

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

July 7, 2017

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

“God wanted to write his law in the hearts of the people, but their hearts were so hard He had to find a softer material. So he found two tablets of stone.” God would later say, *“But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone...”* Zechariah 7:12. An *“adamant stone”* is a diamond. Their hearts were so hard, not even God could write upon them.

The great promise of the New Covenant is that God puts his law in our *“inward parts”* and writes it in our hearts. Jeremiah 31:33 Hebrews 8:8-11. This speaks of the divine nature and new heart we receive when we are born of God. Sin is no longer a part of who we are because righteousness is written in every part of our being. Those who believe the gospel and trust in Christ obtain the righteousness that no one can obtain through the keeping of a commandment. Romans 9:30-32.

Before God could write his New Covenant in us, he had to do something about the hardened heart of humanity. He spoke through the prophet, saying, *“I will take away the **stony heart** out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.”* Ezekiel 36:26. A *“heart of flesh”* is simply the human heart as God originally made it to be. It is not hard, but tender, so he can speak to it and write upon it whatsoever he desires. It is a heart

that can be moved by God's Spirit and will listen to God's voice.

The promise Israel never received because of the hardness of their hearts is offered to the children of God today. God said, *"...if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation."* Exodus 19:5-6. This promise has a two-fold contingency. We will be a *"peculiar treasure," "a holy nation,"* and *"a kingdom of priest"* IF we obey his voice AND keep his covenant. The Covenant is kept by faith. We believe the gospel and trust in Christ and the result is God's Covenant is written in our heart and nature. If we abide in Christ we will keep the covenant and the Covenant will keep us. But if we are *"moved away from the hope of the gospel"* Colossians 1:23, we will find that righteousness ceases to be our heart and nature.

Obedying God's voice is the other contingency of God's great promise. It is a corrupt and damnable thing for anyone to believe that because they are *"saved"* they can ignore the voice of God. Anyone who takes such a course does so to their own destruction. God speaks in many different ways. He often simply moves upon the hearts of his people. To obey, you simply follow what God puts in your heart. At times God will speak through the scripture. Things you have read many times suddenly become alive to you and it seems to reach out and take hold of you. Walk in the light of his word.

The apostle writes of another way God speaks to his people. He said *"...the Spirit speaketh expressly..."* 1 Timothy 4:1. In this Paul speaks of how

God speaks *distinctly* by the Holy Ghost. This is not a feeling or an enlightenment. It is the clear voice of the Spirit of God. If he speaks to you, obey his voice! We live in a day where seemingly countless multitudes go about saying "God told me." I am convinced that relatively few of these have ever actually heard or know the voice of the Spirit of God.

I cannot conclude this message without a warning concerning those who want to be the voice of God to you. Personal prophecy has become one of the deadliest snares the people of God are being led into in our generation. Under its guise, people all around the world are brought into bondage to unclean spirits and so called prophets and prophetesses who seek authority and dominion over the lives of God's people. There are true gifts of prophecy, but it never comes to control or order the lives of God's people. When Israel rejected God's voice and asked Moses for a law, they did it to their own destruction. In the same way, if you ignore the voice of God within, you may find someone who is willing to be the voice of God to you through personal prophecy. If that happens, it will destroy you also.

Nothing in the New Covenant will work for you if you refuse to hear the voice of God. The apostle Paul reminds us "*To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as (Israel did) in the provocation...*" Hebrews 3:7-8. Do not let yourself get to the place that it is easier for God to write on stone than to move upon your heart.