

Swayed By "A STILL SMALL VOICE" 1 KINGS 19:12

1. **WHAT IS THE STILL, SMALL VOICE?**

1. IT IS THE VOICE OF GOD SPEAKING TO US
2. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE WOULD WISH FOR MORE STRIKING SIGNS OF GOD'S PRESENCE AND POWER. IN THE WORLD AND LIFE AS MOSES, AND THE BURNING BUSH, GIDEON, AND THE WET FLEECE ON THE DRY ROCK, OR ISAIAH, AND THE SUN DIAL GOING BACK. BUT WHAT COULD WE ASK MORE EFFECTIVE THAN THE VOICE OF CONSCIENCE?

II. HOW DOES THE STILL, SMALL VOICE COME TO US?

1. NEGATIVELY

- NOT IN THE WIND
 - DESCRIPTION OF THE WIND
 - SYMBOL OF POPULAR OPINION
 - HIGH SCHOOL GIRL AND POPULARITY
- NOT IN THE EARTHQUAKE.
 - DESCRIPTION OF THE EARTHQUAKE
 - SYMBOL OF DRAMATIC CATASTROPHE; NOT NECESSARILY THE VOICE OF GOD.
- CHALDEE: "THE ANGELS OF COMMOTION"
- NOT IN THE FIRE.
 - DESCRIPTION OF THE FIRE
 - SYMBOL OF FLESHLY IMPULSES; YOUR FIRST IMPULSE, OR NATURAL REACTION NOT NECESSARILY THE WILL OF GOD.

2. POSITIVELY

A. INTUITIVE INFLUENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- "FOR OUTWARD GOD HE FINDETH NOT WHO FINDS NOT GOD WITHIN."

- THE CHRISTIAN IS TO BE TELLED BY THE H.S. THAT HE FINDETH NOT GOD WITHIN.

B. CONFIRMED BY THE WORD OF GOD

- GOD ALWAYS LEADS US ACCORDING TO, AND NEVER CONTRARY TO, THE WORD OF GOD.

- GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORDS.

C. CONFIRMED BY PROVIDENTIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- LITTLE GIRL WHO SAID, "SOMEBODY HAS BUILT BRIDGES FOR US ALL THE WAY!"

- GOD OPENS AND CLOSES DOORS PROVIDENTIALLY.

D. QUIET, PRAYERFUL MEDITATION

III. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOD'S STILL, SMALL VOICE BREAKS THROUGH TO US?

1. VICTORY OVER DISCOURAGEMENT

A. THE CAUSES OF ELIJAH'S DESPONDENCY

- BODILY WEARINESS

- LOSS OF HIS OCCUPATION - INACTIVITY

B. THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISCOURAGEMENT

- LIFE WITHOUT HOPE DRAWS NECTAR IN AN SIEVE, AND HOPE WITHOUT AN OBJECT CANNOT LIVE.

- A SENSE OF FAILURE

- (A) HE PROBABLY THOUGHT THE MIRACLE AT CARMEL WOULD LEAD TO THE CONVERSION OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY.

- (B) TESTING TIMES MUST COME FOR ALL GOD'S SERVANTS: EXAMPLE OF SAVONAROLA, HUSS, LUTHER, LIVINGSTONE.

- LOSS OF CONTACT WITH GOD

NEW jet plane "equipped with a radar system that locks the plane onto the target"

CHAPTER I. "I JOY HAVE LITTLE"

B. HOW GOD DEALS WITH DESPONDENCY

(1). HE REFRESHED HIS BODY WITH SLEEP,

"THE INNOCENT SLEEP,

SLEEP THAT KNITS UP THE RAVELLED SLEEVE OF CARE,
BALM OF HURT MINDS, GREAT NATURE'S SECOND COURSE,
CHIEF NOURISHER IN LIFE'S FEAST."

(2). HE SPREAD A TABLE FOR HIM IN (3). HE ASKED THE SEARCHING QUESTION,

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ELIJAH?"

(4). HE GAVE HIM A TASK TO DO, V. 15, 16.

(5). HE REMINDED HIM THAT HE WAS NOT ALONE, V. 18.

