

THRIVE AT HOME – GOD SPEAKS – week 3

Monday - Through His Audible Voice - 1 Kings 19:11, 1 Samuel 3:8-11

Hello. Don't you wish it was that simple? Don't you wish that when you were looking for direction, the voice of God would simply say, out loud, "Go and do THIS!" I do! Every week, I am privileged to host a YouTube show through Jesus.net, called "Questions and Responses with Pastor Grant." The number one question I get is, "How do I hear the voice of God?" Well, over the next week, I want to share with you the many ways that God's voice comes to us, because I want you to know God is speaking! Right now! I believe God is speaking to His children every moment of every day and that you can experience His wisdom and guidance in unprecedented ways. The other day, I was working in my office and my friend Ryan walked in. He started the conversation with the words, "Hey Grant." I responded "Hey Ryan," and the conversation carried on from there. It was so simple, and it reminded me of a moment in Scripture when God started a conversation with a young boy named Samuel. God had been calling this young boy, but the boy thought it was someone else. When his mentor finally figured out what was happening, this is the direction he gave to this young listener: "A third time the Lord called, 'Samuel!' And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.' Many times we hear God's voice but we get confused. Or we have trouble believing that God really wants to give us His direction. My question for you today is, "What if it's HIM?" Be bold in believing today that God is directing you. Be confident that you know His voice and that your first response can be, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." Dear Jesus, help us to respond to Your voice today. Direct us with Your wisdom and strength. We are listening, and we want to do what You are calling us to today. Amen. My friend, responding to God can bring a miracle into your life TODAY!

Tuesday – Through His Word and Son - 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 1:1-2, John 10:27

Hello, welcome to a new day that is filled with God's miracle-working power! The other day, my friend Ryan walked into my office and said, "Hey Grant." I responded with my usual, "Hey Ryan." He handed me a book and encouraged me, "You have to read this book. It's the best book on Jesus I have ever read!" My response was, "Even better than the Bible?" And we both laughed. That simple conversation was truthful, light-hearted, connected, and in a miraculous way, God spoke to my heart through it. I heard it said once that no one can say God is not speaking to them if they are holding a Bible in their hands. That is so true! God speaks to us through His Word! "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (II Timothy 3:16-17, NIV) And the main topic of God's Word introduces another way that God speaks to us: He speaks to us through His Son – "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe." (Hebrew 1:1-2, NIV) God can speak to you right now through His Word and His Son. Will you take a few moments right now to open your Bible to John 10:27? Look at these powerful words, in the Word of God, from Jesus: "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27, NIV) My friend, God is speaking, He knows you, and you can follow Him today! He will never lead you astray. His voice of love is calling you to follow and you can do it! Take a moment, and allow God to speak to you as you continue to read John 10. Jesus has an AMAZING promise for you. You can read it right now! Jesus, please speak to my friend, as You cover them with Your promise today. They are safe and secure in Your hand, and I pray that their day will be filled with miracles!

Challenge — Pause & Reflect: Can you recall a recent situation where you chose comfort over obedience? Put this into practice when making decisions: Do comfort, fear, or faith drive this decision? Write down your answer. God gives peace and joy in following Him – even when it doesn't make sense.

Wednesday – Through His Spirit - John 14:15-17, 1 Corinthians 3:16

I felt a stirring in my heart. The name of a friend had come to mind. I felt a prompting to do something with the name but the busyness of the day soon pushed that nudge (I believe it was from God) into the far back corners of my heart and mind. The next day, that stirring was even more pronounced. I couldn't seem to get it out of my head. It was a simple name, and the person who was attached to that name had been going through some challenging times as he walked his wife through her cancer treatment. This time, I was not going to miss this nudge from God! I immediately picked up the phone, and my friend's response to the call did not surprise me, "I am so glad you called. I really need to talk." I am so glad I called and my only regret was that I didn't follow the Holy Spirit's lead earlier! God speaks to us through the Holy Spirit and miracles happen when we respond! Listen to these promises and truths! "If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you." (John 14:15-17, NIV) "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?" (I Corinthians 3:16, NIV) God speaks through His Holy Spirit and that very Spirit of God is inside you right now! The question is, Will you respond to what He

