

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

Pastor Anthony Walker 1
August 14, 2016

INTRO: GFC LOGO

Good morning GRACE! I am so excited to minister before you today. We are continuing such an Awesome series called "**The Voice - Learning How to HearGOD**".

Opener:

Have you ever had a conversation with someone and you either could not understand what they were saying or you didn't hear them but nodded in agreement anyway?

*Can you imagine God's face when He's trying to communicate with us and we're responding like: **Yes God, sure, absolutely, I will get right on that.** I can imagine us walking off and someone asking us, what did He say (talking about God) and we are like I have no idea.... (I am texting all of you right now LOL)*

See God is in the building of your life, but sometimes we end up in the part of the building where the signal is bad, with God continually saying HELLO - CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW??

~ CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW - SLIDE

THIS IS THE TOPIC I WILL BE MINISTERING ON TODAY

By the show of hands, how many of you have a cell phone? Now if you do not have a cell phone, it just means that you've advanced to a life beyond the cell phone.

I have a cell phone and when choosing my service plan I was very intentional about assuring the representative understood that I needed and wanted everything to be unlimited. And most importantly I wanted to assure strong signal and significant coverage.

When it comes to hearing from God it is very important to assure you have made a connection.

You have to assure you have taken action to
******* POINT 1 – SLIDE - ESTABLISH SERVICE**

When you think about establishing service:

Everyone here with a cell phone or some form of communication device had to establish service prior to utilizing the communication source.

When establishing service you must first enter into a service agreement with God. Now the mindset we enter the service agreement with is very important. We have to ask ourselves are we seeking a **CONTRACT** or a **COVENANT**? The type of agreement you choose will either hinder or enhance your communication.

Definitions:

A **contract** is a formal and legally binding agreement.

~ And when either party breaks or violates the contract it becomes null and void.

A biblical **covenant** is a coming together.

~ It is an agreement between God and his people, in which God makes promises to his people. Not only is it built on promises but privileges, stipulations, and responsibilities.

IN Christ we should desire a COVENANT and not a modern day contract.

This is very important to identify because having a contract mindset in Christ produces selfish motives that will cause us to highlight what we like and work around the others (Hmm God could you explain this line a little more clearly?). This type of thought process causes DOUBT AND UNBELIEF and will hinder us in listening for the voice of God and understand what we hear.

SLIDE

Then he said, “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”
(Mark 4:23 NLT)

SLIDE

Then he added, “Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given —and you will receive even more.
(Mark 4:24 NLT)

SLIDE

To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.” (Mark 4:25 NLT)

SLIDE

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
(Romans 10:17 KJV)

From these scriptures you'll learn our listening must be intentional!

So how do we establish service?

The key to establishing service communication with God is through nothing other than **PRAYER**. God provided us a path to Him that would open the lines of communication.

We must understand how PRAYER establishes service communication with God:

1. **Prayer Exposes** - Exposes your situation and invites God to enter the conversation.
2. **Prayer Transforms** - *Prayer changes the situation or it transforms you to take on whatever you're up against. If you pray and nothing happens don't stop communicating. Because when you stop calling God you interrupt the service and process. You then break the line of communication for God to speak to the situation and to you. I learned a lot from Job: The Bible tells the story of a man named Job. It shows how Job was well acquainted with God's silence. In his pain and suffering, he cried out to God. He asked for answers. **And he kept asking.** Prayer gave Job hope and strengthened his belief.*
3. **Prayer Releases** - **Prayer** is where power is released to you, by way of God's power and His instruction for your life. Through prayer we are elevated from the natural to the super natural.

COME ON! PRAYER ESTABLISHES THE COMMUNICATION.

4. **Prayer puts us in direct contact with God!**

When we establish service through Prayer to God, it should be:

SLIDE

- Made persistently ([Luke 18:1](#)), One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. (NLT)

SLIDE

- With thanksgiving. ([Philippians 4:6](#)), Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

Pastor Anthony Walker 4
August 14, 2016

SLIDE

- In faith ([James 1:5](#)), If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. (NLT)

SLIDE

- Within the will of God ([Matthew 6:10](#)), Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. (KJV)

SLIDE

- For the glory of God ([John 14:13-14](#)), You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it! (NLT)

SLIDE

- From a heart right with God ([James 5:16](#)), Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. **The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.** (NLT)

When we pray it must have the confidence of Psalm 18:6:

SLIDE

“In my distress I called to the LORD; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears” ([Psalm 18:6](#)).

SLIDE

“Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3)

You can sign up for service, but if your signal is not transmitting to and from the tower you have no service.

Prayer is what transmits signal and establishes service communication with God!

It is true that you can have service, but NOT have good reception!
So once once you **establish service** you must get to a place in your life where you have good reception.

******* POINT 2 - SLIDE**
HAVE GOOD RECEPTION

Remember I shared: God is in the building of your life, but sometimes we end up in the part of the building where the signal is bad, with God continually saying HELLO - CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW??

