

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or *whether* I speak from Myself. ¹⁸ He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him. **John 7:17-18 NASB**

- There is a connection between a willingness to ‘do’ or obey God’s will and the capacity to discern His will.

¹⁷ If any man desires to do His will (God’s pleasure), he will know (have the needed illumination to recognize, and can tell for himself) whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking from Myself *and* of My own accord *and* on My own authority. ¹⁸ He who speaks on his own authority seeks to win honor for himself. [He whose teaching originates with himself seeks his own glory.] But He Who seeks the glory *and* is eager for the honor of Him Who sent Him, He is true; and there is no unrighteousness *or* falsehood *or* deception in Him.

John 7:17-18 AMPC

- His desire has always been for us to hear His voice and obey His heart.

²¹ Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices and eat the flesh [if you will. It will avail you nothing]. ²² For in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I did not speak to your fathers or command them concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices. ²³ But this thing I did command them: Listen to *and* obey My voice, and I will be your God and you will be My people; and walk in the whole way that I command you, that it may be well with you. ²⁴ But they would not listen to *and* obey Me or bend their ear [to Me], but followed the counsels *and* the stubborn promptings of their own evil hearts *and* minds, and they turned their backs *and* went in reverse instead of forward. **Jeremiah 7:21-24 AMPC**

“The imperative need of the continual receiving of our orders and instructions from God Himself is what is implied in the words: “Obey My voice, and I will be your God” (Jer 7:23). The expression “obeying [or, hearkening to] My voice.” [With the commander of an army, the teacher of a school, the father of a family, it is not the code of laws, however clear and good, with its rewards or threats, that secures true obedience; it is the personal living influence, wakening love and enthusiasm.] It is the joy of ever hearing the Father’s voice that will give the joy and the strength of true obedience. It is the voice that gives power to obey the Word; the Word without the living voice does not avail.” **Andrew Murray**

- It is the Father’s voice that gives us the joy and strength of true obedience.
- It is His voice that gives us power to obey His Word...

“How clearly this is illustrated by the contrast of what we see in Israel. The people had heard the voice of God on Sinai and were afraid. They ask Moses that God might no more speak to them. Let Moses receive the Word of God and bring it to them. They only thought of the commands; they knew not that the only power to obey is in the presence of God and His voice speaking to us. And so with only Moses to speak to them, and the tables of stone, their whole history is one of disobedience because they were afraid of direct contact with God.” **Andrew Murray**

¹²So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure. **Philippians 2:12-13 NASB**

“What the Law demands from us, grace promises and performs for us. The Law deals with what we ought to do, whether we can or not, and, by the appeal to motives of fear and love, stirs us up to do our utmost. But it gives no real strength and so only leads to failure and condemnation. Grace points to what we cannot do and offers to do it for us and in us. The Law comes with commands on stone or in a book. Grace comes in a living, gracious Person who gives His presence and his power. The Law Promises life if we obey. Grace gives life, even the Holy Spirit, with the assurance that we can obey. Nothing can receive or know love but a loving heart. And it is this loving heart that enables us to obey. Obedience is the loving response to the divine love resting on us, and it is the only access to a fuller enjoyment of that love.” **Andrew Murray**

When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. **John 10:4 NASB**

I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock *with* one shepherd. **John 10:16 NASB**

Your testimonies have I kept [hearing, receiving, loving, and obeying them]; I love them exceedingly! **Psalms 119:167 AMPC**