

“Still Small Voice”
By Bob Heitzler
Sunday, January 31st, 2016

Good morning! You may be seated. I am so thankful to be here today. Our God truly is a great God to us. As I get situated here... I am thankful to be saved. I am thankful to know God as my personal Savior, and I am also thankful to know that I can listen to the voice of God speak to me daily. Daily, at different times in my life; I'm going to share a couple of those moments today.

But I remember the first time I came to this church, there was such a strong anointing of God, and I didn't know what it was. I didn't know what was going on. And, I remember there was an altar call, and I remember going to the altar, and the friends that I was with stopped me, and said, "You know what? You don't know what you're getting yourself into." And, I gave in, and I left. And I went back across the street, and I went to the Helm Club and tried to drink what just happened away. And I remember, going to my first Scripture, and I remember, back in December of 1978, praying that, "God if you're real, please let me know; there's got to be more to life than getting married, having kids and dying! I really need to know." Now, I had forgotten about that prayer. Now, it's October of '79, ten months later...

1 Kings 19:9-10 *And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.*

So God came to the cave, and said, "Why are you here? Why are you here?" And I'll explain that in a few seconds.

1 Kings 19:11-12 *And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.*

And that's the title of my message today, is: "Still Small Voice." I remember going back to the Helm Club, and I kept drinking and drinking and drinking and drinking, so I went back to my cave, thinking that was my comfort zone, "I'm safe here. I'll be able to forget what happened in a few minutes." But God chose for me not to get drunk that night. He said, "I am answering the prayer that you prayed back in December of 1978." First He said, "Bob, I am answering the prayer that you prayed back in 1978." As I looked around the room, I didn't know where that voice came from. And nobody in that room knew about that prayer. So I knew God spoke to me for the first time. I got up and left, immediately, and one of my friends said, "Hey, where you going?" and I said, "God just spoke to me, and I got to get out of here." And I left. And I never saw them ever again after that. I don't even know where they went to, after that. But I remember going back to the church the next day; I was there five hours early, waiting for the Center to open up. And I remember getting baptized in Jesus' name. I remember coming out of that tank, and everything—all my sins were washed away. And now, I am seeking the voice of my Heavenly Father.

At the time, Christmas cards were coming out, at the time, and I remember the first Christmas card I read was Isaiah 9:6. The part I'm talking about is, "...The everlasting Father..." And some of you

know my testimony, my dad kicked me out of the house because I just got into a lot of trouble; I'll just keep it at that. And my dad didn't want me to come back, so now I'm seeking my Heavenly Father's voice and direction, because this is all new to me. If I get emotional, it's because I love God dearly; I just do. He's my life, He's my all in all. And the voice, I was seeking for the voice. Coming from a background of farmers and we raised our own vegetables and stuff in our yard, and understanding about sheep a little bit, I'm going to turn to John chapter ten,

John 10:1 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.*

That right there tells me there's only one way to Heaven. There is no other way; you have to go through the door. Jesus is that door.

John 10:2-3 *But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name...*

He didn't say, "Y'all come on in!" No, He called me, He said, "Bob," just like He said, "Parrish," just like He said, "Ken," just like he said the rest of us in this room; He called us by name.

John 10:3-4 *...and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.*

So we have to know the voice of God speaking to us, because there's many voices in the world today that try to impersonate the voice of God. But I guarantee you, that when God speaks to you, it's going to line up with the Word of God. It's going to; it just does. You know?

John 10:5 *And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.*

Now, I remember back then—I don't know if it was a National Geographic show I saw—but I remember there was a whole bunch of sheep-herders, shepherds, standing there, and they were calling their sheep over, and the only ones that came over were the ones that the sheep knew their master's voice. Even though they were all shepherds, only one, and I realized that I want to know my Father's voice.

I want to share two short stories—and I promise to keep them short—where I heard God speak to me:

Some of you know that I lost parts of my fingers (holding his right hand up, showing that he only has most of his thumb and some of his index finger). I got it pulled into a machine that takes big plastic sheets and turns them into small plastic sheets. I know Arman George worked there at the time. I remember my hand being caught in the machine and I was starting to freak out. Of course, natural reactions, right? And God said, "Bob, just stay calm!!" So I was calm. I was making decisions, how to get my hand out of the machine, and for the next hour or so, I was at the hospital. But God spoke to me and said, "Bob, just stay calm!!" He knows my full name is Robert James Heitzler, but he calls me Bob; it's more personal to me. You know?

Another story was, I headed over to the church real early in the morning because I had a *huge* fishing event happening. And I saw the Radar system, just the skies were just filled with storms after storms after storms after storms coming our way. And, I was on my way to pick up Aaron George that day. I know Aaron remembers this. I picked him up, and, as he touched the door-handle of the truck I

was driving, God said, "Just be positive; God will bless this day." As the windshield wipers are going like this (motioning with his hand, waving back and forth at a fairly brisk rate), you know? So, he got in the truck, and I said, "You know what? God's going to bless this day." So, we drove from Cedar Street to Jackson and Belvidere. We got out of the truck—remember that, Aaron?—we saw a blue circle in the sky. And we got all the bait from the Salmon Stop, there; got to the parking lot of the church, and that blue sky was bigger. By the time we left, that morning, at eight A.M., there was not a cloud in the sky. But God told me, just spoke to me. So I share, sometimes we have tragedies, and sometimes, as simple as the weather, God can speak to us through everything. Does that make sense? Amen.

Now, sometimes God speaks to us, and speaks to me, because He wants to correct us. That happens, right? Even our own natural fathers will correct us at times, or paddle our bottom, or send us to our room, or stand in the corner, right? So let's go to:

Hebrews 12:5 *And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:*

So, sometimes God has to comb our hair, or fry our bacon, take us to the tool shed, and correct us.

Hebrews 12:6-8 *For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.*

I don't want to be a spiritual bastard at all. I want God to correct me. I want God to hug me. I want God to encourage me. I want God to speak to me. I want God to just constantly correct me when needed. I don't want to stand before him, and have Him say, "Sorry, you're not making it in." I want to hear those words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of the Lord." Those are the words I want to hear.

My last Scripture; God speaks to us:

2 Peter 1:16 *For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*

So, we're not following fables; this is the real thing. God is real, and God does speak to us. God wants us, God desires us to seek Him on a daily basis and seek His voice in all our decisions, from weather to our finances, what car to buy, whatever the case may be, where to live... God wants to help us. All we've got to do is say, "Jesus," and He's there immediately. And, also, the second part is, we are eye-witnesses of His majesty. We're all witnesses what God has done for our lives. We're all witnesses what God has done for each of our lives. You know? As we keep going, here:

2 Peter 1:17-18 *For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.*

Even Peter heard the voice of God speaking that day (Matthew 1:1-8).

2 Peter 1:19-21 *We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day stars arise in your hearts: Knowing*

this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

God speaks to us, through the Holy Ghost, through our lives. It's not a figment; it's the real thing. We need to seek the voice of God every day, and love to hear the voice of God. Sometimes it will be correction, but we need it. We want God to love us, right?

Thank you. God bless you.