prompts you to do? My friend, what if we chose to say “yes” to every Holy Spirit prompting we felt today? I wonder how many miracles we may get to see through a simple “yes.” At this moment, you may be feeling some tension and asking, “But how can I know for sure it’s Him?” If the prompting you are feeling lines up with God’s Word, will bring encouragement and hope to someone, and ultimately will bring glory to God, it’s HIM! Let’s pray. Holy Spirit, we are listening to You today. When You prompt, we will respond. Make us sensitive to Your quiet whispers. We only want to do Your perfect, and pleasing will today. Amen. Have you ever wondered why God whispers? I believe it’s because when God whispers, we have to lean in close, intentionally draw near, devote our full attention, and become very quiet so we don’t miss a word. What a wonderful way to hear God’s voice: close, focused, and quiet. I pray you stay close to God all day long. Never forget my friend...

Challenge — Pause & Reflect: What specific worldly voice has been shaping your thoughts recently? Name it before God and invite Him to quiet it today. Follow His lead if it means shifting a habit or setting a healthy boundary.

Thursday – Through His Creation - Romans 1:20, Psalms 121:3-8

Hello. When was the last time you took a walk? I love to go on walks with my wife. I believe Laurel and I often have our best conversations when we go for a long walk, and it’s such a simple recipe for connection. We take our dogs, we choose a familiar path, we ignore our phones, we put one foot in front of the other, and we talk. I love it! Truthfully, our walks are a little different than other people’s. Laurel is legally blind, and so when we walk, we have to stay connected physically and verbally. I have to watch for anything that may cause her to stumble and often have to say, “there is a step coming” or “step to the right, there’s mud.” I don’t mind it at all because I love serving my wife, but I have also noticed that I often get so focused looking down, that I forget to look up at the amazing world Jesus created for us. Another way that God speaks to us is through His creation! “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.” (Romans 1:20, NIV) I don’t know about you but I love how majestic mountains can speak peace to my soul. I love how a slow-moving river can bring calm to my frantic heart. I love how a soaring eagle can call me into God’s presence. The key is, I have to stop, look, and listen to experience God in His creation. When was the last time you took a long walk and just listened to God speak to you through His creation? Do it today! Do it right now! He will speak to you, and your conversation with Him could be the start of a miracle! Don’t get stuck looking down at the path in front of you. Look up and see the majesty of God! If you are afraid you might stumble, remember God’s promise from Psalm 121: “He will not let your foot slip — he who watches over you will not slumber, indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life, the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.” (Psalms 121:3-8, NIV) A friend recently asked me about walking with Laurel and if I ever got tired of seeing for two people. God spoke to me in that moment and I said, “The beauty is that I not only get to see God’s creation, but I also get to describe it to Laurel.” Laurel “sees” with her ears, and the things she shares with me about the sounds of God’s creation are amazing! No matter your challenge today, God is speaking! Stop, look up, and listen.

Friday – Through His People - John 16:33, James 3:17, Luke 12:12

Hello. I have a friend named Larry. Larry is a humble servant who hears God and often sends me an email when God speaks to his heart. The other day he wrote this to me: Morning Grant, God told me to write you so, I am. I know why I'm prompted to email you, cuz you're probably the busiest guy I know. And if prompted, it must mean you need to be prayed for... so here I am. The last thing you need is a long text from me... So I'll keep it concise... here goes... Tony Evans writes, "It's one thing for the world to be falling apart. It's another thing for you to be falling apart with it. We can't control the world, but we can always control our response to it. We can have peace even when we have problems. But when we have peace, our problems won't have us." Jesus said clearly, "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage: I have overcome the world." (John 16:33 NIV). May you be filled with peace, Grant, knowing that you are prayed for and God is right beside you. As you face whatever lands on you today. Carry His Peace, Larry My friend, I needed to hear EXACTLY what Larry wrote to me that morning. God spoke to my heart through my spiritual brother and together, God and Larry changed the trajectory of my entire day! His words reminded me of James 3:17: “But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.” (James 3:17, NIV) His words also reminded me of Luke 12:12, “For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.” (Luke 12:12, NIV) Has God ever spoken to you through a friend or a family member? It was Him! What if God is asking you to speak to someone today on His behalf? What a joy to partner with God today in making sure His voice is heard loud and clear. If God is prompting you to be a “Larry” today, do it! What a miracle you could be in someone else’s life!