

Stop, Shut Up and Listen!

Je 29:11 (NIV84) — 11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Je 10:23 (NKJV) — 23 O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

Pr 20:24 (NKJV) — 24 A man’s steps are of the Lord; How then can a man understand his own way?

- I. How can the plans of God come to pass if we are left to our own choices. There is no way that the will of God can be done in our lives unless we submit to the voice of God.
 - A. There is no way we can walk in the plan of God on our own. We don't even think the way God does. His ways are not our ways, nor his thoughts our thoughts.
 1. We cannot make the best decisions for our lives on our own.
 2. **Je 17:9 (NKJV) — 9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?**
 - B. How can God be a loving God and leave us to our own devices?
 - C. We are hopelessly lost on our own! We can never find the paradise that God has in mind for us by ourselves.
 - D. Even the best we come up with, God can do well above our ability to think or even imagine.
 - E. His plans for us are useless. We can never experience them by ourselves.
 1. The only way we can walk in his plans is that he tells us how.
 2. The only way we're going to know how is it we have got to
 - a. **STOP, SHUT UP AND LISTEN**

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- II. The father does indeed have a plan for your life.
 - A. His will is to bless you. If you're not experiencing his prosperity and have the confidence of a brighter tomorrow, then, you're not walking in his plan. If you're not walking in God's plan...
 1. This is not God's fault!
- IT'S NOT GOD'S FAULT IF YOU'RE NOT EXPERIENCING GOD'S BEST!**
- B. **Mk 4:18–19 (ESV) — 18 And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, 19 but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.**
 1. He is saying that many do not experience the abundance nor tremendous blessing God has prepared for them because they are

too busy with the cares of the world and those things keep them from experiencing what God wants them to experience.

2. Oh, but if they would stop, shut up and listen they would be able to hear the voice of the Lord telling them how to be successful.
3. That is what I'm seeking to tell you today.

**Stop,
Shut Up And Listen!**

- C. He promised, he would lead you by the still waters. His rod and his staff would comfort you.
1. The Bible has an overwhelming abundance of Scriptures promising God's best for every man who will listen to him.
 2. Our major problem is that we spend too much time praying and pleading and not enough time listening to see what the Father has to say to us!
 3. We need to learn to **Stop, shut up and listen!**

WE NEED TO STOP, SHUT UP AND LISTEN!

- D. It was God's promise in the beginning to lead and guide us in life. Everything was open to man. Man only had one limitation and that was not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Man was to listen and follow the instructions of God and not turn to the right or left.
1. Nor was he allowed room to disobey. As long as the man would listen to the voice and words of the Father, the man would live a blessed life having tremendous abundance in all things good.
- E. Even though the man failed to obey God, God sent his son to restore the status of man to the place he originally wanted him.
1. Every one of us now has that same opportunity to experience the abundance of blessings God originally intended for all of mankind.
 2. More importantly, God will reveal to everyone how to experience his best blessings.
 - a. If only we will listen to hear how he wants to guide us.
 - b. **Lk 11:28 (NKJV) — 28 But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"**

IT'S NOT GOD'S FAULT IF YOU'RE NOT EXPERIENCING GOD'S BEST!!!

- F. *We have the promise that we can hear just like Jesus heard!*
Lk 8:19–21 (NKJV) — 19 Then His mother and brothers came to Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd. 20 And it was told Him by some, who said, "Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You."
21 But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."

1. We are of the family of God and are blessed as we hear and obey!
 2. How can we hear if we stay so busy with things of the world and not take the time to hear what God has to say.
- G. It is also clear that God gave some ie. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, to help you walk in his will and experience his best.
1. It is for that very reason that I have purposed in my heart to help you come to know and recognize the voice of the Lord when he speaks to you so he can guide you to his best blessings.
 2. I do not feel that there is a worthier mission for me in this life than to help everyone of you learn to know the voice of our father and help you submit to his will for your life.
 3. I am committed and determined to fulfill that mission. For the rest of my life I will devote myself to listening and following his voice for my own life and assist in helping those of you who are willing to also hear and obey the words of our father for your lives.
- H. I will restate my commitment.
1. **I do not feel that there is a worthier mission for me, in this life, than to help everyone of you, learn to know the voice of our Father and then to help you submit to his will for your life.**
 2. **I am committed and determined to fulfill that mission. For the rest of my life, I will devote myself to listening and following his voice for my own life. Then I will assist in helping those of you who are willing to also hear and obey the words of our Father for your own lives.**
- I. I want you to follow the agenda that God has for your life. His plans for you are the best plans you could ever make for your life.
1. Over the next few weeks, perhaps even months, even for the rest of my life, I will be committed to helping you know his voice and helping you get on track to run the race that God has designed for your life.
 2. I will help you,... that is if you will let me, I will help you follow the course that he has set out before you.
 3. So, let us understand that this is the reason he established his church. That is, for every one of us to work together assisting one another, building up one another in our faith to glorify our father who is in heaven.
- J. It is not my purpose to get you to do what Bishop Lowe would want you to do, but to get you to do what our father would want you to do.
- K. Let me remind you
Je 10:23 (NKJV) — 23 O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

**GOD DID NOT CREATE YOU TO LIVE LIFE THE WAY YOU WANT TO LIVE IT
 GOD CREATED YOU TO LIVE LIFE FOR HIS GLORY**

1. Living life your way will always cause you to experience an inferior life and overwhelming lack causing you to be deficit in the things that God wants you really to have.

