

Truly Listening to God

There are two reasons why God has difficulty in getting us to listen to Him.

☒ *Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. —1 Samuel 3:9*

What can be more important than correct listening? We only worship God to the degree that we hear Him speak. This is why there are injunctions throughout Scripture about hearing and listening. Jesus would frequently end a parable with the words, “He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

What we are talking about is the ability to recognize and respond to the Spirit’s impulse. I consider this to be the highest level of spirituality that exists.

There are two reasons why God has difficulty in getting us to listen to Him. The first is our inability to absorb or take in His counsel. We all overestimate our capacity to grasp and take in things, not realizing that if God were to tell us all there is to know, our minds would snap. God has to deal with us where we are.

The second reason why God has difficulty in getting us to listen to Him is that there is sin within us as a result of not walking in the light. We say, “Lord, speak to me.”

God answers, “I did speak, but you wouldn’t take it.”

We say, “I didn’t want that. Lord, speak to me.”

“I am speaking.”

“No, Lord, speak to me.”

God is trying to reach us, and we hear Him to the degree that we are walking in the light. Is it possible that God is trying to speak to you along a certain line, but you are saying, “I

know God wouldn't say that to me"?

When we get to the judgment, the Lord could look at us in much the same way and remind us of certain areas of our life, and we will be speechless. It's very important that we should be transparently honest with ourselves. The final tragic result of disobedience, of course, is that God stops speaking to us.

Excerpted from *Worshipping God* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2004).