

JOY OF HEARING GOD

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6/30/25

Life is noisy and busy, isn't it? Sometimes it's so bad you can't hear yourself think. There is church, school, work, sports, and social media---all shouting for your attention. Most of the time God's voice is quieter than the chaos surrounding you.

Let's take a look at a man who was desperately wanting to hear God's voice. That man is Elijah. Here is some background on why he was seeking to hear God's voice. [“Now Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword.” \(I Kings 19:1\)](#) Needless to say, she was not happy. Her response frightened Elijah, so he ran fearful for his life. [“²Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, ‘So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.’ ³And he was afraid and arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. ⁴But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, ‘It is enough; now, O Lord, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers.’” \(I Kings 19:2-4\)](#)

How did Elijah respond to the message from Queen Jezebel? [“But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, ‘It is enough; now, O Lord, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers.’” \(I Kings 19:4\)](#) Why did he run? He was afraid of losing his life.

All Elijah could see were his circumstances, and he didn't trust God to deliver him. Just like people today. They get themselves into difficult circumstances and try to “fix it” themselves. If that's you, I have some advice for you. Well, I don't, but God does. [“Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.” \(Proverbs 3:5-6\)](#)

When people think they're alone and try to “fix it” trouble could be on the way, and often is. Why? Because God is left out. In other words, prayer was not a part of the decision-making process. I suggest praying something like this: “God, quiet my heart so I can hear Your voice. I want the joy of knowing you're speaking to me.” The contemporary Christian artist, Matthew West, has a song titled “Don't Stop Praying.” Please click the link below and listen:

[Matthew West - Don't Stop Praying \(Lyric Video\) - YouTube](#)

Back to Elijah. He left his servant at Beersheba and went on a day's journey into the wilderness. While there, he requested that he might die. God sent an angel twice to minister to him and give him directions. [“⁷The angel of the Lord came again a second time and touched him and said, ‘Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you.’ ⁸So he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.” \(I Kings 19:7-8\)](#)

Elijah arrives at Mt. Horeb, then this happens. [“⁹Then he came there to a cave and lodged there; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’ ¹⁰He said, ‘I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.’”](#)

[¹¹So He said, “Go forth and stand on the mountain before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord was passing by! And a great and strong wind was rending the mountains and breaking in pieces the rocks](#)

before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. ¹²After the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing.” (1 Kings 19:9-12)

God’s voice was in the gentle blowing. God is a God of order, not chaos. Satan uses the chaos of life to distract people. Often, people look to the loudest voice, thinking it’s the best option for direction to solve their issues. This is one of Satan’s lies to lead people away from the true source of answers for their issues. The true source is God. God spoke through the gentle voice, reminding Elijah, he wasn’t alone.

God still speaks to people today. The problem is that we don’t slow down to hear Him. It might not be in the big moments of life, such as getting that dream job, a sermon that speaks to you, or some other big event in your life that God uses. More often, it’s in the quiet—when you’re praying, or reading your Bible, or just sitting still. “[The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent.](#)” (Exodus 14:14) In other words, stop trying to solve the issue. Pray and seek God’s direction for your life. Ask yourself the following.

- What voices fill my life? (family, friends, social media, etc.)
- Ever notice these voices are saying opposite things?
- Where do I turn for truth when the voices clash? (scripture, prayer, wise friends)

Some people are ready to help you solve your problems. They think they have all the answers, and they might have answers. But are they biblically-based answers? If they are not based on scripture, then don’t listen. Politely thank them and go pray or seek wise counsel.

Here is another verse to remember. “[And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.](#)” (Romans 12:2)

It’s no secret that God wants the best for His people. It’s no secret that Satan fights to keep people from remembering that. The Psalmist writes, “[You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have loosed my sackcloth and girded me with gladness,](#)” (Psalm 30:11).

Jesus said, “[Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.](#)” (Matthew 11:28-30)

The word yoke here means that life is less burdensome when the people of God lean on Him. Why? “[...for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.](#)” One last verse, “[But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.](#)” (Matthew 6:33) Have no fear in life and enjoy listening to God for answers to problems you face. Have a blessed week.

[Word of God Speak - Mercy Me with Lyrics \(High Quality\) - YouTube](#)