

Prolong Your Life By Learning the Voice of God

Deuteronomy 32:46–47 (NKJV) — 46 and he said to them: “Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe—all the words of this law. 47 For it is not a futile thing for you, because it is your life, and by this word you shall prolong *your* days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess.”

I. To know the voice of God, and to obey him, is the most important thing you can do in life because his word is your life!

TO KNOW THE VOICE OF GOD, AND TO OBEY HIM, IS LIFE

A. Set your **hearts** on all the **words** which I **testify** among you today

1. Focus on hearing the word of God.
2. The attentive when the Scriptures are being read.
3. Hearing the word of God teaches us the nature and the ways of God.
4. There's nothing more important in life than coming to know our creator.
5. We come to know him I listening to the way he talks so that we can recognize his voice in the midst of the many voices that we hear every day.
6. It is estimated that we think over 50,000 thoughts every day. We must learn to distinguish which one of those thoughts may be the voice of God speaking to us.

B. which you shall command your children to be careful to observe

1. *Our children need to know the word of God from a young age so that they may learn to follow the Holy Spirit's guidance throughout their life*
2. We are to include our families in the discussion.

3. The more you share the word that you have heard the more you will receive the benefit of the word.
4. We repeat those words so that we know those words in our hearts to know God

C. **all the words of this law**

1. The Bible is our best friend.
2 Peter 1:21 (NKJV) — 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the **Holy Spirit.**
2. The Holy Spirit gave us life. Every word of God is life
3. **Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeded out of the mouth of God**

D. **For it *is* not a futile thing for you**

1. **This is not just a simple thing, it is a very important thing to do!**
 - a. You may think it is insignificant to know this word. You can be destroyed for the lack of knowledge of this word.
 - b. Many of you just don't realize how much a blessing it is to be in a church to hear so much word.
 - c. Some of you even complain but you can be assured one day you will wish you had paid more attention to the word of God.
 - (1) The shameful fact is you pay more attention to a lot of things in life more than you do God's word.
 - (2) You have made idols that you have made it superior to his word. God has said you shall have nothing more important than him.

- (3) Think of it, the way we get close to God is through the knowledge and retention of his word.

THE ONLY WAY WE CAN GET CLOSE TO GOD IS THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE AND RETENTION OF HIS WORD

2. Everyone can do this! everyone can hear it but not everyone retains it.

3. **Deuteronomy 32:47 (The Message) — 47 Yes.**

This is no small matter for you;

- a. We must take the word of God seriously.
- b. Stop belittling his word.
- c. Stop disrespecting God! Remember, he is his word
- d. Some spend more time on leisure like FB and YouTube than time in his word
- e. In your time in church, especially a church like this one, you should make every attempt to remain attentive to what is being said.
- f. You may complain about the number of Scriptures but if you remain attentive the Scriptures you hear revitalize your life!
- g. It may seem like the Scriptures are insignificant but the Bible has this to say about these insignificant verses...

E. **because it is your life**

1. Again, this word is the most important thing in your life because it is your life.

GOD SAYS HIS WORD IS OUR LIFE WHY DO WE IGNORE IT SO MUCH?

2. We were created by the spoken word of God
3. **John 6:63 (NKJV) — 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life**

a. God's word is life to my children!

**THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT IN THIS LIFE
THAN KNOWING THE VOICE OF THE LORD SO OUR LIVES
CAN BE MADE BETTER**

4. If I would choose to remain healthy I must understand that God said his word is medicine for me. It is healing for me!

5. It is restoration of my vitality!

F. and by this **word you shall prolong your days** in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess.”

1. (Msg) **In keeping this word you'll have a good and long life in this land that you're crossing the Jordan to possess.”**

2. This word, the word of God is health for us.
Proverbs 4:20–23 (NIV84) — 20 My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. 21 Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; 22 for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body. 23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Proverbs 4:20–23 (The Message) — 20 Dear friend, listen well to my words; tune your ears to my voice. 21 Keep my message in plain view at all times. Concentrate! Learn it by heart! 22 Those who discover these words live, really live; body and soul, they're bursting with health. 23 Keep vigilant watch over your heart; that's where life starts.

3. The hearing of God's word keeps us safe and heals the broken places in our lives. God's word

provides us with health emotionally, physically and spiritually.

G. God's word gave us life in the beginning and God's words sustains our life today. God loves us enough to keep speaking to us the words of life.

1. An important question is; are we listening to hear his word?

Job 33:14 (NKJV) — 14 For God may speak in one way, or in another, *Yet man does not perceive it.*

2. Again

THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT IN THIS LIFE THAN KNOWING THE VOICE OF THE LORD

H. Remember how Jesus told us about the four types of soil?

1. Along the path.

2. On stony ground.

3. Among the thorns

a. The world provides us with so many distractions.

(1) The distractions of the rich and famous.

