

**6-WEEK PURSUIT
DEVOTIONALS
WEEK 5 – GOD’S VOICE**

MONDAY - “A MIRACULOUS HEALING AND TRANSFORMATION”

The writer of this tract was born in Colorado about 20 miles from Canon City in a little place called Isle, December 25th, 1910. My twin sister and I were premature babies. I was what they called a blue baby, born deaf, dumb, and blind. My father took me to a doctor at the Mayo clinic, who said that besides being deaf, dumb, and blind, I had a leakage of the heart and kidney trouble, and that it would be nothing less than a miracle if I lived more than a few years at the most. They also said that the organs of my body were twisted, and that I was not a normal person in any way. Thus, I managed to drag through life until I was eleven years old.

My father, who was a gambler, bootlegger, and professing infidel, one day passed a street corner in Canon City where some people were holding a street meeting. He heard a man talking about a wonderful meeting that was going on in Denver by Sister Aimee Semple McPherson. He told how people were getting healed, and even the blind had been restored to sight. That set my father to thinking and he said: “I wonder if my daughter could be healed if what this man said is true. If there is a God I am going to put Him to the test.”

So he borrowed the money and with two women (an aunt and a neighbor woman) to look after me, we started for Denver. The doctors and most of our folks said it was foolish and that I would never live till we arrived there. The doctor said my heart was so bad that I would never live to get there, and at times they had to work with me to keep me breathing. It seemed to me I would never get there.

On July 10th, 1921, we went to the place where Sister McPherson was holding her meeting, and although we went early, the building was packed out. The only place they could find room for me was up in the balcony. After the service was over, Sister McPherson gave the altar call. My father tried to make his way to the front to ask her to pray for me, but there was such a crowd that it took him some time to get through. Sister McPherson, seeing how anxious he was, asked him just what he wanted.

He said “I want you to pray for my little girl who is deaf, dumb, blind, and has a leakage of the heart very bad.”

Sister McPherson asked my father to pray and he told her that he had never prayed in his life. I do not know all of their conversation, but as I was sitting there in the balcony, something seemed to tear in my eyes, and I could see white objects. At first I thought they were white angels, and then these white objects began to take shape. The first thing I remember seeing distinctly was Sister McPherson dressed in white with one hand raised to heaven. Then something came over me, and before I realized what I was doing, I sprang to my feet and shouted to the top of my voice: “Glory to God!”

For the first time in my life, I heard my own voice. Oh what a glorious day – that tenth day of July, 1921. It has always been a memorable day for me. Truly, I was raised up to a new life.

At this time of my deliverance, I was eleven years of age and weighed twenty-five, or thirty pounds; I was about the size of the average three-year old child.

The doctors said that if I happened to live and grow up, that I would never be able to have any children, for every organ of my body was twisted of out of shape and deformed. At the writing of this, I am married and am the mother of seven children. How I praise and glorify God for His goodness to the children of men.

From Mrs. Ida Pike, Frank’s relative

REFLECTION:

Our God is a miracle-worker. But what is a miracle? Do you believe Jesus still works miracles today? Why or why not?

PRAYER:

Jesus, you are the same today, yesterday, and forever. Help us to know your voice, and trust in who you are. Regardless of how bad things look, you are in control. Help us to trust you more.

TUESDAY – “ISAIAH TO JEREMIAH”

Listening was never one of my strong suits. When you have A.D.D. and you love to talk, listening becomes a hardship. My mother would always grab me by the chin, stare into my eyes and say “listen.”

My dad on the other hand was a great listener. He would always drop everything he was doing and pay full attention to whoever was speaking to him. There were times that I was jealous of this great ability because school wasn’t always easy when it came to paying attention to what the teacher was telling us. My mind would often wonder away as the teacher was talking. I have had to work hard at learning to listen to people and not do all the talking.

God wants us to hear his voice. That means we need to learn to listen to the voice of God. He is always speaking to us; we just need to learn to listen.

Jeremiah 33:3 says; “Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

Pastor Vern Weaver

PRAYER:

Let’s conclude with a time of prayer. You can structure this time however you feel led. Pray...

- Pray that God will help you take time to listen to His voice.
- Ask the Lord to help you always hear His voice.
- Pray that you will always be willing to do what God tells you to do.

WEDNESDAY – “GOD’S VOICE”

BIBLE STUDY:

Read Luke 11:5-13 before reading our Devotional

DEVOTIONAL:

Dear Church Family,

My daughter Madilyn loves coloring. In fact, she loves the craft of scribbling and playing with crayons so much that she will incessantly ask me to color with her. “Daddy, daddy, daddy, daddy, will you color with me?” Sometimes, I am in the midst of starting a fire in our stove. Other times I am preoccupied with cleaning. Some days I am preparing for work. Thus I answer: “In a moment Madilyn, daddy has to finish: insert reason here.” To which she will respond in her sweet little voice: “Daddy, daddy, daddy, will you color with me?” This will repeat until I either provide her an answer she deems satisfactory or color with her. I love hearing her call to me.

Did you know God expects you to communicate with Him in the same way? In Luke 11, Jesus relates a stunning revelation to His disciples: when communicating with God, we are to be unabashedly insistent in asking and praying until we receive an answer.

Now, if you are like my two-year old, you likely grow frustrated when you do not receive the answer you wanted. Sometimes God tells us to wait. At times God will not respond at all. Now, unlike a parent, God is never unavailable. He never has to go to work, do chores, or even use the restroom. He has all the time in the world for you. So then, why would God either not respond or ask you to wait?

