LISTENING TO A LOOGEY?

John 7:24 NKJV "*Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment*."



The shower seems to be one of my portals to hearing God. There are lots of probable reasons for this phenomenon, but I'm not going to tangent from the point of my message into speculation. Especially on only the second sentence. (Tim pats himself on the back).

I awoke one morning feeling like I was getting a cold, or something that affected my sinuses. During my shower that morning, I cleared my throat and expelled the sputum towards the drain.

Wait, time out.

OK, that was the clean way to say it, and it doesn't work for me, well, at least not the ten year old version of me. Who says, "I expelled the sputum"? That's not how I talk.

I want to share this revelation I had, but yeah, how do I share it, grody details and all, without grossing you out? I'll give two options! So if you, like my wife, are repulsed by even the thought of spit, or by vile terms like loogey, booger, fart, etc., then please skip down to the next paragraph – it will be free of my ten-year-old vernacular.

(the 'grody' version)

If you're still reading this part, thanks, you're my people. Now, my peeps, you know that feeling when you've got a slimey frog built up in the back of your throat? You feel the desire, no, the NEED to just 'hawk a loogey, right!? Well, that was my status that morning in the shower. And being in the shower made it better because I knew that when I did it would just go down the drain. I wasn't going to have to deal with the disposal conundrum; containment, wrapping, & disguising of that loogey in a ball of tissue. And the subsequent hiding of that tissue'd ball of yuck well below the visible surface level of the nearest trash can. OK, TMI. On with the story.

(The "safer" version)

I'd expelled that abnormally large phlegm towards the shower drain, and like I often do, I looked to see the color of that sputum. (Oh stop – you've done it too.) Why? To analyze and judge my level of infection, or lack thereof, by the greenness or lack of greenness.

(Side note: It's amazing how the context changes the reaction to a single word - like greenness. For example, if I were to write, "*The greenness of the mountain valley revealed that spring had fully come*", you'd be like, "Aww! How beautiful." But the way I used greenness in my context initiates a gag reflex.

Fascinating how context does that. At least to the 10 year old part of me. But I've tangent-ed. (at least I made it to the second paragraph!) Back to my story…

Before I could see what I'd spit, the Lord jumped into my thoughts and said, "*REALLY!?!*" It was kind of a wonderful shock to hear Him so "loudly" and clearly. He continued, "*Really Tim? You're going to let this gross blob going down the shower drain 'speak' to you and tell you YOUR condition?! You're choosing to 'listen' to the color of this thing and let that establish what you believe about your current health? And you're going to choose what it "says" over what I say?!*"

For we walk by faith, not by sight. - 2 Corinthians 5:7

One of my favorite men of God says that repentance is really just when you come to your senses and say, "Duh! What was I thinking!?" This was one of those moments. WOW! I was wonderfully convicted!! Papa wasn't condemning me, He was only calling me to live the way He'd already empowered me to live – with His authority over my body on this earth. (Luk 10:19) And not let something that was doomed to the shower drain exalt itself above the knowledge of the promises of God.

These verses came instantly in my revelation; Isaiah 53:5 *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed,* and Psalm 103:2-3 (2) *Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:* (3) *Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases*,

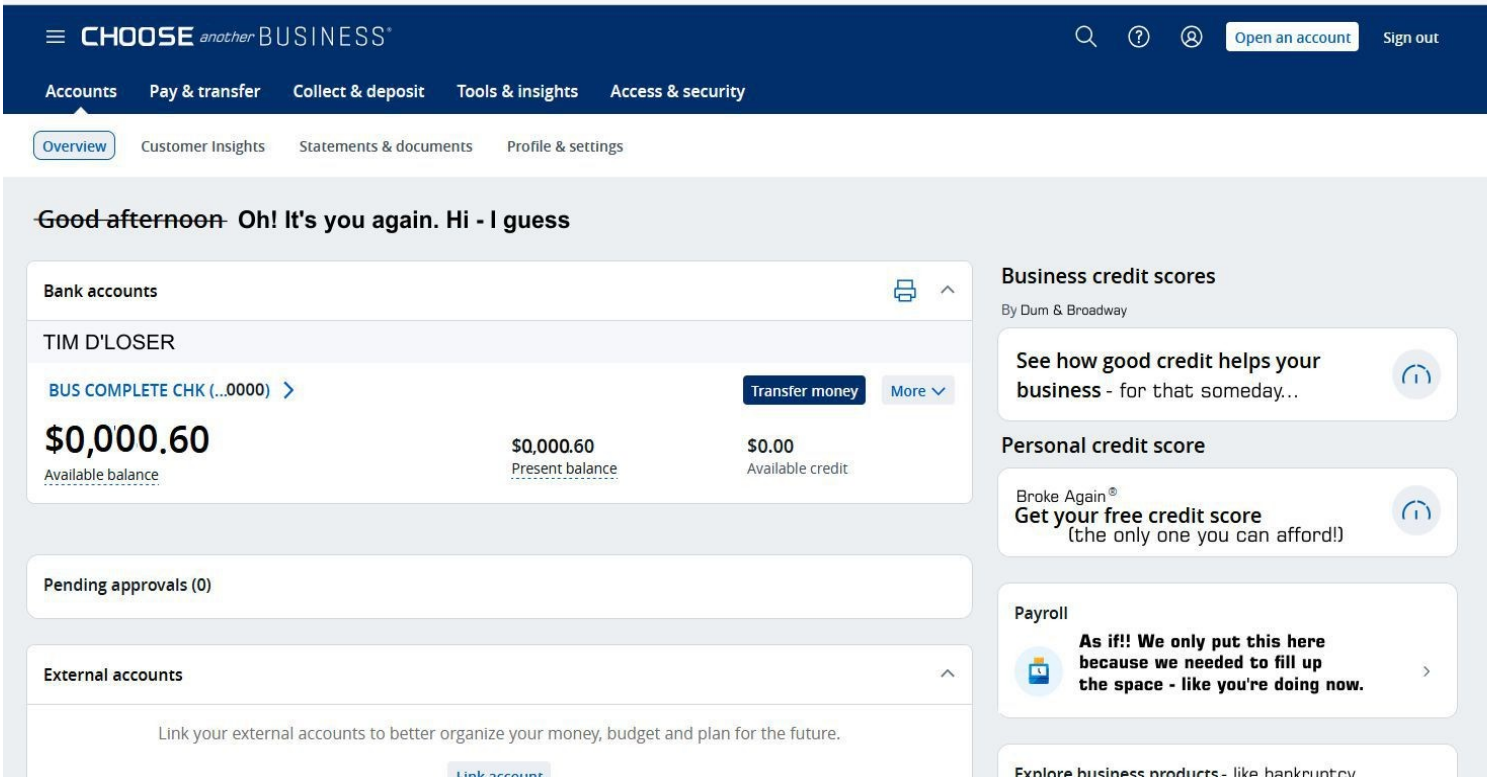
I was so joyful in realizing what I would do now. So with all the confident boldness of a man who knows his power over phlegm, (step aside Captain America!), I spoke out loud in that shower, "*I'm done listening to spit tell me how I am. I listen to what my Father says is true about me. I tell my body what it is and isn't because Jesus gave me His authority to do so, and I'm using it right now over my body.* ***Sinuses, you are healed – by Jesus' stripes.***" (Isa 53:5, 1Pe 2:24) "*Body, you're in perfect health and growing more youthful every day – because Jesus gave that authority to me and I'm speaking it out now.*" Bam! That just happened! Victory was mine! (And yes, I didn't get a cold or sinus infection. I was also feeling great physically just a few hours later.)

