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Being Ruled by God's Peace

Many times in trying to find out what the will of God is for our lives, we find ourselves in a battle to hear Him. Sometimes it is hard to distinguish God's voice because we have seared our conscience by disobedience and while other times it is simply because we have so many other voices on the inside of us trying to tell us what to do. How many times have you thought you heard God but just were not sure if it was really Him? Have you hesitated in doing something because of fear? Maybe you tried to follow instructions that you thought were from God and found out that it wasn't Him at all. Circumstances can be so intimidating that it is hard to know what the truth is.

Like you, in the past, I also have found myself in a battle to hear God's voice. I wish that I had a red cell phone that came directly from Heaven that way I would never have to question if it was God that I was hearing or not. Why is it so hard sometimes to hear His voice? I believe that every one of us would gladly obey everything we heard from the Lord if we just knew beyond a shadow of a doubt it was Him. A booming voice would be nice or even a visit from an angel would be enough. If I could just be sure it was Him I know I would obey and you would too. There is a place in the spirit not too far from where you are right now where you will be able to know if it is God or not who is speaking to you.

We have many voices on the inside of us that like to speak up in times of decisions. The one we want to hear from is our spirit but then there are also voices of our upbringing, our intellect, insecurities, and even the devil. **The loudest voice in many of our lives can be our emotions.** Emotions are part of our natural soul and many times our actions are dictated by them. Maybe you said something or did something out of response because you felt angry, hurt or used.

When I first discovered the power my emotions had over me, I had already been in the ministry for a few years. It took me a while to figure out that I was even in a fight. I was right in the middle of a life-changing decision and the battle to which voice was I going to listen to was on. The first problem was I didn't realize that I was in a fight. I thought I had heard God and was ready to change everything based on what I heard. Boy was I shocked when I found out that it wasn't Him but my emotions that were speaking to me. My emotions were screaming so loud on the inside that I thought they were God's voice.

I had been involved with a ministry for just over three years when I was attacked with dissatisfaction. Everything was the same; the people around me hadn't changed, neither had what I was doing, but all of a sudden I just didn't want to be there anymore. I couldn't pin it on anyone or anything that had happened, I just didn't want to get up and go to work. Just as if I was in a fog, I felt depressed every moment of every day. Nothing seemed to encourage me. Even the activities and friends that used to lift me up ended up falling flat. My friends could tell something was wrong with me but I didn't say anything to them. I finally concluded that my dissatisfaction was a sign from God that it was time to move.

The loudest voice you can hear may not always be God. I had dreams of going back to Canada one day and minister so I felt that the time had come. I truly believed **with all of my heart** that God was telling me that it was time to leave. I even felt God told me what city to move to. I told one friend that God had spoken to me and I was getting ready to move and start my ministry soon. I didn't realize how much of a deception I was in. Our emotions can be powerful voices in our lives. Always remember you are to be in charge of your emotions and not the other way around.

I had privately set a date to leave and was getting ready to turn in my resignation. There was a slight problem though; deep on the inside of me I didn't feel a peace. Even though I did feel good about leaving, because the thought of change brought excitement to me, I was uncomfortable all the time. I was living in a whirlwind and everything seemed jumbled together. I made a wise decision at that time. The thought of changing my circumstances seemed to be the answer. Just the idea of changing things around me made me feel great, yet I made a deal with God because, even though I wanted to find some sanity from my battle, I did not want to step out of the will of God.

I told God that even though with all of my heart I believed that it was His will for me to leave I would not act on it until I felt at peace. I chose NOT to make a decision in the middle of the whirlwind, but only out of peace. It took about three months of getting up every day and going to work. I was teaching in the Bible College at the time. I dreaded every day and every night. I just couldn't find satisfaction. Then my victory came, when on January first of the New Year I woke up in the morning and everything was calm.

I was back to myself and looking forward to the day. I had finally found the peace I was looking for. Peace didn't show up because I changed anything it was always there the whole time. My emotions were just so loud I just couldn't see I was in the perfect will of God already. Peace was always there, but it wasn't until I finally outlasted my emotions that I was able to clearly hear His direction. My simple decision to wait for clarity saved me from making a terrible choice. I learned a valuable lesson through all of that. God began to teach me about obedience. I found out that I was in a test and a trial and didn't realize it. I was being tested by the enemy to see if I could be made to respond by my feelings instead of by His voice. The devil was trying to control me through depression. Never make a decision while under pressure. Wait until you know it is God and not you.

