

PSALM 46:10

"Be still, and know that I am God."

JOHN 10:4

"... he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice."

JUDGES 6:36-40

36 Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised— 37 look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said." 38 And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew—a bowlful of water.

39 Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece, but this time make the fleece dry and let the ground be covered with dew."

40 That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.

NOTE TO LEADERS

For anyone in your group who is not yet a member of CityHill Church and would like to hear more about the vision of CityHill and ask any questions they may have, we'll be hosting a "looking in time" after the services this Sunday. Looking in time is also the first step to becoming a member of the church.

START TALKING

1. What stood out to you in Sunday's message, and why?
2. Two truths and a lie game. Each person has a turn to give three statements about themselves to the rest of the group. Two of the statements should be true and one should be a lie. The goal is for the rest of the group to try and guess the lie.

START THINKING

1. Read Psalm 46:10. What does this verse mean to you? How do you practice stillness?
2. Read John 10:4. What do you think is required on our part to know The Shepherd's voice?

START SHARING

1. Read Judges 6:36-39. Why do you think Gideon asked for a sign not once but twice? Have you ever needed confirmation from God on what you heard from Him? Share that experience. How did you feel? How did that impact your journey in discerning God's voice?
2. Read Psalm 46:10. Which do you struggle with: being still or knowing God? Based on what Chanelle shared on Sunday, what next steps will you take to get better at being still and knowing God?

START PRAYING

Lord God, we pray that we can be still today and just rest in You so that we can spend time getting to know You deeper, and hear your voice more clearly.

START DOING

To have a great relationship with God there needs to be two-way communication. Consider your current relationship with God; how would you characterise it? What do you need to do to improve the two-way communication? Commit to taking one practical step towards growing your relationship with Him.



This Sunday, in part two of our series on prayer, Chanelle Bester shared a message on listening to God. She covered three points: hearing, listening and finally, the Gift.

1. Hearing vs Listening

Hearing comes first before listening. We all have different experiences when it comes to hearing God's voice - it can be through journaling, worship music, devotions, scripture... etc.

Psalm 46:10 says: *"Be still, and know that I am God."* We can look at this scripture in two parts. Firstly, being still which means stopping, pausing what you're doing, putting everything aside and just being still. When we switch off to everything going on around us, we give space and place for God to come in.

Second is **knowing** that He is God. If you have a relationship with God - spending time in The Word and prayer, going to church, finding community in LifeGroup - you will know Him. And when you're in a position of knowing God, you'll learn to recognise His voice: *"... he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice."* John 10:4

Many of us have asked the question, "but how will I know it's God and not my own thoughts or desires/the devil/friends manipulating me etc.?" In Philippians 4:7, Paul says to us: *"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Jesus Christ."* In other words, God's voice always comes with a deep sense of peace.

2. Listening to God

In Judges 6: 36 – 38, we read about Gideon, who had been walking with God and was acting as Judge. God's angel had appeared to him (and had been confirmed as an angel that was from God). Then God had also helped Gideon to destroy the Altar of Baal (at night because Gideon was a little afraid). People already knew him as Jerubbaal - the guy whose name meant; "let Baal contend against him". Yet he still felt unsure and maybe a little insecure, so He just needed to check if he was hearing correctly: 36 *Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand **as you have promised**— 37 look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said."* 38 **And that is what happened.** *Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew—a bowlful of water.*

"... as you have promised" - Gideon is just checking and confirming that he had heard right. We can identify with this in our own lives - we've all had times where we're not sure if we heard God right.

"...And that is what happened" - God didn't engage in a debate or confirm His word. He just understood where Gideon was at and honoured Gideon's request. If anyone understands where you find yourself, it is God!

39 **Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece, but this time make the fleece dry and let the ground be covered with dew."** 40 *That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.* Judges 6: 39 – 40

"Then Gideon said, to God" - we notice a beautiful backwards and forwards conversation with God. **"Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request.."** - Gideon asks God to let him test once more.

After this, Gideon goes ahead and follows God's instruction because he is certain of what he heard from God. His confidence must have been evident to all his men as from this point forward, he acted as someone that was on mission for the one and only God.

Now we shouldn't all go out and think we can test God - this is most definitely not what is happening in Gideon's story. (*We should not test Christ.* 1 Corinthians 10:9). Gideon was a believer that is just asking for confirmation regarding the instructions he was given - he was not questioning God's existence. We can also ask God for confirmation if we're not sure we heard Him clearly.

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him." 1 Corinthians 2:9. We can't see what's in the future, but if we listen to God, step-by-step He will take us there.

3. The Gift

God has given us a beautiful gift - the Holy Spirit as Helper: *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, ...You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.* John 14:16-17. Often, we'll feel a nudge or a prompting from the Holy Spirit, confirming what we've heard from God.

We have the gift to talk to God directly, but we need to be still and be in relationship with God (know Him).

When we start listening to God we'll have stories to share on how we acted on His instruction and the beautiful fruit that came from it.