

## Huddle

*The Voice - A Tale of Two Hearers*  
April 28, 2013

*Describe a time when you really wish you could have heard God's voice.*

In our series, "The Voice", we are learning to know and hear God's voice so we can be His voice.

John 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

*Describe a time when you have heard God's voice. How did you know it was God speaking?*

Pastor Phil shared "Hearing right is a matter of having your heart right." He provided seven keys to hearing right:

- **Scripture** (2 Timothy 3:16-17) God's voice will never tell us to engage in any activity or relationship that is inconsistent with Scripture.
- **Holy Spirit speaking to your heart** (Hebrews 8:10-11, John 16:13) Holy Spirit always speaks truth He hears from the Father.
- **Godly counsel** (Proverbs 11:14) In a multitude of counselors there is safety.

Many people hear God's voice but they don't discern it correctly. The problem is often with the hearer. Today, we will discuss "A Tale of Two Hearers" - Saul and Samuel.

1 Samuel 15:10-11 Now the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying, "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments." ...

15:17-23 So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the Lord anoint you king over Israel? Now the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the Lord?" And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal." So Samuel said: "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king."

*What were Saul's problems as a hearer?*

- **The Prophetic - word of knowledge, word of wisdom, prophecy** (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21) Don't quench the Spirit...but examine everything carefully. The prophetic should always be confirming, not necessarily revelational.
- **Confirmation** (Matthew 18:16) By the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact is confirmed.
- **Peace of God** (Colossians 3:15, Philippians 4:6-7) Let the peace of God rule in your hearts.
- **Circumstances / Timing** (Acts 18:1-3, Psalm 27:14) Timing includes waiting for God to bring people and circumstances together.

*Which of these keys has helped you most in knowing the voice of God?*

Many times the Lord will confirm His direction to us through three, four, or more keys — especially when we are seeking Him in the process of making an important, life-changing decision. The question is, "will we obey His words when we hear His voice?"

## Let's Get Real!

There are patterns within our lifestyle which lead us away from correctly discerning God's voice. They include hearing but disobeying, seeking favor from man more than from God, rebellion, excuses, and even destructive relationships.

*Which of Saul's patterns do you personally identify with and why do you think you move toward that pattern?*

"Obedience is the willing submission of one person to the authority of another. It means more than a child doing what he is told. It means doing what he is told; *Without Challenge, Without Excuse, and Without Delay.*" - Tedd Tripp, *Shepherding a Child's Heart.*

Samuel understood obedience to God's voice but first he had to know God's voice. When Samuel was a child, he mistook God's voice for the voice of Eli three times (1 Samuel 3:1-11). Samuel had been assisting Eli in serving the tabernacle, but he did **not yet know the LORD** in an intimate and personal way. He had never heard God's voice. He had never received **the word of the LORD** by divine revelation. When he hears, and discerns the voice of the Lord, he immediately yields to the voice, walks in obedience, and becomes one of the most trusted prophets and voices in Israel's history.

1 Samuel 3:19 So Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. 20 And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the Lord. 21 Then the Lord appeared again in Shiloh. For the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord. 4 And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. NKJV

## Walk it Out

God could trust Samuel to hear and obey His voice, therefore God could trust Samuel to BE HIS VOICE to all Israel. God's voice is powerful and He wants you to be His voice.

*What needs to happen in your life so God can trust you to be His powerful voice?*