(a) Television

(2) The distractions of the rich and powerful.

(a) Racism

(3) The distractions of Satan and his demons.

(a) Idolatry

4. On fertile ground

I. This means different people can hear the same message of the Word of God by a pastor...some will be blessed by it

and some won't even remember the message after it is finished. Others will only find fault with it.

1. The ability to hear the voice of God is dependent upon the hearer.
2. Only a few will have ears to hear.
3. Fewer will do the word heard to be able to receive the favor of the Lord to be drawn closer to him.

J. There are many voices that are shouting at us to distract us from the truth. The most prominent one is our own voice. That is the reason Jesus said:

Matthew 16:24 (NKJV) — 24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

1. You have to learn to shut down your internal voice to hear the voice of God directing your life.
2. It is most important that you understand
Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV) — 12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

Isaiah 55:8–9 (NKJV) — 8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

K. Now, as you spend the time in the word, you come to know God and His Holy Spirit. Then, you come to understand His ways and gradually you come to recognize his voice more and more when he speaks to you.

1. You will learn to discern between his voice and the yelling voices of others

L. Now how to learn the voice of God

LEARN TO DISCERN THE VOICE OF GOD FROM THE VOICE OF OTHERS BY SPENDING TIME IN THE WORD SEEKING TO LEARN HIS WAYS

M. So many of us have experienced a hard life because we reject the voice of God when it does not seem the right way to us.

1. If we would learn his ways we can distinguish his voice and follow it.
2. Too often we reject the voice of God when we hear him because it does not seem like the right way and we miss our blessings.

N. How do we learn to recognize his voice? This Scripture gives us great insight! We learn his ways from his word and acts

Psalm 103:7 (NKJV) — 7 He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.

1. **Four things to do;**

a. **Study His word**

(1) set aside a time and place each day

b. **Meditate on His word**

(1) *remember the breathing exercise and the monkey mind*

c. **Pray to know His ways**

(1) *seek the face of God*

d. **Learn to listen for His voice**

(1) *be quick to hear and obey*

2. We can see the works of God but that will not cause us to understand the ways of God.

- a. We should ask to understand his ways and then we can recognize his voice leading the way.
 - b. When we understand the ways of God we can hear his voice directing us in our circumstances.
- 3. We can be in church all of our lives and still not understand the ways of God.
- 4. We can hear the word of God but if we do not get an understanding of his ways we still won't be able to discern the voice of God from the voices of the enemy.

II. Abraham learned the voice of God and came to understand his ways. We can to!

- A. Abraham did not learn how to follow God until he spent time with God over the years and he became known as a "friend of God"
- B. It took him a lifetime to develop his relationship. He learned more and more about God and came to understand the ways of God.

IT TAKES TIME TO COME TO KNOW GOD AND TO KNOW HIS VOICE

- 1. Abraham came to know the love of God, his faithfulness, his power and his righteousness.
 - a. Then, he could challenge God on behalf of the cities Sodom and Gomorrah.
- C. God said of Abraham

Genesis 18:19 (NKJV) — 19 For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."

1. The more he knew God and the way of the Lord, the more he became confident in responding to God's voice.
2. He was so certain of God's word that God could test him to offer up his son.

Hebrews 11:17–19 (NKJV) — 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, “*In Isaac your seed shall be called,*” 19 concluding that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

III. Moses learned the voice of God by asking to know his ways

Exodus 33:13 (NKJV) — 13 Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation *is* Your people.”

- A. The lives of many people depended upon Moses knowing God's voice.

THE LIVES OF YOUR FAMILY DEPENDS UPON YOU KNOWING GOD'S VOICE

1. If Moses misread God the children of Israel would have suffered.
 2. Moses had to know the difference between the voice of God and the voice of Satan.
 - a. So he asked to know his ways
- B. I encourage you to not just pray for God to do for you but
1. pray that you come to know his ways.
 2. Then you can recognize his voice leading you in the correct way.

IV. David learned the voice of God by asking to know his ways
Psalm 25:4–5 (NKJV) — 4 Show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. 5 Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You *are* the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.

A. As a results he could say
Psalm 23:1–4 (NKJV) — 1 The Lord *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. 3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

V. The disciples spent time with Jesus coming to know his voice and know his ways.

A. It is the will of God for you to know his voice. He wants you to know more than you want to know.
John 10:27–28 (NKJV) — 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

B. All of us should learn to be led by the voice of God!

1. It was important for Abraham, Moses, David and the disciples.
2. It is important for us also.
3. It is especially important for pastors!
 - a. they have many people's lives that are at risk

- b. it is important for me to make sure I know the voice of God to lead me in the development of my sermons.
 - c. I have to make sure I hear his voice everyday all throughout the day.
- 4. You too should make the effort to learn to hear the voice of God speaking to you to guide you also.
- 5. That is why God gave you apostles, prophets, evangelist and pastor teachers to help you to learn and mature.

