

Lord, What Are You Saying to Me?

Have you ever had a moment when you wondered, "Is the Lord trying to tell me something?" Perhaps it came during a difficult situation or event that you could not fully explain. Maybe it was a serious illness, the loss of a job, or another unexpected challenge in your life. Have you ever felt a quiet nudge in your spirit that you could not ignore? And in that moment, did a question arise in your heart: "Lord, what are You trying to say to me?"

Throughout Scripture, God speaks to His people in unexpected ways: through circumstances, His Word, faithful counsel, and the prompting of the Holy Spirit. The question is not whether God can speak, but whether we are listening with willing hearts.

When we cannot understand what God is saying, faith teaches us to wait with patience, humility, and trust.

Of course, not every thought, feeling, or impression comes from God. Sometimes what we perceive as God's voice is really our own desires speaking louder than His will. We can easily allow our personal ambitions, fears, or emotions to influence our thinking and convince ourselves that God is leading us in a particular direction, when we are really pursuing what we want, rather than seeking what He wants.

That is why Samuel's story matters so much. In the passage we heard earlier, Samuel was a young boy serving in the temple under Eli. Scripture tells us that "*the word of the Lord was rare in those days.*" Yet even during a time of spiritual silence, God was still speaking.

When God called Samuel, he did not immediately recognize the voice. Three times he ran to Eli, believing it was his mentor who had called him. Finally, Eli understood what was happening and instructed Samuel how to respond. The next time God called, Samuel answered, "*Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.*"

Samuel's experience reminds us that God's voice may not be recognized at first. That is why we need humility, insight, and the guidance of faithful people who can help us listen well.

One Saturday morning, a wife was giving her husband a list of things to do around the house. "Don't forget," she said, "we need milk, bread,

and eggs from the store. Then stop by the hardware store and get a light bulb. After that, please pick up my dry cleaning."

Her husband nodded confidently and replied, "Got it. I'm listening."

A few hours later, he came home carrying a gallon of milk, a loaf of bread, a dozen eggs... and a shiny new fishing rod.

His wife stared. "Where's the light bulb? Where's my dry cleaning?"

The husband looked confused. "What do you mean? I heard everything you said!"

His wife crossed her arms. "Exactly. You heard me but you didn't listen."

Trying to defend himself, he replied, "Well, to be fair, the fishing rod was on sale, and it spoke to me much louder than you did."

If we are honest, this can happen in our own walk with God as well. We may hear sermons each week, read Scripture regularly, and even sense the gentle prompting of the Holy Spirit. Yet hearing is not the same as listening.

Hearing is passive; listening requires attention, openness, and action. God is looking for people who will not only hear His voice but trust Him enough to respond.

A pastor had just finished preaching a very long sermon. After the service was finally over, and the congregation filed out, most people quietly walked up to him, shook his hand and then left. Near the end of the line, one man stopped and said,

"Pastor, today your sermon reminded me of the peace and love of God!" The pastor was delighted. "Really? No one has ever said that about my preaching before. Please tell me why."

The man replied, "It reminded me of the peace of God because **it passed all understanding**... and the love of God because **it endured forever!**"

Samuel's story gives us a simple pattern for listening to God today.

First, we need to make time to listen to God. We create space to hear Him through prayer, Scripture, worship, and quiet reflection. In a distracted world, intentional time with God helps us recognize His guidance.

One way may be to start each day in prayer before becoming consumed by the demands of the day. Asking God for wisdom, patience, and guidance helps keep your focus on honoring Him in all that you do. When we begin the day with a listening heart, we are more prepared to recognize God's direction.

Second, we must listen and respond with humility. Faith means trusting God's plan even when it is difficult to understand and being willing to act when He calls.

Third, we need to be open to God's calling to serve others. God called Samuel while he was still young, which reminds us that God can use anyone. Young or old, experienced or inexperienced, God may be calling us to serve, encourage, lead, share our faith, or use our gifts for His purposes.

It is easy to become focused on our own goals and responsibilities. Samuel served faithfully before he ever became a leader. We can follow his example by looking for opportunities to help, encourage, and support others without expecting recognition in return.

Finally, we need to remain faithful in our everyday responsibilities.

We sometimes assume that God only works through dramatic moments or extraordinary people. Yet Scripture often shows that God shapes His servants in the quiet, ordinary seasons of life. The habits we develop, the responsibilities we faithfully fulfill, and the choices we make when no one is watching are

often the very things God uses to prepare us for greater opportunities to serve Him.

Samuel's faithfulness in the small things positioned him to hear God's call when it came. The same is true for us. As we seek to follow God, we do not need to wait for a special title, position, or assignment before serving Him.

We can honor Him right where we are—in our homes, our workplaces, our churches, and our communities. When we are faithful with what God has placed before us today, He is preparing us for what He may call us to do tomorrow.

The hymn Dennis shared this morning fits so beautifully with Samuel's story. Just as Samuel responded to God's voice with a willing heart, the lyrics reminds us of our own call to answer God by saying, **"Here I am, Lord."**

The message of the song is simple, yet profound. God is not searching only for people with impressive qualifications. He seeks ordinary people who are willing to listen, trust, and serve. Samuel was a young boy in the temple when God called him, and what set him apart was his willingness to respond.

So, this week, may we strive to be attentive to His voice, diligent in our work, and willing to serve wherever He leads, knowing that our faithfulness today can have an eternal impact tomorrow.

Are you willing to step forward when God asks you to serve, to help others, or to share His love? Let this be our prayer and our posture before God: **"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."** Let us pray:

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for speaking to Your people. In a world filled with noise, distractions, and competing voices, help us slow down

and truly listen to You first. Quiet our thoughts so we can hear Your wisdom and direction. Give us hearts that are open to Your truth and willing to follow where You lead.

Help us also to listen carefully to others. Give us the patience to understand before we respond, compassion to hear beyond words, and humility to value the perspectives and experiences of those around us. May our listening reflect Your love and bring encouragement, understanding, and peace.

When we are tempted to interrupt, judge, or focus only on ourselves, remind us to be attentive and gracious. Let our words be thoughtful and kind and let our listening strengthen our relationships with You and with others.

Give us wisdom to discern what is true, courage to receive what we need to hear, and a spirit that seeks understanding above all else.

In Your holy name we pray. **Amen.**