

The Voice of the Lord

AT Snacks - November 5, 2023

Andy Taylor/Trinity Fellowship- Sayre, Oklahoma

How many of you have had a really challenging week? That's a good sign. It's not fun a lot of times, but it's a really, really good sign.

What I want you to do is start looking for what God is doing in you, what He wants to show you through these times, so that He would bring you to the end of yourself, so that you would get even more dependent on Him.

One good way to pray is to ask God for His perspective on what you're going through. *"Count it all joy when you fall into various trials and diverse temptations, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience"*. We're getting our faith tested, so you can find out where you are.

We are going to see things in the next 10 years that we would never even have dreamed of in our wildest imaginations.

Apostolic anointing, prophetic anointing, evangelistic anointing, pastors and shepherd's anointing, teacher anointing.. We're living in a time where you're going to see that come to a degree that the world has not seen at all since the 1st century.

If the true church doesn't rise up, and rise up quickly, the human race is in for some dark, dark times.

Isaiah 28:23 says, *"Give ear and hear My voice. Listen and hear My speech"*.

I highly recommend this book by Dallas Willard, *"Hearing God, Developing a Conversational Relationship with God"*. Some of you will take this seriously and do that, and I really think you should. It will totally revolutionize your life and get you into a simple way of communicating with God and listening to Him, and then being able to re-communicate what God is saying to you.

In that still small voice, God said, *"Andy, you're in over your head"*. I want to remind you that you're also in over your head. It's going to take the voice of God for your life to get on track, to stay on track, and to be in real time with what God is saying.

In my time when I'm sitting down with the Father, I don't have an agenda. I'm not going and asking Him for stuff. I'm sitting down and I'm saying this, *"God, I don't know anything"*. It's amazing how clearly you'll be able to hear God. It's amazing, because He wants to speak to you. You just have to place a high priority on it- or you won't hear Him.

How it really works, and how it's really supposed to work, is that leaders would have a desperation to hear God, and then do the best they can to re-communicate what they're hearing from God. That's what I do.

You're going to get as much back from Him as you give to Him. It's a principle. It's a law. You give God your time and *"He will give you back good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will God give to you"*, because you're given to Him.

In most cases, with those who say they aren't hearing the Lord, the problem is not in their hearing, but in their listening. So you have to make it a priority to listen to what it is God saying. The most important thing that I'm doing in my life now is listening.

Imagine the advantage that you would have if you were to be able to hear God. You would know what decisions to make, what to expect in every situation, what to embrace, what to avoid, and you would learn to notice open doors and closed doors. And by that, I mean opportunities.

You are a son, and you serve. But your identity is not as a servant. Your identity is as a son or daughter. To understand that God is your Father, and to understand that He wants to talk to you, is one of the keys to getting to where you need to get in hearing Him, to notice open and closed doors and how to handle difficult situations and difficult people that you need to be watching out for.

If you get a revelation of who you are in relation to who God says you are in Him, it'll mess your life up for good, forever. And you'll never be the same, and you'll be in a mode of constant transformation.

There's something about the Word. When you hear the Word and meditate on it, there is something that happens in you. The Spirit of God breathes on the Word that you read, to help you understand it.

Wise people who are listening to the Holy Spirit understand that the clock is ticking. If you can't see that, you need to wake up and pay attention, because that's what is happening right now.

I try to hear what God is saying and then try to come and tell you, as best I can understand, what God said. I try to tell you in my words what I believe God is saying to you. And I'm very, very confident that's what's happening and not because I'm confident in myself.

Anytime Jesus was speaking, God was speaking also. Anytime these men who wrote scripture, when they were talking, they were talking in behalf of God. The Bible says that all scripture, every bit of it, every word of it and every letter of it, that all scripture is given by inspiration of God.

God speaks to you through the Word. You'll be able to hear Him there and it will open you up and get you into shape, where you can hear Him in a lot of other ways, because He speaks in a lot of ways.

John 12:49, *"For I have not spoken on My own authority, but the Father, who sent Me, gave Me a command, what I should say, and what I should speak"*. So when Jesus spoke, it's God speaking.

Matthew 7:24, *"Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock"*.

If I want to build my house on the rock, then I need to hear and see some of these things that are written, and let God feed me on those things, and build the foundation under me. So when we hit perilous times, my house is built on a rock. I'm not going to be flimsy in my belief. I'm not going to cut and run at the first sign of trouble. I'm not going to be a wimp when it comes to going through the fire.

