



Voices. Myriads of voices. This is characteristic of modern life. We are surrounded by a medley of voices enslaving us to the things of this world and shutting out God's voice. Why is this so significant? Obeying starts with hearing, listening. So what do we hear today? The noise of planes in the skies. The noise of cars and motorcycles in the streets. The noise of voices on the airwaves in our homes and on the commute to work. Wherever we are, wherever we go, the omnipresent digital noise of radio, TV, social media, WhatsApp, smart phones, gaming machines, etc. Noise-bombardment is a deliberate ploy of the prince of this world. God's voice is to be drowned out by all the other voices so that people can't hear what He is saying.

In this age of noise the evil one has launched a campaign to shout over God's voice. If we can't hear God's voice, we can't do what He says. Now's the time to start a counter movement.

Passionately seek the stillness of God's presence. Make it your top priority to hear His voice. Grow in intimacy, nurture your relationship with Him. As our Maker, God doesn't want to speak with us merely to make His will known to us. He wants to be a father to us, and Jesus wants to be our friend and brother, the lover of our souls. At the heart of every relationship is communication. It is God's nature as our heavenly Father and as our heavenly Bridegroom to engage with us and share His heart with us. We are His children and dear to Him. Love seeks intimacy and oneness with the beloved.

Fellowship is the desire of God's loving heart (1 John 1:1-4). This is why He longs for us to come apart as He leads. In His presence, all other voices fall silent. It's just Him and us. A two-way conversation. When two people love each other, they like to get away for quiet moments, away from others. There in the stillness they share their hearts with each other. Bonds of love and understanding are forged at such times. With God it is no different. Only when we are quiet and alone with Him can the holy God reveal Himself and give us a glimpse of His heart. He is waiting for us to show Him our love. How do I show someone that I love them? By having time for them. By engaging with them. A single hour in their presence is sheer joy. We hang on their every word, eager to draw close to them. We want to get to know them, to drink in their love, absorb something of their nature.

Do we enjoy this kind of intimacy with Jesus? Isn't the truth that our love has dwindled and we've drifted from Him?

How seldom do we spend time in His presence as a token of our love. We call Him Lord and Saviour, yet have little time for Him, at the most squeezing in perhaps half-an-hour in the morning. Even then we are distracted, because we are already thinking about our work. This is the reason why we are not growing spiritually. This is why we are seeing so little victory over sin, so little authority in ministry, so few answers to prayer.

Love is the source of all life, and this goes especially for spiritual life. Love leads us into the stillness of God's presence. There in the quiet He shows us His heart and shines His light into the innermost recesses of our being, revealing secret sins we may not even be conscious of. As we look to Him in faith, He graciously binds us to Himself and fills us to overflowing with His life and love.

At such times something happens to our souls which wouldn't happen otherwise. Listening to one Bible study after the other, reading one Christian book after the other, will achieve nothing if we fail to apply what we have heard and read. Fruit grows only as we come apart and speak with God about what we have heard. We will feel a prompting to re-commit, to take certain steps. Only a face-to-face encounter with the living God will renew our souls.

Truly, God is waiting for us. He longs for us to draw near and express our love with a deeper commitment. He desires to share with us His innermost desires and to show us what is breaking His heart (Matthew 26:38, 40-41).

How our heavenly Father longs to find in us children with a heart for Him and the concerns of His heart. How our Saviour longs to find in us friends and lovers on fire for His kingdom. But how can He share His innermost thoughts and His grief over a lost world if He can't find hearts and ears listening for His voice raised in lamentation? How can He reveal the depths of His heart unless we seek the solitude, where every other voice falls silent? The Lord values such times. They achieve far more than all our busyness for Him. As we wait on God in our quiet times and listen for His impulses and instructions, we receive authority, from which flow spiritual life and a stream of events generated by God.

Much of our Christian service may be just religious activity prompted not by God but by the desire to start something new for Him. Personal wishes or human considerations are actually driving us. What we do may appear to be very successful. Sadly, it produces no fruit. Fruit grows only from sinking our roots deep into the Lord and abiding in Him. The presence of God has the power to transform. More than anything else we need His presence in our lives, and this comes about only as we meet with Him in the stillness face to face.

The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Exodus 33:11 NIVUK

When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, Lord, I will seek." Psalm 27:8 NKJV

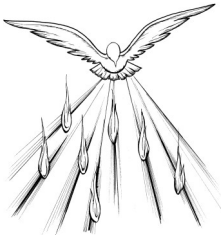
“I come to live within you,”
God’s Son, the Lord Christ Jesus,
Says this to every Christian soul.

“Prepare for Me a lodging
With ardent love and longing,
That I may with your soul unite.”

“Make ready your heart’s chamber,
Put far all earthly glamour.
Silence all worldly longings now.
Upon you take My quietness,
Eternity’s own stillness,
And My approaching footsteps hear.”

“Give up your will entirely,
Surrender all completely
To Me and to My will be giv’n.
Then can I make My dwelling,
Within your heart now reigning,
One then with you in love and pain.”

What then could be more glorious
Or sweeter than Your presence
Within my heart, O Jesus Christ?
Now all within is silence,
That You may deign to enter
My soul, and make it ever Yours.



JESUS
LOVES
YOU
LIKE A
FRIEND.

He holds
out
His hand
to you.

Give Him
yours.

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