

Dangerous Prayers 2

Last week we looked at Dangerous Prayers that ask ‘Lord Make Me Bold’. That can be scary. Are you scared to ask Him to make you bold? If you do ask Him that, He will help you.

- **Have you stepped out this week and prayed a bold prayer? How did it go?**

This week we are thinking about another form of dangerous prayer. This week it's**Lord speak to me.**

Read 1 Samuel 3:1-18

Samuel, Hannah's son, was dedicated to God because he was an answer to prayer. He served in the Temple. He was Eli's apprentice. Eli was the priest but had not been obedient to God and his family were in disarray. He had not done a good job in trying to bring them back into order. So, God calls Samuel and tells him some very bad news about what will happen to Eli.

Eli instructs Samuel to tell him exactly what God said so Samuel plucks up courage and tells him.

- **Has God ever told you something that scared you?**

When we ask God to speak to us, we may not like what He says but to build our prayer lives we need to persevere. Here are three thoughts that will help.

1. Fight to be still before God. Prayer is not just talking but listening. In fact the listening part is very important. We must be active to listen to God in a culture that is full of noisy distractions. We may find that listening is more productive than talking at Him.. How

often to we take time to be still and listen. God is always speaking to us. Are we listening? There is so much that could get in the way.

- **What do you find difficult to ignore when you are trying to concentrate?**
- **Do you have any strategies you employ so that you can be still and silent?**

2. Learn to recognise God's voice. How do we know it is God? Will it be audible or scripture which is alive and active? Will it be through people or messages? Will it come via an encouragement or a confirmation, through worship, through our circumstances? Will it come through open or closed doors/ Will it be God's Spirit directly registering with our spirit?

- **When have you known God was speaking directly to you about something? What was your reaction?**

3. Be willing to do what He says. He might say something that is easy or difficult. He does speak both kinds of message.

Eli was willing to receive the message God told Samuel for him. We need to be willing to accept His messages to us,

Sometimes He wants us to learn something. Sometimes His voice will just bring something for us to receive as the pure joy of heaven.

- **Was there a time when you were able to touch heaven? What do you think caused you to have that experience?**

We need to take time to develop the skill and desire to hear Him. That is a dangerous thing to do. There is no assignment from God in the Bible that is easy but where God calls, He equips. Take courage and faith to tell God He has permission to interrupt you and show you what is on His heart.