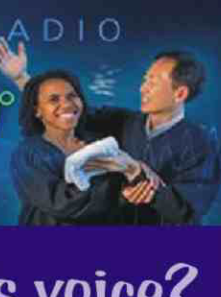




AWR360°
BROADCAST TO BAPTISM



Do you listen to God's voice?



*Prayer is not just asking.
It is listening
for God's orders.*

Billy Graham

EVANGELIST

"You ain't learnin' nothin' when you're talkin'."

These winged words are often attributed to the late Pres. Johnson (among others).

But whether he originally said them or not, they still ring true!

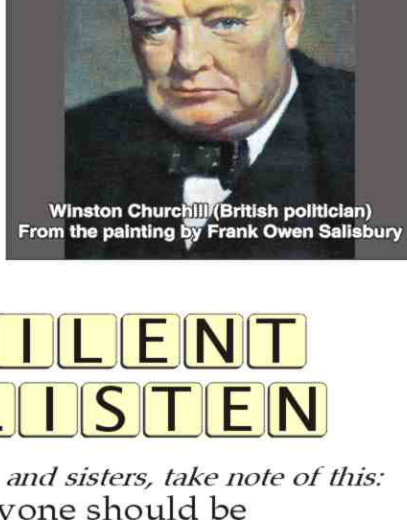


Lyndon Johnson, 36th President of the United States (1963-1969)

And then there is the inimitable Churchill:

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

So there you have it... Billy Graham, Johnson, Bono and Churchill all shared the same sentiment!



Winston Churchill (British politician) From the painting by Frank Owen Salisbury

Rearrange **SILENT** and you get **LISTEN**

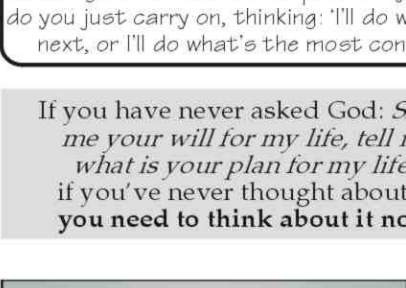


My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this:

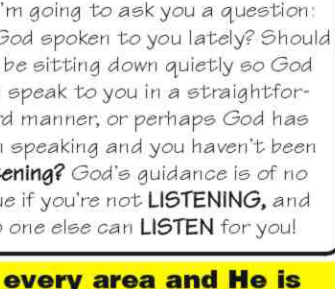
"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."

James 1:19

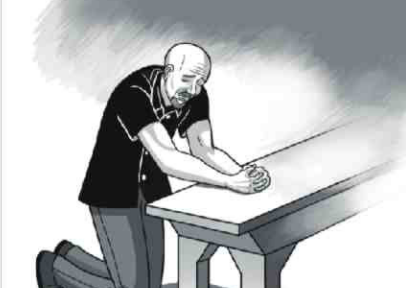
In other words, we need to be silent so we can listen!



But God has a plan, and I ask you before we go further: do you stop talking sometimes, and listen to God, so He can share with you his plan for your life? Have you ever asked Him if you are following his Will and his Purpose for your life? Or do you just carry on, thinking: 'I'll do what comes next, or I'll do what's the most convenient.'

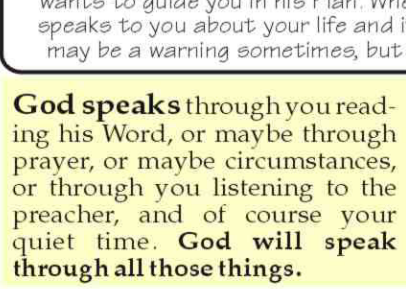


If you have never asked God: *Show me your will for my life, tell me what is your plan for my life* - if you've never thought about it, you need to think about it now.



So I'm going to ask you a question: Has God spoken to you lately? Should you be sitting down quietly so God can speak to you in a straightforward manner, or perhaps God has been speaking and you haven't been listening? God's guidance is of no value if you're not LISTENING, and no one else can LISTEN for you!

