

Welcome If you were to become deaf, what sounds would you most miss, and what sounds would you be delighted to no longer hear?

Word Hearing God's Voice

" His sheep follow him because they know his voice" (Jn.10 v 4)

Key Question Why do you think that so many Christians say that they have difficulty in hearing the LORD speak to them?

ELIJAH – a prophet with a keen ear

Read 1 Kings 17 v 1-16. Elijah arrived upon the scene in evil times during the reign of King Ahab. Faith in the LORD had been almost obliterated by Jezebel's purge of the prophets. Obviously Elijah was experienced in hearing God .

In verses 1, 2-4 and 7-9, what were the messages he received?

What do you notice about the content of these messages?

How do you think that Elijah's obedience to God's word affected him physically, emotionally and spiritually?

Time forbids us to consider Elijah's second confrontation with King Ahab, and the successful challenge to the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. (1 Kings 18)

We look instead at the effect upon Elijah of another voice.

Read 1 Kings 19 v 1 – 21

Whose voice did Elijah now listen to? What was said, and what was the outcome?(v2-3)

What was Elijah's physical, emotional and spiritual state by the time he reached Mount Horeb? (v 5-7, v10 & v14)

What did the LORD say to him? (v9b, v11,v13b, & v15-19) and, what was the manner of His speaking?

Do you think there is need for a prophetic voice to our nation? What would you say?

Hearing God for ourselves

We are bombarded with voices; why is it so necessary that we learn to listen to the LORD?

How can we test if it is the LORD speaking?(consider also 2 Tim.3v16-17, & 1 Thess.5v21-22)

Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, "God is the friend of silence. If we really want to pray we must first learn to listen, for in the silence of the heart God speaks...we need to find God and He cannot be found in noise and restlessness. The more we receive in silent prayer the more we can give in our active life. We need silence to be able to touch souls. The essential thing is not what we say but what God says through us."

What tips can cell members give for finding quality time for God in this busy, noisy world?- A time for regular Bible Study and prayer, free from interruptions? (Mark 1v35)

Worship Lead into a period of silence using a suitable song, or the following reading:

Lord, I am silent before you and I offer myself to you; do what you want with me. Help me to be open when you speak to me in the silence; keep my mind quiet and my body relaxed, so that I may truly be still and know you are God, know that you are all I could desire, and know the wonder of your love, my Lord and my God. Come, Lord, I await you.....I worship you...

Witness Elijah was instructed to find a companion, Elisha, to assist him, and ultimately to succeed him. Prayer partnerships are so valuable in listening to God and in witness. Divide into pairs for prayer about your needs and the needs of others. Have you a Prayer Partner?