But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, - 2 Timothy 3:14 (NKJV)

In pondering this revelation, I realized how many inert (and even "ert") things I've allowed to dictate my life & actions, and determine what I believe about myself and my life. How often do I look at the bathroom scale and let it tell me how unattractive I am? (I know, I know, I'm the only one who does this). How often do I see myself in the mirror and then listen to that reflection as it points out my many flaws?

How about this one - the current number in my bank account has, for most of my life, told me how incapable and lacking I am, what I can or cannot do, and even what I can dream about or imagine.

(↓↓↓ my fake bank account statement ↓↓↓)



I have allowed that number to define me instead of how my Father, Who created me, defines me. (like; holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight) I've allowed that number to cause me to live in shame around most people, and limit the desires of my heart to only whatever the sweat of my brow could produce. I've allowed that number to determine my perception of my worth in this world, my worth to my wife and family, and to myself and God.

"Really Tim!?"

The knowledge of the number in my bank account, or the level of my health based on the tint of green in my sputum ALWAYS argues against my knowledge of God's word, (Gal 5:17), and His promises over me. (i.e. "*My God shall supply all my need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus*" (Phl 4:19) and "*by His stripes we are healed*." [Isa 53:5])

*"But 'it's' very green, and my number is negative... **HOW** do I overcome?!?!"*

Physical circumstances can be weapons used against us IF, we don't submit them to what Christ Jesus has done for us in His obedience on the cross. And the joy in all this is that every weapon the enemy brings to the fight CAN be the weapon that brings your victory into manifestation in the physical realm! (1Sa 17:51 – the enemy didn't flee until David used Goliath's sword to cut off his head and hold it up)

The weapons that win in our warfare are not physical. Meaning that we don't wield them with or in our human, physical strength. (Zec 4:6) That includes our ability to "think" things away. Instead, we simply submit what the enemy brings against us, (Jas 4:7) and condemn those things (Isa 54:17) by holding

them up in the light of what Jesus accomplished on the cross! We don't cause things to change, we agree with the wonderful changes Jesus gave to us by His obedience.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 NKJV

(3) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.
(4) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,
(5) casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,
(6) and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

We don't have to 'pull down strongholds' and **WE** don't have to 'cast down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God' - WE bring those strongholds & arguments (thoughts) and hold it up to the obedience of Christ. Who wins then!?!?

The **weapons** we use are mighty **in God** for doing the pulling down and casting down. Our "part" in this war is to bring every human-logic-thought, (like, "It's green so that means I'm sick"), and judge it against the obedience of Christ – which is, "By His stripes I am healed". It's really just a choice we make and a stand we take (sorry for the 'Sting-like' words) in God's promised victory over ALL the power of the enemy. (Luk 10:19)

Remember when the angel Gabriel told Jesus' mom Mary that she would soon be pregnant with Jesus, she declared to the angel, "*Let it be to me according to your word.*" She chose not to lean on her human-logic about the physical means needed for pregnancy, she chose God's word (given by Gabriel - AKA: directly from God) as her 'reality'. She chose to judge God as faithful in His promise(s) even when the physical evidence was contrary. She judged with a **righteous** judgment – choosing to judge God at His word rather than what she saw and knew physically.

Which voice are you choosing to listen to? Which voice will you choose as your truth?

Agape!

Tim