All of us need divine guidance in every area and He is ready, willing and committed to showing us, and telling us. So in this tract we talk about listening to God.



So I ask you this: In your prayer time, how much time do you give to listening to God?

Or do you do all the talking?

When you kneel down to pray, do you say, *Heavenly Father, I just want to thank you today*, and you just go on and on, then you say *In Jesus's Name, Amen*, and then you get up and do whatever you want to do. **That's not the way to listen to God!**

It's important for the believer to listen to God; you need to give God time to speak! Because God has a Plan for you, and He wants to show you what the Plan is, He wants to guide you in his Plan. When God speaks, He speaks to you about your life and it's always good. It may be a warning sometimes, but that's also good.



God speaks through you reading his Word, or maybe through prayer, or maybe circumstances, or through you listening to the preacher, and of course your quiet time. **God will speak through all those things.**

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Psalm 122:1

This is a good time in this Bible verse, since God has already done that. He has a Plan for you personally. The point is, as He has a plan, and is willing to guide you in that plan, why not do your part and listen to the preacher?



Listen to these beautiful promises that God makes to you personally!

Promise #1:

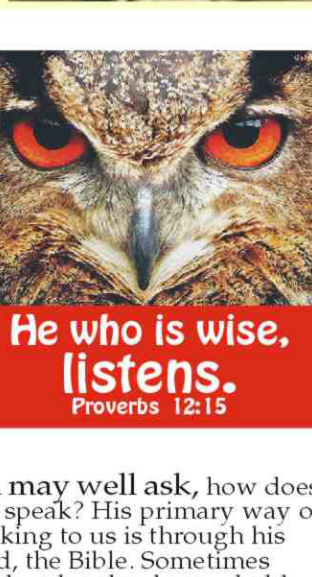
"I will teach you and instruct you in the way which you should go, I will guide you with my eye upon you." Psalm 32:8

Promise #2:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not to your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your path straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

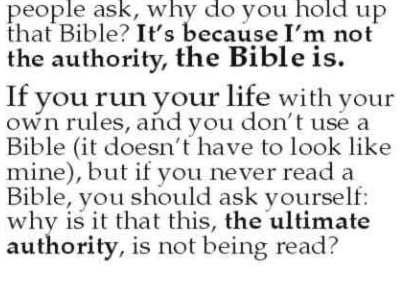
The first service one owes to others in the fellowship consists of listening to them. Just as love of God begins with listening to his Word, so the beginning of love for our brothers and sisters is learning to listen to them.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



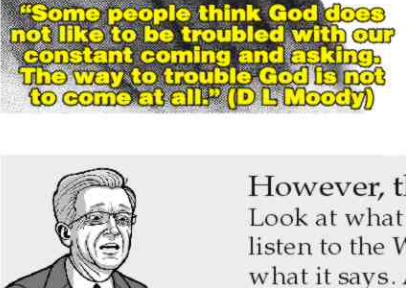
So that's what we're talking about! The very idea that God would guide our life, but in order for Him to do that there is something that we often don't think about, and that is if He's going to be my guide...

I've got to be willing to listen to what He says.



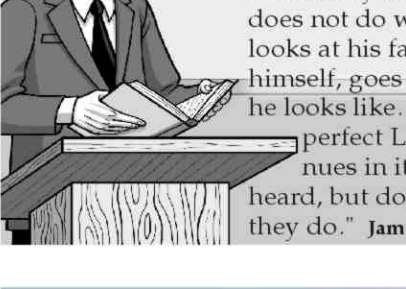
He who is wise, listens.

Proverbs 12:15



You may well ask, how does God speak? His primary way of speaking to us is through his Word, the Bible. Sometimes people ask, why do you hold up that Bible? **It's because I'm not the authority, the Bible is.**

If you run your life with your own rules, and you don't use a Bible (it doesn't have to look like mine), but if you never read a Bible, you should ask yourself: why is it that this, the ultimate authority, is not being read?