When we are utilizing our phones and we are getting bad reception in a building or in our homes what do we do? We normally move to another room to obtain a better signal. I've seen people literally say to someone while they were on the phone - Let me roll down my window and see if it helps the reception.

Radio stations transmit twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week; but we only hear them when we turn the radio on and tune into their station. Failure to hear doesn't mean the signal isn't transmitting, but means either our receiver is off or we are in a place where we are having **bad reception**. God is constantly speaking to us, but it is so easy to get tuned out with bad reception mostly because of the business of our life (**AMEN**). While we are busy pleading with God in prayer to speak to us, we can fail to realize the problem is not with God speaking but with our reception. You will only have good reception to hear God's voice when you make your life conducive to hearing His voice.

SLIDE

Psalm 46:10 says,

"Be still, and know that I am God."

"We've heard this verse throughout our lives, but we are still too busy. To busy to serve, too busy to sit at the dinner table together, too busy to eat, too busy to pray..... When we are so busy we then place God on the agenda of our lives instead of Him being the agenda for our life.

It's in stillness, not in the busy movement of life, that our spiritual ears become sensitive to hear the voice of God. Don't allow your reception to hearing God's voice be interrupted by all the turmoil of our daily lives.

SLIDE

The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced.

(Mark 4:18 -19 NLT)

It is quite easy to end up in a place that has bad reception.

One room in life that has very bad reception is Religion:

Religious thinking puts God in a box. Religious thinking and tradition may say if HE spoke to me this way before I can look for Him to speak in the same manner every single time (**That's a reception block right there**). In my devotion time I was reading how God spoke to Moses through a burning bush, but the next time he spoke to Moses from Mount Sinai - He spoke to Moses in different ways.

What would have happened if Moses heard God's voice from the mountain and said, "Well, I know God only speaks through bushes, so this can't be God." Moses would have probably hung out around the bush waiting to hear from God again and would have completely missed his assignment. **Don't hinder your reception to hear God by focusing on what and how He said it yesterday.**

WE MUST HAVE GOOD RECEPTION

I want to bring it home with this:

***** POINT 3 - SLIDE ANSWER THE CALL

*Now if your phone rings, you have to make a decision to accept or ignore. There are times when you are on another call and the other line beeps. You then have the options of **ending the current call and accepting the other, send the incoming call to voicemail, or place the current call on hold while you take the other.** There have been times when I new in my heart God was speaking to me, but what He was saying was beyond my comfort zone.*

When God speaks to us at times we are on the other line of our life taking on things he didn't direct us to. So instead of **ending the current call and accepting HIS, we send Him to voicemail.** When we could have placed the current call on hold removing our voice and accepting His voice. See failure to answer the call hinders your retrieval of vital detail. **Only when you answer the call, does the conversation begin.** See the personal relationship between God and his children doesn't begin when we make the decision to follow Him, but it began in the womb. (Read Jeremiah)

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

Pastor Anthony Walker 7
August 14, 2016

The Scriptures reveal that when God designed His service plan for our life, He used careful and loving advanced planning.

God's advanced loving and careful plan is confirmed by Rom 8:29 where Paul says:

***** POINT 3 - SLIDE

ANSWER THE CALL

"For those he foreknew he also pre-destined to be conformed to the image of His son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."

What does this mean? God had a predetermination of His children and that they would take their place as the head and captain of all the adopted children of God.

See man had to see the trends of human behavior and then understand how to communicate and fulfill a need with a certain type of service plan.

But God's Love required advanced planning. God's service plan for our life began before the world was made. AND BEFORE ANY OTHER SERVICE PLAN THERE WAS ONE THAT BEGAN IN THE BEGINNING THAT GAVE LIFE TO ALL OTHERS. God designed a purpose and plan for our life and called us to it in the beginning of time.

SLIDE

Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. (Romans 8:30 KJV)

When you don't want to miss someone's call we usually assign them a special ring tone? The Pocket Ring.... **What makes this interesting to me is we are very intentional about who gets a special ring tone in our phones... So we can assure when they call, we know it.**

What you are doing is making the communication with that person distinctive.

SLIDE

Definition: *Distinctive:* A characteristic of one person or thing, and so serving to distinguish it from others.

WE MUST DISTINGUISH GOD'S VOICE FROM ANY OTHER

To do this we must embrace the call on our lives. Because answering the call begins a life journey of hearing the voice of God.

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

Pastor Anthony Walker 8
August 14, 2016

SLIDE

John 4:24 says,

“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

This is saying that communication with God is Spirit to spirit, not brain to brain or mouth to ear, the way we communicate in the physical realm. The Lord speaks to our spirits, not in words, but in thoughts and impressions.

WE MUST HEAR by the word of God.

All Scripture is inspired by the Holy Spirit ([2 Tim. 3:16](#)). God’s Word is alive, sharper than a two-edged sword ([Heb. 4:12](#)), and it wants to come alive in you!

**God is saying, I’ve been calling you all this time and saying hello
~ CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW - SLIDE**