



Part 4 - Ready and Listening

November 30, 2025

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3

1. When God's Word Feels "Rare" (1 Sam 3:1)

- Israel was spiritually drifting and doing whatever they wanted.
- Only a faithful few (ex: Ruth, Hannah) were seeking the LORD.
- God's Word wasn't absent... people simply weren't listening.
- Samuel grew up around the things of God, but still didn't know God's voice yet.
- 👉 *We only recognize someone's voice after intentional time with them.*

2. Samuel's Night of Calling (1 Sam 3:2–10)

- Samuel served the LORD faithfully in the Tabernacle.
- Three times he heard a voice and assumed it was Eli.
- Eli finally realized the LORD was calling the boy.
- The LORD came and *stood there* - a visible/physical appearance of God the Son.
- **Samuel's Response:** "*Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.*"
 - 👉 "listening" = a readiness to obey

3. Two Ways of Living — Samuel vs. Eli

Eli:

- Spiritually dull, lukewarm, indifferent.
- Knew God's truth but didn't obey.
- Had many chances to repent... but didn't.
- Resigned to judgment instead of turning back.

Samuel:

- Young, humble, attentive.
- Ready to hear and obey.
- Became a trustworthy prophet — none of his words "fell to the ground."

Key Contrast: 👉 *Eli knew God's voice... Samuel obeyed it.*

4. How the LORD Speaks Today (1 Sam 3:21; Matt 28:20)

- Jesus appeared to Samuel through the Word.
- Jesus now speaks to us through the Scriptures.
- The Holy Spirit lives in us, guiding us into truth.
- When we open Scripture, we meet with the living God.
- **Our Prayer:** 🙌 *“Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.”*

5. Pressing On Instead of Drifting (Phil 3; Matt 16)

- Jesus begins to shape our heart after His.
- We begin pressing on toward Christ (Philippians 3:12–14).
- And pressing against the gates of darkness (Matthew 16:18) by His power.
- 1 John 5:5 - followers of Jesus overcome the world through His strength
- **Our Call:** 🙌 *Don't drift like Eli. **Press on like Samuel.***

REFLECTION & APPLICATION

1. How familiar am I with God's voice? Am I spending intentional time in Scripture? Do I ask God to speak... and expect Him to?

2. READ: Philippians 3:12–14. Am I drifting spiritually or pressing on? Where do I see complacency? What's one step of obedience I know God is calling me to?

3. READ: Matthew 16:13–18. How does Jesus want to use me to push back the darkness? Where is God revealing spiritual needs around me? Who in my life needs to see the hope of Christ?

4. What do I need to repent from today? What would it look like to respond like David... rather than Eli (2 Samuel 12:13)?