

Part 3 – The Most Important Voice in Your Life

Recap from the previous 2 sessions: What to do with the voices in our heads? Our own thoughts sometimes speak louder than the external voices around us. And while it is easy to discern external voices, sometimes we are left unsure about the origin of our own thoughts: is it God? Is it just me? Is it the flesh? Is it the devil? Last week, among other things, we looked at how to discern the voice that really matters in our lives and how to take control of the narrative in our own thoughts. This is so important because according to **Proverbs 23:7** – “*As a man thinks in his heart, so is he*”.

The last Scripture we looked at, last week was,

Luke 24:38 - *And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do **doubts** arise in your hearts?*

One of the voices that sometimes speak the loudest in our lives, is the voice of doubt. I want to talk about this voice today.

1. The voice of doubt

Luke 24:36-42 - *³⁶ Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.” ³⁷ But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit [a ghost]. ³⁸ And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do **doubts** arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.” ⁴⁰ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. ⁴¹ But while they still did not believe for joy, and marvelled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” ⁴² So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb.*

- a) They thought that they were seeing a ghost. The other time they thought that they were seeing a ghost was when Jesus walked on the waters (Mk 6:49).
- b) I find it interesting that the voice of doubt was so loud in their thoughts that Jesus had to physically ‘demonstrate’ that it was Him and not a spirit. Jesus had to persuade them, He had to convince them that it was so.

We see in the gospels Jesus persuading people all the time, trying to get them to a place of faith (*fear not, only believe or did I not say to you that if you believe you shall see the glory of God?*” – John 11:40). **The natural, unrenewed mind, will always argue and present a case for doubt. Our mind needs to be persuaded.**

- c) For instance, last week, we saw Jesus dealing with the voice of worry. He said 4 times, “*Don’t worry*”. In between those 4 statements, Jesus clearly makes a case for believing God. Those were words of persuasion. He reasoned with those listening by asking rhetorical questions, like “*which of you by worrying can add a cubit to his stature?*” (Mt.6:27).

- d) Clearly our minds need convincing because the voice of doubt often takes over. That is why we need to meditate in the words of Jesus, take to heart what He said, ask ourselves those same rhetorical questions. After that, we need to speak out His promises until our own mind is fully convinced!

2. The voice of faith

Romans 4:21 KJV - *And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.*

- a) Abraham is known as a great example of someone full of faith, with no room left in his mind for the voice of doubt and scepticism.

However, even Abraham, the father of faith, had to come to that place of being “*fully persuaded*.” I understand why, obviously: he received a promise that he was going to be the *father of many nations*. There was only a slight problem, he was 100 and his wife 90. On top of that, it took 25 years for Isaac the firstborn of all those nations to be born. If you remember well, their first response to the Lord’s promise was not an immediate ‘yes, amen.’ No, they fell on their faces and laughed.

- b) There were times of frustration also.

Genesis 15:2 - *But Abram said, “Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”*

It was a process to get them to the point where they were ‘fully persuaded’ and believed without reservation.

V.5-6 - *Then He brought him outside and said, “Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶ **And he believed in the Lord**, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.*

This is the first time that it is mentioned that *he believed God*.

God had to touch his mind and his imagination to override the doubt expressed in the words “*I go childless*”.

Abraham had to be persuaded... fully persuaded!

Romans 4:17-24 - ¹⁷ (as it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations”) in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; ¹⁸ who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, “So shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹ And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹ and **being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.** ²² And

therefore “it was accounted to him for righteousness.” ²³ Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but **also for us...**

We cannot be strong in faith with a doubtful mind.

3. The fully persuaded mind

You know you have great faith when you are fully persuaded – convinced beyond doubt. As I have been saying, the mind needs to be persuaded. The mind will present arguments; it will question, reason, analyse, evaluate, test.

To be fully persuaded means to have absolute inward certainty that He Who promised is faithful and that He is able to bring it to pass.

God is faithful, God is able, and God performs! – that is the kind of voice we want to carry in our minds all the time!

2 Timothy 1:12 - *For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and **am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.***

Abraham was persuaded, Paul was persuaded - what a difference it makes to be persuaded that God is able!

Prayer is never an act to persuade God. God does not need to be persuaded regarding His own promises and His own ability: we need. Our mind, will and emotions often need some convincing. We need to tell ourselves:

God is faithful, God is able, and God performs!

Jeremiah 1:12b - ... *“I am ready to **perform** my word”*

Conclusion

Among the voices of condemnation, fear, or doubt, let the voice of God prevail. Let it speaker louder. Increase the volume of His promises in your life.

Say, **God is faithful, God is able, and God performs!**

Here’s a great scripture to persuade your mind with. Speak it out loud, make it your own declaration:

Romans 8:35-39 - *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For **I am persuaded** that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*