

Hear What the Spirit Says

by Erlo Stegen

Hearing God's voice is essential for a victorious life and to avoid being deceived by your own voice or the wrong voice.

Scripture: John 10:27, Acts 5:3, James 1:22, Revelation 2:11

Topics: "Hearing God's Voice", "Obedience to the Holy Spirit"

Description

Erlo Stegen emphasizes the necessity for Christians to hear and obey the voice of the Holy Spirit, distinguishing it from the many distractions of the world. He illustrates the importance of a daily relationship with God, using stories to show how attentiveness to God's guidance leads to safety and victory. Stegen warns against the dangers of ignoring God's voice, likening it to a mirage that leads to destruction, and encourages believers to remain sensitive to the Spirit's leading. He stresses that true understanding comes from personal experience with God, not just second-hand knowledge. Ultimately, he calls for repentance and a softening of hearts to hear and follow the Holy Spirit's direction.

Transcript

Rev 2: 11 "He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches. To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

Every Christian needs to know what it is to hear and obey the Spirit of God. It is not our voice or the clamouring of many voices in the world, that's important, but only the voice of God. He has revealed His Word and He speaks to His sheep for He is the the Great Shepherd.

When it comes to marriage it seems that some young men hear God for the first time in their lives - and for the last time! This should not be. Walking with God means a daily relationship with Him. Hearing Him in His Word and His Spirit in your heart, is essential to a victorious life.

We Christians hear God's melody ringing in our hearts. He communes with us. The story is told about a general, top athlete & humble peasant striving for the hand of the king's daughter, the princess. They all had to pass through a jungle and the one to arrive first to the other side would get the hand of the princess. The king also provided each of them with a guide, his own son. The general and athlete went on horseback and did not pay much attention to the son of the king and soon were hopelessly lost.

However the peasant man paid close attention to the king's son and passed safely through the jungle. As he arrived at the celebrations the king asked him how he managed to make it. He answered that he kept on listening carefully to the king's son and the melody of the music celebrations in the distance.

When Peter and the other apostles stood before the Sanhedrin they replied, "Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." It wasn't second-hand knowledge but they have experienced God's working. If you do not hear God's voice you will not get to heaven. Even if you were on God's way if you cannot hear His voice you will depart quickly from His path. James 1:22, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass."

It softens ones heart to hear and obey His voice. Do you hear God's voice? Can you discern God's voice? Then you can go forward with confidence. When Ananias stood before Peter and lied about the money Peter listened with one ear what Ananias was saying and with the other what God was saying. Ananias thought he was just lying to people but he was lying to the Holy Spirit. Dear brethren do you go according to the Holy Spirit or do you listen to something else. Can we say that we walk according to that melody of the Son? The story is told of a pedigree dog that got lost. When the dog was found they phoned the owner who was far away. The owner asked them to put the phone to the dog's ear. When the dog heard its owner's voice over the phone it was beside itself with excitement. So the owner was sure it was its dog and fetched it. Just like a dog knows the owner's voice and sheep the voice of the shepherd so too God's children hear His voice.

As an example of the importance of listening to the right voice and not your own feelings and delusions is the following illustration:

Sir Samuel White Baker relates in his book: "In the heart of Africa": Many years ago, when the Egyptian troops first conquered Nubia, a regiment was destroyed by thirst in crossing this desert. The men, being upon a limited allowance of water, suffered from extreme thirst, and deceived by the appearance of a mirage that exactly resembled a beautiful lake, they insisted on being taken to its banks by the Arab guide. It was in vain that the guide assured them that the lake was

unreal, and he refused to lose the precious time by wandering from his course. Words led to blows, and he was killed by the soldiers, whose lives depended upon his guidance. The whole regiment turned from the track and rushed toward the welcome waters. Thirsty and faint, over the

burning sands they hurried; heavier and heavier their footsteps became; hotter and hotter their breath, as deeper they pushed into the desert, farther and farther from the lost track where the pilot lay in his blood; and still the mocking spirits of the desert, the afreetes of the mirage, led them on, and the hike glistening in the sunshine tempted them to bathe in its cool waters, close to their eyes, but never at their lips. At length the delusion vanished--the fatal lake had turned to burning sand! Raging thirst and horrible despair! the pathless desert and the murdered guide! lost! lost! all lost! Not a man ever left the desert, but they were subsequently discovered, parched and withered corpses, by the Arabs sent upon the search.

The pleasure of sin is a mirage. It looks so attractive in the distance but it is just a mirage. Obey the voice of the Holy Spirit. He who has an ear to hear let him hear what the Spirit says. Don't harden your heart today when you hear His voice. Maybe you've hardened your heart for a long time and He was gracious with you till this day. Hear His voice and obey. Just think about hell. Even if you do not hear any other

sermon just thinking about hell should cause you to repent and obey the Holy Spirit.

Don't be misled by the wrong voice, or your own voice, lest you be deceived. As a child of God listen to what the Spirit says, in His Word and in your heart.

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