



Part 1: When God Speaks

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The Story of a Tired Prophet: 1 Kings 19:3-15

³ Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, ⁴ while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." ⁵ Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." ⁶ He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

⁷ The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." ⁸ So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. ⁹ There he went into a cave and spent the night.

And the word of the Lord came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁰ He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and

put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

¹¹ The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by."

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.

¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁴ He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

¹⁵ The Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram.

The Story of a Tired Pastor from the Past 90 Days

If I want to hear God's voice, I must begin with the conviction that God wants to speak and is speaking.

Scripture says that God speaks through:

- His audible voice (1 Kings 19:11)
- His Word (2 Timothy 3:16)
- His Son (Hebrews 1:1-2)
- His Spirit (John 14:17; 1 Corinthians 3:16)
- His creation (Romans 1:20)
- His people (James 3:17)
- Prayer (Romans 8:26-27)
- Worship (2 Chronicles 20)
- Life (Proverbs 3:5; Proverbs 16:9)

In the coming weeks, we will also see that God speaks through:

- Dreams
- Pain
- Memories
- Visions
- Intellect
- Prophecy *and more*

**A thought that has
changed my world in the past 90 days:**

I often want to hear God until he speaks.

My sheep listen to my voice;
I know them and they follow me.
I give them eternal life and they shall never perish;
no one can snatch them out of my hand.

- John 10:27-28

Small Group Questions

- 1) What has been the most profound spiritual moment of your summer?
- 2) Have you ever heard God? Tell your story. It's OK to answer "no." If the answer is no, how has God's silence affected your trust in him?
- 3) If you have heard God, how did you know it was him?
- 4) As a group, make a biblical list of all the ways you believe God speaks to people.
- 5) As a group, pray that God will open your corporate ears to hear his voice. Have you ever felt like Grant felt in the above statement: I often want to hear God speak until he does? Unpack that together as a group.
- 6) How can we pray for you right now?