

## **Hearing the Voice of God**

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"Go out and stand before me on the mountain," the Lord told him. And as Elijah stood there, the Lord passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave." 1 Kings 19:8-13 (NLT)

God had just showed up for Elijah (1 Kings 18:20-40). However, even after this mighty show of God's power at Elijah's request, He needed to hear God's voice. God's voice was not found in the dramatic, but in a gentle whisper.

I. <u>Stop</u> Pslam 46:10

- Silence the noise, leave the distractions.
  - 1. What is your number one distraction?
  - 2. What do you need to do or where do you need to go to be still before God?

II. <u>Look</u> Matthew 21:6 and 22:37

- Looking toward God and His word is not just about where your eyes are, but about where your heart is.
  - 3. Look at your life, where are you spending your time, your energy and your money?
  - 4. What distracts you from looking toward God and His Word?

5. The best place to look for God, for Jesus, is in the Bible. How much time and attention are you giving the Word of God?

III. <u>Listen</u> John 11:27

- Listening to God is a lifestyle, a heart posture and an intentional choice.
  - 6. God speaks in many ways. How have you heard God speak specifically to you about your life situation?
  - 7. Are you expecting God to speak to you in a specific way? How can you make space for God to speak to you however He wants to speak?

## IV. Practical Steps

• Read the Bible

Journal

Pray

Fast

• Memorize scripture

• Be intentional

- 8. Which of these steps have helped you hear the voice of God? Give an example.
- 9. Which of these steps would help you to better hear the voice God? How will you begin to practice it?

## V. Hearing Exercise

- Chose a passage of scripture
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you hear from God.
- As you you read, ask yourself: 1) what does this say about God/Jesus, 2) what does this say about me, and 3) what am I to do about it?
- Share your thoughts and how you plan to respond. You have heard from God!