



The Importance of Listening to God's Voice: Lessons from Haggai

In today's fast-paced world, we often think we know what's best for ourselves. We make decisions based on our own understanding, sometimes confusing guidance with criticism. However, the Bible teaches us to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

Why Don't We Listen to God?

Drawing from Haggai chapter 1, we see a common pattern: people saying "the time has not yet come" to do what God has commanded. We often listen to everyone except God:

- Friends saying one compromise won't hurt
- Church folks dwelling on past mistakes
- Our own desires and ambitions
- The Cost of Not Listening

When we choose our own path without God's guidance:

- We might achieve success but can't sustain it
- Get that high-paying job but still struggle financially
- Purchase luxury items but can't maintain them
- Buy dream homes but fall behind on payments
- God's GPS vs. Our Navigation

- God provides us with a spiritual GPS through His Word, yet we often:
- Take familiar routes instead of His directed path
- Choose roads with spiritual potholes
- Get stuck at red lights that delay our blessings
- Create our own roadblocks and excuses

Small Acts of Disobedience

We overlook seemingly minor things:

- Checking phones before morning prayer
- Rushing out without seeking God
- Watching TV before reading the Bible
- Being too busy at work to thank God

The Promise of Restoration

Haggai 2:6 promises that God will "shake the heavens and the earth" and restore what was lost. However, this requires:

- Immediate obedience
- Putting God first
- Following His direction without delay
- Building what He tells us to build

How to Hear God's Voice

To hear from God, we must:

- Develop a consistent prayer life
- Take time to connect with Him daily
- Move beyond superficial devotion
- Create genuine spiritual relationships

Life Application

This week, challenge yourself to:

Start each day with prayer before touching your phone

Take 15 minutes to read God's Word daily

Practice immediate obedience when you feel God's prompting

Ask yourself:

Am I truly listening for God's voice, or am I following my own desires?

What areas of my life have I moved forward without God's direction?

How can I better distinguish between God's voice and other influences?

What specific steps can I take to deepen my connection with God?

Remember, obedience is better than sacrifice. True blessings come not from our own efforts but from listening and following God's direction.