

Fanning it into Flame
Sunday, February 27, 2011
Hearing the Voice of God

We've all, no doubt, experienced speaking out and been amazed that we were not heard. Whether to a group or an individual it is a little unnerving. We expect to be heard. The reason it happens for the most part is that the ones you're trying to communicate with are just so preoccupied with what they're doing that they don't have any channels open for another voice. I believe the same is the case for us in relation to God. He created us to be a family. He loves us even more than we love our own children and wants to have a personal relationship that includes dialogue. God is speaking all the time, but we can be so caught up in what we're doing that we just can't hear him.

Jesus gives us an interesting perspective on hearing as told in the Gospel of John 10:24-27.

²⁴ The Jews gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. Language is just one way of speaking. Like the saying, "actions speak louder than words," Jesus' actions spoke volumes on who he was but they refused to "hear" that. Romans 1:20 is along the same order: ***For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.*** Don't let anyone tell you that the onus is upon us to prove the existence of God. Tell them to look around them!

We've been considering Jesus' call for us to be like him and do what he did. He prayed that we would be one with him as he was with the Father. He only did what the Father told him to do. Jesus wants us to walk in that same faith, i.e. his faith, trusting that God is going to do through us what his will desires. In order for this to happen we must first hear him speak. Then we must believe and obey. The following are a few keys to hearing God:

1. Be in relationship with him through Jesus Christ. You must be born again. Ask him to come into your life and he will. No exceptions!
2. Read, study, and speak his Word. They describe his nature, his ways, his will, and his promises. As you speak them over your life they will become more real to you. God spoke and all things came into being. He wants us to speak as well. Study his Word (2Timothy 2:15)
3. Be in fellowship. Hebrews tells us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. God created us in his image and each of us reflects a measure of him. Relationships are essential in knowing God. If you are a sheep, you need a shepherd and be part of a flock.
4. Walk in Faith, believing God to be active in your life. Expect him to speak to you. Be aware of your surroundings, both external and internal. God speaks to us through nature, through dreams, through inner thoughts and inspirations. (1Corinthians 2:16) Don't allow preconceived ideas and negative thinking to rob you of your divinely ordained destiny.

The biggest key is that in order to hear we must listen. If we haven't been hearing maybe we need to quiet our hearts and make a concerted effort to press in believing that God is for us and is speaking to us personally as well as corporately.