Romans 10:17 says, *“Faith comes by hearing. And hearing by the Word of God”*. Now, that’s this book, this Bible. This is the Word of God.

So the conclusion is, since Jesus is not here in the flesh, and, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God, that the Bible is the written Word of God, but it’s not a substitute for what God is saying to you in your relationship with Him.

You have to understand that the Spirit of God speaks to you through the Bible. That’s one way He does it, but it’s not the only way.

John 15: 26-27, *“But when the Helper (the Holy Spirit) comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, The Spirit of Truth, Who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you will also be witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning”*.

You have been with Him always. Stretch a little bit, and think about it. You were in the heart of God before the world was created.

Read the story of Phillip in Acts 8. When you get obedient to the voice of the Lord, stuff happens.

God speaks audibly, in the written Word and through dreams and visions. And almost always in the Old Testament, the things that God said were audible and understood that way.

God also speaks through the following methods: Signs and wonders, Prophecy (word of wisdom and knowledge), tongues and interpretations, elements (hurricanes and mass shootings) and nature (through animals, birds and fish).

God also speaks through sounds, colors, numbers and through life events. My personal favorite is through the still small voice. This is that voice that you heard but you can’t hear.

God speaks to our spirit. And a lot of times, it’s just really quiet. And you have to learn to be listening to the quiet. And the Spirit of God, Who lives in you, helps you learn it. God will use whatever means He needs to, to get through to you. He wants to talk to you really badly.

Start the adventure of relating to God the Father. That is one of the bedrock principles that we’ve taught around here all these years. Relate to God as Father. I’ve been saying this for probably about 30 plus years now.

If you had one chance to say something to someone, what would you say? *“Learn to relate to God as the Father”*. It’s the key to your whole life.

You have the same inheritance Jesus had. Jesus’ inheritance is people. That’s His inheritance, His people. That’s the only business God is in.

God will use you, and what He’s doing in you, if you’ll let Him, is to draw people to Him through you. He loves to do that, because of who you are. Everything you need to know, in precise timing, God will show you if you’ll pay attention.

There's nothing like being in this adventure relationship with the Father. You learn to discern the Voice of God, because He speaks to all of us in unique ways. So learn how God speaks to you. And it comes by listening consistently.

The most important thing I'm doing in my life is listening. There are times when it just seems like you can't hear God. I went through a stretch of time where I didn't feel like I could hear the Lord and when I prayed, it felt like my words just fell out and hit the ground. My friend said, *"You know, sometimes God goes silent. And the reason He does is that He wants you to miss those times where He was talking and it would cause you to hone in and pay attention more, and apply yourself more"*.

There are times that God just goes silent on you. So don't get in a guilt thing. *"God is mad at me"*. NO. Don't even go there.

You might be having the worst day of your life, and you are letting God know all about it. The Lord might just say, *"I'm just glad you showed up"*, because you're going to find when you go to Him, even at your worst times, He's there, He cares and He won't beat you up. He'll speak to you, something that will give you life.

So, when He's silent, He's not trying to withhold information from you. Just rest in the silence, but get your focus on the Lord.

The more vague God is, the more faith it takes for that. When God is vague, He's trying to bring your faith to another level.

"You're never going to feel ready to do that which is scary or challenging". That's why I have to keep on telling you that you are called to ministry. But, everybody has this Bible belt mentality that somebody else is supposed to do it. And they don't do it.

This has been the trick of the enemy, to place all the ministry into the hands of just a few. It's not even biblical. A handful of people do all the ministry, and the rest of us just come to give our money, and wait on Jesus to come back. Churches are full of "bored to death people". It's sad! And one of the reasons that people are bored is that nobody's hearing God.

If you will make it a priority to hear the Lord, God's going to tell you things that other people don't know and to do things that other people won't do.

Stepping out in ministry is scary for people, because they don't think they are adequate. You might not be very good at it at the start, but get this, it doesn't come down to how good you are at it. You don't have to be a professional.

There are barriers to hearing God. One is unbelief. Another is to just keep on, keep on sinning after God deals with you. If you find yourself in a place like that, where you are not hearing God, go back to the last time you heard Him. What has God said to you that you haven't acted on? Because He might want you to get obedient in that before He gives you anything else.

If this is the cry of your heart, *"God. I want to hear You better"*. God is going to give it to you. Now, when He gives you something, you need to be a good steward of what God does. If we are going to ask it and believe it, you are going to start to hear God better. So, you have to start paying attention.