IT IS UNFORTUNATE SO MANY PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A GOOD PASTOR WHO IS LISTENING TO GOD!

- C. God wants to lead us every one of us every day of our life!
John 10:3–4 (NKJV) — 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.
 - 1. I have heard some people say they don't believe that God is concerned... But they are mistaken
 God wants to fellowship with us!
- D. Jesus said he was the **way** the **truth** and the **life**
- E. If God would lead Abraham, Moses, David, the disciples and all the other prophets of old - who did not have the Bible as we do today - we can hear the voice of God more clearly if we would spend the time disciplining ourselves to hear him. Again,
 - 1. **Four things to do;**
 - a. **Study His word**

- (1) set aside a time and place each day
 - b. Meditate on His word**
 - (1) *remember the breathing exercise and the monkey mind*
 - c. Pray to know His ways**
 - (1) *seek the face of God*
 - d. Learn to listen for His voice**
 - (1) *be quick to hear and obey*
- F. God desires to lead you and me every step of the way in this life!
- G. After the disciples had been with Jesus
- H. God is speaking every day of our lives to keep us from all harm. It is critical we come to know his voice and be obedient to respond when we hear his voice.
 - 1. The lesson of the disobedient child.
 - a. a story is told of a young couple having a young girl in their old age.
 - b. They were very lenient and thought it cute when she exercised her individuality and did things contrary to their commands.
 - c. The child had learned to ignore what the parents said to her and progressively she became more independent and disobedient.
 - d. About the age of three, the young girl went out in the yard to play and was told to stay inside the yard.
 - e. Unfortunately, this day the gate had been left open from the night before.
 - f. the parents saw the young girl exiting the yard and heading toward the street.
 - g. To their horror they see a car racing down the street. Their daughter was now running

out between two parked cars into the traffic.

- h. They both screamed at the little girl to stop.
- i. She does and looks back at her parents and then laughingly turns her back on them and continues to run directly into the path of the oncoming car.
- j. The car strikes her and her body is knocked several feet down the road.
- k. The mother and father rushed to their only child just-in-time, to see, her eyes, roll back, in her head, and die.
 - (1) If only the child had learned to listen to the voice of her parents.
- 2. If only we would learn to listen to the voice of our father. How much needless suffering we could avoid.

I.

WE MUST TRAIN OURSELVES TO KNOW THE VOICE OF GOD SO WE MAY OBEY HIM

VI. We must train ourselves to know the voice of God. He is speaking to us!

Job 33:14 (NKJV) — 14 For God may speak in one way, or in another, *Yet man* does not perceive it.

Matthew 13:9 (NKJV) — 9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

- A. I have heard so many stupid things people blame on the Lord thinking they have heard his voice.
 - 1. Proclaiming so many things that are clearly against the word of God.
 - 2. People who fail to take advantage of the wisdom of proven men and women of God.

3. So many lies are told on God. So many really don't know how to discern his voice from all the many other voices.
 4. They think they have heard from God and they have heard from demons.
- B. When we come to know the voice of God, he can protect us from all of our troubles.
- C. In this world, we will have trouble but our Lord has promised us he will deliver us from all of our troubles. We just have to listen to him!
1. We have to stop focusing on our problems and the negative things in our life.
 2. We have to learn to start listening to hear the voice of God!
 3. He will speak to us just like the mother and father will speak to the children to keep them from harm.
- D. When we experience troubles, we need to come to understand that God is still speaking to us. We must listen to hear his voice to know how to overcome the trouble!
- E. We must not become fixated on our circumstances. We must listen to hear the voice of God in the midst of our trials.

Mark 6:47–52 (NKJV) — 47 Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He *was* alone on the land. 48 Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by. 49 And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out; 50 for they all saw Him and were troubled. But immediately He

talked with them and said to them, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.” 51 Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled.

C. S. Lewis, the prolific author and lay theologian, said

“God whispers to us in our pleasures,
speaks in our consciences, but
shouts in our pains.

It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

**IT IS TIME WE BEGIN ASKING THE LORD TO SHOW US HIS
WAYS THAT WE MIGHT KNOW HIM AND RESPOND TO HIS
VOICE TO PROLONG OUR LIFE**

**Now it is time to make a commitment to
Prolong Your Life By Learning The Voice Of God**

Exodus 33:13 (NKJV) — 13 Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight.

I have “Set my heart on all your word and I shall command my children to be careful to observe it.

I know it *is* not a futile thing for me, because it *is* my life, and by your word I shall prolong *my* days in this world.”

I will

StudyYour word,

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Meditateon Your word,

**I will remember the breathing process and control my
monkey mind**

Pray to know Your ways,

I will ask to know you better

Learn to listen for Your voice,

I will learn to be quick to listen