"Tuning Into God's Voice"

John 10:1-27

STRENGTH for the Journey with Joe Stowell

Part of the RBC family of Ministries

Individual Study Introduction

After listening to the audio segment, use the following questions as your time allows. You may want to record your answers or jot down thoughts and notes in a personal journal. You may also want to use your journal as a record of your prayer time with God. Write out your prayer or simply record your requests and the areas of your life you are releasing to God. This written record will help you to watch God's movement in your life. You'll see more clearly the ways God is giving you "strength for the journey"!

Getting Started:

Joe Stowell shares a story about his reaction to having to wait a long time at a fast food restaurant, only to have his order messed up.

- How impatient do you get when something that is supposed to be "fast," isn't so fast?

- When was the last time, under such circumstances, that you reacted in a way you later regretted?

Strength through Scripture:

Read John 10:1-18.

1. Read John 10:27. Joe points out that in this verse we see the four elements involved in hearing the voice of God: sheep, Christ's voice, hearing, and following. Why would Joe remark that we ought to be offended by the fact that God's people are consistently referred to as sheep in Scripture?

2. Joe states that the first step toward hearing the voice of God is coming to grips with how desperately we need to hear His voice. To what extent do you identify with Joe's statement that most of us do not live with a conscious sense of that need?

Notes:

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."
John 10:27

© 2006 Strength for the Journey

"Tuning Into God's Voice"

John 10:1-27

STRENGTH for the Journey with Joe Stowell

Part of the RBC family of Ministries

3. Joe states that the second step toward hearing the voice of God is discovering and embracing the ways He has designed to speak personally to us. Read John 16:12-13. What does this Scripture say about the first means of "equipment" God gives us in order to speak to us?

4. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What does this Scripture say about the second means of equipment God provides in order to speak to us?

5. What are you doing to saturate yourself with the Word of God, so that you will be more capable of hearing His voice in your life?

Digging Deeper:

If you have enough time, answer one or more of these optional questions. But be sure to save time for the final two sections.

1. Do you agree with Joe's statement that, instinctively, your first notion is probably wrong?

2. Read Psalm 23. How does this psalm reinforce God's care for His needy sheep?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 2:9-13. In what way does this passage demonstrate how the indwelling Holy Spirit speaks the words of Jesus Christ to our hearts and our heads from within us?

Strength through Reflection:

1. Read step 1 in the "Call to Action" below. What area of your life do you need to focus on?

2. Read step 2 in the "Call to Action" below. Are you willing to follow through on this means of becoming a more effective listener to God?

Notes:

© 2006 Strength for the Journey

"Tuning Into God's Voice"

John 10:1-27

STRENGTH for the Journey with Joe Stowell

Part of the RBC family of Ministries

Notes:

Strength through Prayer:

Spend a few moments in prayer. Tell the Lord that you realize you desperately need to hear His voice. You may want to begin your prayer with these words:

"Heavenly Father, I recognize that I am part of a fallen race and have been damaged by sin. Thank You for creating and equipping me to hear Your voice. Thank You for giving me Your Spirit and Your Word and for speaking to me through them. May I be saturated with Your Word so that I am more capable of hearing Your voice."

Closing Call to Action:

Step 1: Isolate that area of your life where you tend to hear the wrong voices and you need, instead, to hear God's voice. Maybe you have turmoil in your spirit and need God's peace. Maybe you have a lot of pressure on you and you need patience. Perhaps someone has hurt you deeply and you need to forgive that person.

Step 2: Go to the Word of God and find a specific passage that will speak to whatever you're wrestling with. Write the Scripture on a piece of paper and put it on your dashboard or mirror. Memorize it. Pray it back to God. As you saturate yourself with that portion of God's Word, you will experience His voice as you face those situations where you desperately need to hear from Him.

© 2006 Strength for the Journey