A Voice From Heaven

Tony Mauck · Luke 3:21–22

INTRODUCTION

- If God spoke to individuals like this three times in Jesus' ministry that we've cited, the question is sometimes raised. How about little old me? Why not me? Have you heard the voice of God?
- If God is still speaking audibly to people today, sign me up. If he's still doing that, and he's certainly capable of doing that, we've read that in the scriptures. This is not about God's ability or power.
- Those who did actually hear the voice of God audibly were not necessarily faithful to him.

1 Why Is God's Voice Not Audibly Heard?

2 Timothy 3:16–17

- All scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- It has always been God's intention to provide an objective, ultimate and final standard by which he would guide men and equip them for everything that they might need.
- We don't lack anything when we listen to the God breathed information that he has provided to guide us.

2 Voices From Heaven Confirmed the Word of God

John 12:30; 2 Peter 1:16–21

- In the absence of a final and objective source of instruction available to all, God communicated in a variety of ways that indicated his presence and conveyed man's responsibility to serve him.
- Miracles, tangible evidences, witnessed by hundreds, yes, thousands in biblical times, confirmed the presence and the work and the word of God.
- We did not follow cleverly devised tales.
- When that generation died, and when the apostles were no more, confirmation would no longer be necessary.

3 We Walk by Faith, Not by Sight

John 20:29; 1 Corinthians 15:6; 2 Corinthians 5:7

- Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.
- We've not seen the resurrected Lord with our eyes. We don't need to. That's the point of John chapter 20.
- Reliable historical evidence suggests that Jesus is risen.
- One of the problems as people clamor for this tangible evidence that God is really there, that I'm really his child, that we're looking to walk by sight rather than by faith.

4 Where Does Our Assurance Come From?

1 John 3:22–24; Romans 8:16

- Whatever we ask, we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing in his sight. That's our assurance.
- We have the Spirit in the final and ultimate and objective form of Scripture to guide us into all of God's will.
- When our lives measure up with this word and we seek to do the things that are pleasing to God, we walk by faith. We have this assurance.

5 Discerning Events That Take Place

Colossians 2:12; Proverbs 3:5–6; Philippians 2:12–13

- Trust in the Lord with all your heart. And do not lean on your own understanding, and all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths.
- When I have been baptized into Christ, and I rise to walk in newness of life because of my trust in the Lord and my continued trust, I have every assurance that he is directing my steps.
- What that doesn't mean is that I'm able to discern every event that takes place as an act of God and that he's pulling all the levers in my life.
- In whatever circumstance we find ourselves in, we can choose to serve the Lord. We can choose to trust him.
- For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

6 Answered Prayer

James 5:15–16; 1 John 5:14–15; Philippians 1:23

- If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.
- Ultimately, prayer will not keep a person from dying.
- If they are righteous, if they are Christians, they are in a better, far better place than being here with us.
- That doesn't mean that God hasn't heard our prayer. Or that he hasn't answered. It's just that the answer is no.

THE CHALLENGE

It's the gospel, God's powerful word calling you today. Won't you respond while we stand and sing?

MY NOTES