2. VICTORY OVER FEAR.

A. GOD'S WORD ON FEAR

(1). NOT OF GOD, II TIM. 1:7

(2). PERFECT LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR, I JNO. 4:18

(3). FEAR AND PRAYER, PS. 34:4

(4). " " TRUST, ISA. 12:2

B. LITTLE BOY WHO SAID, "I'M NOT AFRAID NOW"

3. VICTORY OVER UNCERTAINTY.

A. GOD'S WORD ON THIS MATTER

(1). I KINGS 18:21, "BETWEEN 2 OPINIONS"

(2). MT. 6:24, SERVE TWO MASTERS

(3). HOSEA 10:2, HEART DIVIDED IS BUT TO THE FIRE

(4). LUKE 9:62, HARD TO PLOW, LOOKYBACK

(5). I COR. 14:8, TRUMPET GIVE UNCERTAIN SOUND

(6). JAMES 1:8, DOUBLE MINDED MAN

IV. LESSONS FROM THE STILL SMALL VOICE

1. THE QUIETEST INFLUENCES IS OFTEN THE MOST POWERFUL.

"THE QUIET SHINING OF THE SUN EFFECTS MORE THAN

A. THE BLUSTER OF THE STORM."

"TRUTH, PRESSED TO EARTH, SHALL RISE AGAIN,

THE ETERNAL YEARS OF GOD ARE HERS;

BUT ERROR, WOUNDED, WRITES IN PAIN

AND DIEST AMONG HER WORSHIPPERS"

B. CHALDEE: "A VOICE OF THE ANGELS SINGING IN SILENCE"

C. "THE RAGING FIRE, THE ROARING WIND,

THY BOUNDLESS POWER DISPLAY;

BUT IN THE GENTLER BREEZE WE BIND

THY SPIRIT'S VIEWLESS WAY.

THE DEW OF HEAVEN IS LIKE THY GRACE,

IT STEALS IN SILENCE DOWN;

BUT WHERE IT LIGHTS, THE FAVORED PLACE

BY RICHEST FRUITS IS KNOWN."

2. THE FORCE OF LOVE IS ALWAYS GREATER THAN THAT OF STERNNESS

A. WIND, STORM, FIRE REMINDUS OF THE WRATH OF GOD

B. THE GENTLE STILL SMALL VOICE LOOKS FORWARD TO JESUS,

WHO DID NOT STRIVE, NOR CRY, NOR WAS HIS VOICE HEARD IN

THE STREETS.

ESTIMATING LIES THAT COULD NOT VIT GOD, A FRIEND;

THE FAIRNESS OF GAVAROLY, THAT PARTNER, FRIENDS;

3/15/87 - Pasadena B. C.

H. M. 10/24/54 Newwood B. C. St. Pete - 9/12/82

Notes for "SWAYED BY A STILL SMALL VOICE"

The still small voice of God can bring us out of our "Cave Moods." Often we, like Elijah, withdraw into our "cave Moods" and lodge there.

Our minds and hearts go into hiding.

Elijah was free from Ahab and Jezebel, but he was a prisoner of HIMSELF.

He had shut the sunlight of God's love out of his life, and he had drawn the shutters of his heart.

Have you sometimes felt like that?

It can happen so easily if we fail to stand up for Jesus Christ. We don't have to deny him.

"When Jesus came to Golgotha they hanged Him on a tree,
They drove great nails through hands and feet,

and made a Calvary;

They crowned Him with a crown of thorns,
red were His wounds and deep.

For those were crude and cruel days,
and human flesh was cheap.

When Jesus came to Birmingham, they simply passed
him by,

They never hurt a hair of Him, they only let him die;
For men had grown more tender,

and they would not give him pain,

They only just passed down the street,
and left him in the rain.

Still Jesus cried, "Forgive them, for they know not
what they do,

And still it rained the winter rain

that chilled him through and through;

The crowds went home and left the streets
without a soul to see,

And Jesus crouched against a wall and cried for
Calvary."

-- G.A. Studdert Kennedy, "Indifference,"
in The Sorrows of God (New York: Harper, 1924).

When we crucify Christ afresh by our indifference,
it is little wonder that we feel like withdrawing
into a cave of guilt & despair, but the good news of
the Gospel assures us that is not necessary!