I now understand that in the middle of turmoil we should never make a decision and never trust what we feel but should be confident in the path that God has us on. I started teaching the students that to be obedient, they should **never make a decision out of opportunity or out of frustration**. If all of us live by this standard we will only be led by His still small voice on the inside. If not, then you will be manageable by the devil and you will submit to your emotions rather than God. Always wait until peace engulfs you, then you can hear His voice. The devil has tried this trick since then, but I'm on to him now. If you can be made to respond because of your emotions then the enemy will continue to stir up circumstances to cause you to move in the direction that he would like you to go. This is why it is so important to understand how to win over our emotions. Let's become unmanageable to the devil and led by the Spirit!

While I was overseeing the Bible College I remember receiving a phone call from a man who wanted to come to school in September. There were only about three months before classes started and he wanted to know if I would accept his application. He informed me that a few years back he had applied and was accepted and wanted to know if that application was still acceptable. I found his paperwork in a file and went over it. On paper he looked like a great candidate for school. I asked for a fresh reference from his Pastor and told him he was accepted. Then he told me his story; he had tried to attend for the last three years straight. He had planned to move and be a part of the ministry but the craziest thing happened. Every year right before he was ready to leave for school his finances would fall apart and he could not make it. This year though he was excited because "I am ready to come," he said.

I listened for a while then I told him that I hoped he would come but I didn't believe that he would make it this year either. He said "What!!!! Yes I will make it. Everything is in order and God has told me to move." I said I believed that God had told him to come to Bible College but, "The craziest thing is going to happen, right before you are ready to leave. Your finances are going to fall apart." He responded with, "I will see you in September."

You see, the devil found the tool to rule this man with. It was fear. Unless everything was in order he would not follow God's voice. So, year after year, the devil neutralized him with the emotions of fear and through circumstances stopped him from obeying God. He never did show up, I guess it happened again. There are many emotions that are based in your fleshly soul. Galatians names some such as hatred, contentions, jealousies; outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, envy are just to name a few. These are not from God and **we must challenge these feelings as lies and not truths.**

Fear, intimidation and loneliness are not gifts from God but are emotions that are being stirred up in your soul so as to control you. With some people the only thing they can focus on when their soul becomes stirred up is to do whatever they need to quiet it. This is the enemy's plan - to have you focus your life on the wrong voice. We not only want to quiet these voices of our soul and emotions, we want to destroy their ability to rule over us. God's plan for you is to tell your soul how to respond; not the other way around. David tells us how he dealt with his emotions in Psalm 131, verses 1 and 2.

"LORD, my heart is not haughty, Nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, Nor with things too profound for me."

He humbled himself. He made a choice to follow God and stopped concerning himself with everything that was going on around him. The moment David let God be in charge he was free from being controlled by circumstances.

"Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, Like a weaned child with his mother; Like a weaned child is my soul within me."

Next David dealt with his soul like a mother would when she is weaning a child. Your emotions do not want to listen to you, or to God, but only to circumstances.

Your soul wants its way, but you are going to have to make it listen to the will of God!

The moment we conquer our emotions is the moment that we become unmanageable for the devil and manageable by the Spirit of God. It was only after I continued praying in the Holy Ghost for a season that I first saw fruit. I began to be calm and not moved so quickly by my fleshly emotions. I quit having good and bad days and went to just having good days. You see, **you can rule your soul and its emotions through your born-again spirit.**

Ephesians 3:16-17 instructs us how:

"That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love."

So as you strengthen your spirit (inner man) through praying in tongues you are going to win this battle of whose voice is the loudest in your life. You may feel lost and weak some times and out of control, that's ok though. Remember that those feelings are a lie and not from the real you. Peace is still inside of you, these feelings of failure are just being louder. As you continue to pray in the Spirit you are strengthening your inner man and it will give you the power you need to rule over you emotions.

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