

March 11, 2018

Sermon Series: *iSurrender*

Title: Robbers of our Obedience

Premise: Hearing the Voice of God

Text: Psalms 32:8-9 NKJV

Psalm 32:8–9 (NKJV) ⁸ *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.* ⁹ *Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you.*

Psalm 32:8–9 (NLT) ⁸ *The Lord says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.* ⁹ *Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control.”*

Introduction:

New series of messages called, ***“iSurrender”*** we’re going to be focusing on “How to hear and recognize the leading/voice of God” in our lives.

- How do you know when God is leading you or speaking to you?
- Do you even believe God still speaks today, to us?
- If you believe God still speaks and leads, and I do, how do you discern His leading through all the noise that inundates us today?

Truth is that many Christians struggle with this?

There are those who live in the extremes!

‘Never hear nothing, just live life to the best of their ability and are not aware or open to the possibility that God may be giving them some direction in life.

‘Those who hear everything and often say – God told me this and that.... On and on!

Then there are a lot of people in between...

‘Believe God leads but not sure or confident of His leading in their life.

Here are some of the things I’ve heard or experienced over the years (sometimes right, but mostly dangerous):

- Those who are led by coincidence (fate or luck) mentality.
- Those who are led by feelings (Barry Manilow approach)
- Those who are led by “a word” from someone else – (Word Chasers, Other Peoples Experiences) – Prophetic Ministry.
- Those who are inspired by “dreams” and “visions” – what do your dreams mean; numerologist!
- Those who subscribed to the “open door” or “closed door” method
- Those who are led by pressure from other people (family, friends or the environment they live in).
- Those who use “God told me” to silence your counsel or an alternative approach.

(By the way, because we are human, no one hears perfectly)

I. God still Leads Us

⁸ *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.*

⁸ *The Lord says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.*

Next time we will spend more time focusing on How He leads and How we recognize His voice in our lives.

Here’s a clue though.... And this is a real Challenge for most of us!

Isaiah 55:8-9 NIV – *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways, my ways declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*

1. God has thoughts and way
2. His thoughts and ways are different than ours
3. His thoughts and way are HIGHER than ours

Hebrews 11:6 NIV – *“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”*

1. It takes faith to please God and believe God
2. It takes even more faith to **COME to HIM** and believe that “whatever He’s thinking” is for my benefit and will result in my good (reward).

The implication of this verse is ... Not God watching over you to correct you when you mess up, but to guide you/us from making detrimental decisions that could destroy our lives.

- Not to **confuse** but to clarify
- Not to **abuse** but to give us an advantage in life

(The guidance of a loving, caring father)

II. Since God still Leads Us, We Must Listen

Psalms 32:9 - *“Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you.”*

The Wild Horse runs when

- It’s afraid of its trainer
- It does not trust (self-reliant)
- It is uncomfortable
- It is stubborn or untrained (to be untamed is to be untrained)

It’s amazing How many Christian “run” when things get tough because they don’t trust the training of God in their lives.

Be not like the horse or mule ... which have **NO UNDERSTANDING**... (NO MIND or LOSS OF MIND when fear or pressure comes)

1. Do not be Untamable
2. Do not be without Understanding
3. Do not be afraid to Come Near
4. Be Obedient

BIG POINT: OBEDIENCE IS THE PRIMARY POSTURE TO HEARING AND RECONIZING THE VOICE OF GOD IN OUR LIVES.

Hebrews 5:13-14 NIV - **13**) Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness (*right-thinking about God*) **14**) But solid food is for the mature, who **by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil (trained themselves to think right about God).**

Okay, Obedience is the Posture to Hearing and Recognize the Voice of God.

1. **No need of asking God to make things clear, to reveal His will in your life, if you have not resolved the YES or NO issue!** (Are you willing and obedient?)

- **Isaiah 6:1-11** NIV (v.8 “Here I am. Send me.”)
- **Acts 26:12-29** NIV (v.19 “So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.”)

2. **No more hinderances to having an obedient heart.**

We’re not likely to hear anything from God until we’ve abandoned our tug of war with Him, between our will and His.

We must draw a clear connection between obedience and hearing God. To having a tender and submissive heart; to let go of fear and ego. The tender, submissive heart is the one sensitive enough to continually detect God’s leading and to pinpoint the strange, alternative voices of the enemy, fear and ego that seek to lead us astray.

Until, we decide to, “Surrender.”

3. **The real deal about Obedience**

- a. Not intimidating (God is not some heavenly tyrant trying to beat us into submission)
- b. Not oppressive (God is not some heavenly master that’s trying to suck the life out of us – he is life giving)
- c. Not punitive (God is not some heavenly umpire waiting on you to swing and miss for the 3rd time so

He can kick you out of the game of life). Devoid of intimacy and relationship.

- d. Not legalistic or lacking affection (instead its born out of tenderness of His heart towards us and His desire to steer us in the best for our lives.

John 10:4-5, 27: Jesus talks about being the Shepherd and the sheep knowing his voice and them not following the voice of a stranger.

v. 27 – My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

Listening to the voice of God comes out the place of Obedience but through the lens and heart of a caring Shepherd.

CONCLUSION:

What are we afraid of when it comes to Surrendering to God, fully!

Do you have an eternal YES, in your heart? If not, let’s get there together!