As for myself, there are times I will ask Madilyn to wait, not because I have no time, but because she needs to learn two very important lessons. One: she can trust me. Two: because she trusts me she can wait. I will answer her, and I will make time for her. Sometimes, she just needs to pause and wait. God, in a much more perfect way, asks the same of us.

One of the biggest secrets I can reveal to you in hearing the voice of God is first learning to be patient with God. This is not because He is slow, or distracted, but because He wants His people to trust Him and rely on His timing and action.

Do you know the story of Abraham? We spoke of him earlier in this pursuit, that God gave him a promise and he believed with full faith. Now, despite his faith, Abraham did have his share of missteps and mistakes. Most of these were a result of his impatience. He heard from God, and then, after some time passed with little activity, he then reasoned to himself: “Oh, well, God must have meant for things to happen this way!”

The story goes that every time Abraham took God’s promises into his own hands, he only made a mess of things. We must learn from Abraham’s example. We are to wait on God until he responds. And the good news is: God will always answer. We do not need to take things into our own hands; especially when we are waiting.

Sometimes, we just need to learn a little patience. Your Father in Heaven will answer.

Sincerely,
Ty Weaver

CHALLENGE:

What are you anxious about today? Write those things down. Is there anything you are about to give up on? Do you feel like you need to leap into action or nothing will ever change?

My challenge to you today church is to pause, breathe, and stop. Right now, take a deep breath, and slowly release. Do not be hasty. God does speak. And you will hear His voice if you wait. Be patient, be still and know that God is good and that He will answer.

Keep asking, keep praying, and remain incessant. God loves the voices of His kids.

PRAYER:

Let’s conclude with a time of prayer. You can structure this time however you feel lead. Listed below are some topics that could help guide this time of prayer.

- Pray to God, asking what you want of Him. Share with Him your heart’s desire.
- Pray for God to give you patience and trust that He will always answer.
- Pray that you would hear God’s voice clearly when He responds.

THURSDAY – “A LOW WHISPER”

BIBLE STUDY:

1 Kings 19:11-13

DEVOTIONAL:

Have you ever been told to use your inside voice? Have you ever told someone else to use their inside voice? We usually do this because the person is being TOO LOUD! Yet have you ever told that to God? Probably not.

Most people have a hard time hearing God’s voice. Some think it will be some boisterous, deep baritone, booming from the heavens. But, as we just read in 1 Kings, God’s voice is a low whisper.

Can God speak to us in a loud tone? Absolutely. But when He speaks in a still, small voice, we tend to not hear Him. Why? One reason may be that we don’t give Him a chance to speak. We do all the talking and fill in the blanks ourselves or complain that God isn’t speaking to us. Another reason, and probably the most common one is that we don’t know His voice.

Growing up you knew your parents’ voice. You knew if your mom or dad called for you in a crowded space, you would be able to pick out their voice from the masses. How are you able to decipher one voice out of a crowd? You spent time with them. You talked with them. You became familiar with their voice. This is how we learn and know God’s voice.

When you talk with God, and don’t allow him time to respond, you aren’t having a conversation, you are making a speech. When you study your bible and don’t allow God to speak to you, you’re not studying your bible, you’re reading a textbook. We need to allow space and moments for God to talk with us so we can become familiar with His voice. Only then will we be able to pick His voice out from the crowd.

Becky Weaver

CHALLENGE:

Spend time with God this week. While reading your bible or praying, allow God time to speak to you. Really listen and start to learn His voice.

PRAYER:

Ask God to speak to you this week, and to make His presence known.

FRIDAY – “LEARNING TO LISTEN”

I don’t have a soft voice and sometimes you find out just how loud I can be. Sometimes when I would talk to my kids they just couldn’t hear me or they just weren’t paying attention. Either way I would have to use my loud voice that can reach out and grab people. When I use my loud voice I can get their attention and then I can speak and share my thoughts. The Lord has never yelled at me but there are times that I just don’t hear His voice. I have to always be listening!

Isaiah and Jeremiah both knew the voice of the Lord quite well. They knew to be always listening because they never knew quite when He was going to share something important with them. I have learned that when I am quiet before the Lord, that is the time I hear Him best. I am learning to always have an ear tuned to the Lord because He loves to talk with us.

John 10:27 says, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”

Pastor Vern Weaver

BIBLE STUDY:

John 10:1-18

PRAYER:

Things to Pray about:

- That I will always hear the Lord’s voice
- That I will always recognize it
- That I will live listening to the voice of the Lord
- That I will always be a doer and not just a hearer.

SATURDAY – “AN INTRODUCTION TO - DANIEL, SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO”

These four men were constant and steadfast to God, despite the persecution and struggles of the culture they lived in. Tomorrow, on Sunday, we will look at the stories of these men and learn what it means to be truly steadfast. But before we hear from the Sunday Sermon, let’s take a moment to setup some background to these heroes of our faith.

DANIEL:

Below is a list of questions followed by Bible Verses. Read the verses and then answer the questions to learn more about Daniel and his character.

*Question #1: Who was Daniel? Read *Daniel 1:1-21**

*Question #2: Was Daniel blessed for his steadfastness? Read *Daniel 2:48**

SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO:

Below is a similar list of questions followed by Bible Verses. Read the verses and then answer the questions to now learn about these three men.

*Question #1: Why were these men persecuted? Read *Daniel 3:8-23**

*Question #2: What happened because of the steadfastness of these men? Read *Daniel 3:24-30**

FINAL QUESTION: What does it mean to be steadfast? How can we become more steadfast and secure in our walk with Jesus?

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