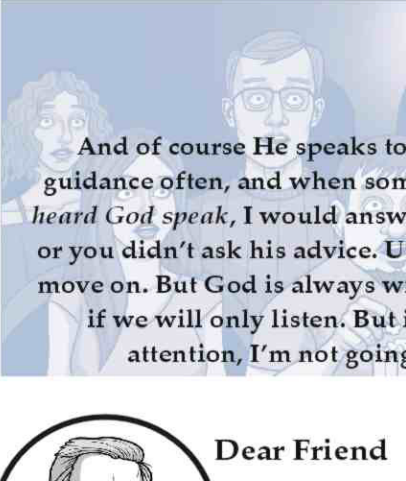


"Some people think God does not like to be troubled with our constant coming and asking. The way to trouble God is not to come at all." (D L Moody)

So sometimes we must ask some questions: OK God, how are You going to do this? Or how am I going to do that?

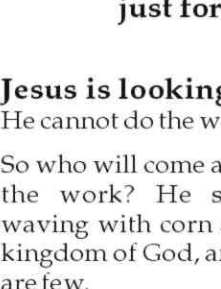
God's answers will always be consistent with Scripture, though sometimes He speaks very quietly. But when He speaks to us, it will always be clear.

So God doesn't waste words, He gets straight to the issue and says, Here's what I want you to do.



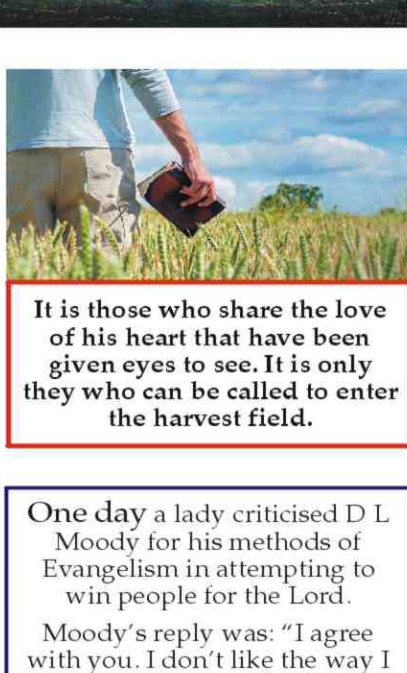
However, there are terms and conditions. Look at what James has to say: "Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the Word, but does not do what it says, is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect Law that gives freedom, and continues in it — not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it — they will be blessed in what they do." James 1, 22-25

And of course He speaks to us through prayer, He gives us guidance often, and when somebody says to me, Well, I've never heard God speak, I would answer it's because you're not listening, or you didn't ask his advice. Unfortunately some brush it off and move on. But God is always willing to speak to any and all of us, if we will only listen. But if I'm not listening and paying attention, I'm not going to follow the Will of God.



Dear Friend

My encouragement to you is to make it your practice every day to get along with God, and before you start doing all the talking, be still and let Him speak, so you can hear the wonderful Plan He has just for you!



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Jesus is looking for help, for He cannot do the work alone.

So who will come and help Him do the work? He sees the fields waving with corn and ripe for the kingdom of God, and the labourers are few.

Yet no one dare presume to come forward and offer himself on his own initiative, it is only those **who listen to God's voice.**

It is those who share the love of his heart that have been given eyes to see. It is only they who can be called to enter the harvest field.



I return to the title of this tract: "Do you listen to God's voice?" It's right here in the Bible!

One day a lady criticised D L Moody for his methods of Evangelism in attempting to win people for the Lord.

Moody's reply was: "I agree with you. I don't like the way I do it either. Tell me, how do you do it?"

She replied: "Oh, I don't do it." Moody responded: "I like my way of doing it better than your way of not doing it."



Want to know more? Here are some useful contact details.

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