

Listen

Psalms 77:11-15 HCSB I will remember the LORD's works; yes, I will remember Your ancient wonders. **12** I will reflect on all You have done and meditate on Your actions. **13** God, Your way is holy. What god is great like God? **14** You are the God who works wonders; You revealed Your strength among the peoples. **15** With power You redeemed Your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. Selah



We instinctively know that listening is an important skill in a marriage. In an unsuccessful marriage, both individuals are constantly talking “at” each other. They announce their needs, their desires and complaints. But a successful marriage is built on two individuals sharing their needs. That means there must be some listening going on.

What we sometimes fail to realize is that listening is also a necessary component of our devotional lives. We need to set aside time when we listen to God – that we listen for God. We complain to God but we rarely set aside time to listen to God’s complaints. Oh yes, He has complaints too! Just read through Jeremiah, Amos or Habakkuk and you’ll hear some of them. We are often so busy telling God we love Him that we fail to hear Him telling us He loves us! We listen so rarely that we may not even recognize His voice when we hear it!



An old tzaddik was known to meditate under a beautiful tree in the woods. A young man, seeking to become a righteous man himself, approached the tzaddik one day and asked him, “Tell me sir, why do you meditate here instead of in the church or at home?” The elder answered, “I am listening to the voice of God.” Then he invited the young disciple to sit by him. “Come. Sit. Listen.” So the young man sat and listened. At first he heard nothing. But then, in the sound of the wind and the rustling of the branches his heart began to hear the whisperings of God’s desire to bring peace to a troubled earth. He began to understand the songs of the birds as they sang of God’s great joy when his prodigal children returned to Him. Day after day he learned as he sat and listened next to the old holy man. But one day the tzaddik was not in his usual place. In fact, he was not there for several days and so his disciple went looking for him.

After weeks of searching he found his mentor meditating near a busy intersection in the middle of a large city.

The disciple was confused. “Tell me sir, why do you meditate here instead of under the beautiful tree in the woods?” The elder answered, “I am listening to the voice of God.” Then he invited the young disciple to sit by him. “Come. Sit. Listen.” So the young man sat and listened. At first he heard nothing but the cacophony of modern life. But soon he began hearing the babble of many voices and he understood that God enjoyed hearing his many children in his house, playing, talking, telling stories and planning bright futures. He listened to the traffic and knew that God was watching



over all those people simultaneously, not allowing any more trouble into their lives than was absolutely necessary to draw them to Him.

How busy God is! How vast His interests; how intimate His care! God is everywhere simultaneously and knowledge of Him can be found anywhere we look.

- **Proverbs 1:20-21 HCSB** Wisdom calls out in the street; she raises her voice in the public squares. **21** She cries out above the commotion; she speaks at the entrance of the city gates:

But in order to hear God's Wisdom, we must be quiet. We must be still. We must listen.

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

Let take a moment now and listen to the voice of God. Let us seek His face and know Him. Let us lay aside our many wants, our multitude of desires and needs and for once simply listen to Him. After a few moments, I will close us in prayer.