WHY DID JESUS COME?

JOHN 10:10 But

PROVERBS 14:12

2. Now, if there is a way that seems right to a man and that way leads to death, how can we experience the abundance Jesus came to give us unless it is He himself who tells us how to obtain it?

HOW CAN WE EXPERIENCE THE ABUNDANCE JESUS CAME TO GIVE US UNLESS IT IS HE HIMSELF WHO TELLS US HOW TO OBTAIN IT?

- L. You may ask me now how do you know God's will for your life? I will simply answer you, "God will tell you!"
1. He created you for his glory. Therefore, he will reveal to each one of you the things he wants you to do for his glory.
 2. You just need to **STOP, SHUT UP AND LISTEN!**
- M. God will tell you how he wants you to live your life. Listen to these wonderful scriptures;
1. **Eph 2:10 (NKJV) — 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**
 - a. He will tell us what they are. How else can we know a divine plan if he does not reveal it to us himself?
 - b. They were planned before we were born. How can we know them?
 2. **Ps 37:23–24 (NKJV) — 23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way. 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the Lord upholds him with His hand.**
 - a. *Someway, somehow, he has a way of getting through to us.*
 3. **Ps 32:8 (ESV) — 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**
 4. **Is 41:10 (NKJV) — 10 Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'**
 5. **Is 58:11 (NKJV) — 11 The Lord will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.**
 6. **Pr 3:6 (NKJV) — 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.**
- N. We must devote time to hearing what he has to say to us if we are to be successful in life.

WE MUST LEARN TO STOP, SHUT UP AND LISTEN

1. Reason with me: there are too many scriptures where God spoke to people in the Bible.
 - a. He is no respecter of persons. If he spoke to them he will speak to you.
 - b. He spoke to them to reveal to us with clarity and certainty the truths we now know. Those truths reveal that he is willing to talk to every man. This means you and me even today.
 - (1) He spoke to them to tell them what he wanted them to do. He will speak to us to lead us and guide us to the abundance he has promised us.
 - (2) **WE JUST HAVE TO LEARN TO STOP, SHUT UP AND LISTEN!**
 2. Just because you have not heard him before, it does not mean he has not been speaking to you.

Job 33:14 (NKJV) — 14 For God may speak in one way, or in another, Yet man does not perceive it.
- O. The Bible says he speaks to us now through Jesus
- Heb 1:1–2 (NKJV) — 1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son,** whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;
1. Tell me now, where is Jesus?

Jn 14:23 (NKJV) — 23 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We will come to him and make Our home with him.”**

 - a. I must help you to know how to recognize the father's voice; otherwise how can we obey him to show him we love him!
 - b. As we start to obey him in little things, he begins to reveal to us the great things he wants us to do in his name.
 - c. Remember, the first thing Moses had to do was to throw down a stick.
 - (1) The more he was faithful in the little things the father told him to do, the more the Father spoke to him greater things to do.
- THE MORE OF THE WORD YOU HEAR AND DO, THE MORE THE FATHER WILL SPEAK WITH YOU TO DO.**
- (2) Be faithful in a few things

Lk 8:18 (NKJV) — 18 Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.”
 2. **Jn 14:25–26 (NKJV) — 25 “These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy**

Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**

3. Jn 16:13–14 (NKJV) — 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. **14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.**

a. Apparently, we need to **STOP AND SHUT UP AND LISTEN!**

P. I know that the Father speaks to me but that is not enough for me. I want all of you to be able to hear his voice just as clearly as I do. I recognize that if I can sow seeds that cause you to hear better, then, according to his word I will hear better!

1. Those people that did great exploits in the Bible were people that listened to the voice of God and obediently did what he had to say.
2. If I can cause you to hear his voice clearly, he will do great exploits with you for his kingdom.
3. In this age, it should be nothing extraordinary for even the average Christian to hear and know his voice. In fact, it is God's will for all of his children to hear and obey his voice.

a. It is normal for you to hear his voice.

Q. Remember, every time I speak to you, over the next few weeks, I will be trying to cause you to realize the father wants to speak to you and to help you learn **TO STOP, SHUT UP AND LISTEN!**

III. Now, I want to give you an opportunity to join with us as each of us seeks to come to know the father better.

A. I told you the father speaks to us through Jesus. Therefore, I want to give you this opportunity to get your relationship right with him. I will give you a chance to accept him as your Lord and Savior.

B. 2nd, I want to give you a chance to accept him as your Lord and to obey him in what he tells you to do. This is a ministry that will help you to come to know his voice.

1. Can you give me any reason now why he would not tell you to become part of this fellowship today since we are committed to improving your relationship with him?
2. He wants you to know his truth. This ministry will help you do that. It is up to you now to make that decision

C. if you are now part of the family I want you to do is make a pledge today; father I commit myself today to each and every day for the rest of my life to find some time each day to **stop, shut up and listen.**

1. Say, Father, from now on every day of my life I will find time to **stop, shut up and listen.**