VIDEO #2:** *"The God Who Speaks... AUTHORITATIVELY"*

*(2 Timothy 3:16-17 say it all!)*

### Question 3:

## Does God speak in clear, everyday, understandable language?

- If “Yes,” why is it that we don’t understand Him?
- If “Yes,” what do we do if we still need help?

**VIDEO #3:** *“The God Who Speaks... AWESOMELY”*

### Question 4:

## What are the key essentials to hearing God speak?

**BIG IDEA:** The **3** keys to biblical “hearing” are biblical **GRACE, LOVE, & LISTENING!**

**VIDEO #4:** *“Word Study... SHEMA”*

*Biblical “shema” is the lived-out essence of John 14:15*

- Grace, Love, & Listening are the 3 essentials:
  - God’s grace initiates ALL good things!
  - God’s love is expressed thru His revealing
  - Our love bears the fruit of obedience
  - Our listening is holy & holistic worship

## Question 5:

### Why do some people remain confused & live without hearing from God?

- What do you do if/when doubt is widespread?
- What do you do if/when there are open debates?
- What do you do if/when the churches debate?

*Have you ever spoken to someone not listening???*

### 1 Samuel 3:1-6 & 8-9

*The LORD Calls Samuel*

**1** 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. **NOTE: Eli is NOT the one ministering!**

**2** At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down **in his own place**. **3** The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and **Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD**, where the ark of God was. **4** Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, "**Here I am!**" **5** and **ran** to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. **6** And the LORD called **again**, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said,

“I did not call, my son; lie down again.” ...8And the LORD called Samuel **again** the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. 9Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

**VIDEO #5:** *“The God Who Speaks... ABSOLUTELY”*

**Many of the empty seats around you can be explained by this video...**

*Sola Scriptura means Scripture alone & ALL of Scripture!*

- JDP

You can't claim to champion God's Word when it comes to God speaking... but then ignore, minimize, or go against what God's Word says about God speaking to His creation & His children. - JDP

Going against God's written Word when it comes to God's revealed and spoken Word is a position that goes beyond illogical & hypocritical...

by definition, it's heretical! - JDP

**Question 6:**  
**Are you sure God spoke & still speaks**  
**to His servants?**

**1 Samuel 3:10**

**And the LORD came and stood, calling**  
**as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said,**  
**"Speak, for your servant hears."**

***When your hearing is haggling... you're NOT listening.***

-JDP

- **God speaks because it brings Himself GLORY!**
- God speaks to transfer to us His perspective
- God speaks to transfer to us His purposes
- God speaks to transfer to us His promises
- God speaks to transfer to us His purity
- God speaks to transfer to us His perseverance
- God speaks to transfer to us His passion!

**VIDEO #6:** *"The God Who Speaks... AFFIRMATIVELY"*

**T/S:** Too many churches are led & filled with people like Eli... they are NOT passionate Christ-lovers...

The CORRUPT, COMPROMISED, & COMPLACENT rarely (if ever) hear God – regardless of how much or how often they claim the contrary. - JDP

**CLOSE:**

So, what can you take away today?

**1 Samuel 3:7**

*Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.*

1. Hearing from God is always a miraculous gift of grace!

- A. GRACE is essential for FAITH...
- B. FAITH is essential for BELIEVING...
- C. BELIEVING is essential for OBEYING
- D. OBEYING is essential for LOVING
- E. LOVING is essential for REPENTING
- F. REPENTING is essential for LISTENING
- G. LISTENING is essential for HEARING

Thus, GRACE is essential for HEARING and...  
HEARING is essential for HOPING, HELPING, & HEALING!

*Faith comes by hearing, hearing the Word of God!* – Rom. 10:17

2. Biblical Grace, Love, & Listening are the keys to hearing.
3. Listening is essential for hearing.
4. Sin hinders hearing!
5. Hearing is more about passion than position.
6. Servants hear best because they love & listen!

And here's arguable the best part of all... **The Gospel!**

1 Samuel 3:7

*Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.*

- God speaks to and saves **corrupt** people...
- God speaks to and saves **confused** people...
- God speaks to and saves **LISTENING** people!

I pray, that by God's grace & for His glory,  
you're a servant  
listening to the LORD right now!

Let's PRAY!