

When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, "to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning." The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was. Exodus 20:18-21 (NIV)

Hearing Your Voice

Do I want to hear your voice? **That is a good question.** The quick and simple answer would be, yes of course, I want to hear your voice. Who would not want to hear directly from God? But, I can think of reasons why someone wouldn't want to hear your voice. **Tell me what you think those reasons are.** Let me speak from personal experience. At one time or another I've been afraid to hear your voice for a variety of reasons. **Let's talk about those fears.**

I've been afraid that you will ask me to do something I don't want to do. **How likely is that?** You've got to be kidding me. From my experience, I would say that you are very likely to ask me to do something that I'm not comfortable doing. **How concerned do you think I am about your comfort?** On one hand, you are very tender, kind and gracious to me. You have cared for me so deeply that I cannot possibly say thanks enough. On the other hand, it has seemed like you have enjoyed making me uncomfortable. That sounds terrible, does it? **Yes, it does. Let me ask you a question. When I have made you uncomfortable what has happened to you?** I've grown. **Really, I'm glad to hear you admit that. Would you rather be comfortable and staying the same or uncomfortable and growing?** I'd rather be growing. **So, when I have made you uncomfortable what do you think I have had in mind?** My best, you have wanted me to grow. **That doesn't sound too bad after all, does it?** No, it doesn't. **When else have you been afraid to hear my voice?**

I've been afraid that you would ask me to stop doing something that I liked doing. **You don't want to talk about this one too much, do you?** Not really. **Why is that?** Well, some of what you have asked me to stop doing was sinful. **We don't have to go into details now. Let me ask you, why do you think I wanted you to stop sinning?** You know that my sinning will harm my relationship with you and others. Sin brings brokenness and death as its wages now and forever. **Yes, it does.** You have wanted me to live a vibrant life of following you. That requires turning and running away from sin. **Yes, it does. How have you felt as you have turned and run away from sin to follow me?** I have felt great, new, fresh and alive. **So, you wouldn't trade your old life of sin, for the new life you have in me?** Not for a second. **So, hearing my voice, has sounded very good to you?** Yes, it has. **Let's talk about one more fear you have had, about hearing my voice.**

I've been afraid that you will say that I cannot have what I wanted to have. **Let me ask you, do you believe that I love you and have your very best in mind?** Yes, I do. **When I have withheld something from you, what has happened?** You have given me something different and far better. **What else?** You have also helped me to understand that what I wanted was not good for me. **So, again you have enjoyed hearing my voice?** Yes, Lord. Now, I know that I never want to stop hearing your voice. **That is very good.**

Lord, I don't want to remain at a distance from you. Help me to draw near so that I can hear your voice. I am ready and willing to listen, follow and obey all that you want to say to me. Teach and guide my life by your words. Amen

Guidance *Do Not Have God Speak To Us*

When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning." The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.

NIV Exodus 20:18-21

Guidance *Don't Let God Speak Directly To Us*

When the people heard the thunder and the loud blast of the ram's horn, and when they saw the flashes of lightning and the smoke billowing from the mountain, they stood at a distance, trembling with fear. And they said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen. But don't let God speak directly to us, or we will die!" "Don't be afraid," Moses answered them, "for God has come in this way to test you, and so that your fear of him will keep you from sinning!" As the people stood in the distance, Moses approached the dark cloud where God was.

NLT Exodus 20:18-21

Guidance *Do Not Let God Speak To Us*

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin." Then the people stood at a distance, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

NRSV Exodus 20:18-21

Guidance *Let Not God Speak To Us*

Now all the people perceived the thunderings and the lightnings and the noise of the trumpet and the smoking mountain, and as [they] looked they trembled with fear and fell back and stood afar off. And they said to Moses, You speak to us and we will listen, but let not God speak to us, lest we die. And Moses said to the people, Fear not; for God has come to prove you, so that the [reverential] fear of Him may be before you, that you may not sin. And the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

AMP Exodus 20:18-21

Guidance *Let Not God Speak To Us*

All the people perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood at a distance. Then they said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin." So the people stood at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was.

NASB Exodus 20:18-21

Guidance *Do Not Let God Speak To Us*

Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die." Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin." The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

ESV Exodus 20:18-21

Guidance *Let Not God Speak With Us*

Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin." So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.

NKJV Exodus 20:18-21

Guidance *Don't Have God Speak To Us*

All the people, experiencing the thunder and lightning, the trumpet blast and the smoking mountain, were afraid—they pulled back and stood at a distance. They said to Moses, "You speak to us and we'll listen, but don't have God speak to us or we'll die." Moses spoke to the people: "Don't be afraid. God has come to test you and instill a deep and reverent awe within you so that you won't sin." The people kept their distance while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was.

MSG Exodus 20:18-21

Guidance *Don't Let God Speak Directly To Us*

All the people saw the lightning and the smoke billowing from the mountain, and heard the thunder and the long, frightening trumpet blast; and they stood at a distance, shaking with fear. They said to Moses, "You tell us what God says and we will obey, but don't let God speak directly to us, or it will kill us." "Don't be afraid," Moses told them, "for God has come in this way to show you his awesome power, so that from now on you will be afraid to sin against him!" As the people stood in the distance, Moses entered into the deep darkness where God was.

TLB Exodus 20:18-21

Guidance *Don't Let God Speak To Us*

When the people heard the thunder and the trumpet, and when they saw the lightning and the smoke rising from the mountain, they shook with fear and stood far away from the mountain. Then they said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself, and we will listen. But don't let God speak to us, or we will die." Then Moses said to the people, "Don't be afraid, because God has come to test you. He wants you to respect him so you will not sin." The people stood far away from the mountain while Moses went near the dark cloud where God was.

NCV Exodus 20:18-21

Do Not Have God Speak To Us Year ____ Week ____ Day ____ Date ____

Guidance – Exodus 20:18-21

In Context: *Read Exodus 20*

Begin With Prayer: *Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.*

Meditating On God's Word: *(What is God speaking to your heart?)*

When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning." The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was. Exodus 20:18-21

Considering The Words: *(What words speak to your heart?)*

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Praying The Scripture: *(What prayer from your heart will you write?)*

Lord, I don't want to remain at a distance from you. Help me to draw near so that I can hear your voice. I am ready and willing to listen, follow and obey all that you want to say to me. Teach and guide my life by your words. Amen

What It Means: *(What questions speak to your heart?)* (Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)

When have you been afraid to enter into God's presence to worship Him?

How has your reverent awe or fear of God kept you from sinning against Him?

How strong is your desire to hear God's voice to guide your life?

When have you been afraid God might ask you to do something that might make you uncomfortable?

When have you been afraid that God was going to ask you to stop doing something?

When have you been afraid that God might say no to something that you wanted?

How confident are you that hearing God's voice will be a tremendous blessing in your life?

Living It Out: *(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)*

Draw near to God and listen, follow and obey Him so that He can teach you and guide your life.

Seeing It Happen: *(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)*

Have faith God loves you and His voice will speak words of guidance that will bless your life.

Get Ready To Share: *(What can you share with others from your heart?)*

Share with another person or your small group how God has guided and blessed your life by His words.

Close With Prayer: *Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you draw near to God and listen to His voice so you can receive His guidance.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will draw near to listen to your voice so I can receive your guidance.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how do you want to speak to me today so I can receive your guidance?
