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**Samuel:
“Speak, Lord,
Thy Servant Heareth.”**

734-B

Series: God’s Living Legends (Part 1)

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“Speak, Lord, Thy Servant Heareth.”

If you were to take a thousand people and ask them to sit down with a paper and pencil and answer one question, how common do you think their answers would be? This is the question: “What is your goal in life?” I think you would find almost as many answers as people. But the most common answer would be: “I want to be a success.”

If you asked them to define “success”, however, the problem gets even more complex. For some, success equals financial security; for others, it means climbing to the top of the ladder in their respected field, and nothing less than arriving at the top would let them consider themselves successful. To an athlete, success means winning and being recognized. To a performer, it means box office sales and recognition. To a business person, it means outperforming his or her competitors. In general, it means either affluence or acclaim, depending to some degree on the level of ambition or drive in that person’s personality.

There is, however, a problem. If you were to interview those in each field who have succeeded, using the very standards we claim to use to define success, what they will tell you will amaze you. For the most part, they will tell you that life is empty, that the price they paid to get there was not worth it, and that, in many cases, the very victory itself was hollow and that success is elusive; the more you have, the more you want. In other words, what man deems as success really isn’t success at all. The purpose of this lesson is to prove that there really is such a thing as success. It is available to all who make themselves available when God calls. Our Living Legend under consideration in this lesson is a young man named Samuel. He has been the secondary figure in our past two lessons. We have looked at his mother Hannah, her years of barrenness, her plea of desperation to God, the ensuing birth of her miracle child, her faithfulness to her vow to give him back to God for as long as he lived and, finally, her attitude of gratitude even in the midst of giving Him back. Her attitude reflected a great chorus of praise not only for what God had done or even what God would do

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but praise simply for who God is.

This lesson turns the eyes of scripture from the mother to the child. We look and we listen to the young boy’s first real encounter with the Living God. We will see how very special he was. We will hopefully come to realize that though he was unique and special to God, so are you. His call is no more special than yours. The secret was not in his call. The secret was in his response to the call. The title of this lesson from the Living Legend of Samuel is “Speak Lord, Thy Servant Heareth”. As always it seems to be in three parts.

I- God Calls Samuel - I Samuel 2:11-3:11

- A- God’s special child
- B- God’s special timing
- C- God’s special training
- D- God’s special calling

I-. God Calls Paul - Acts 9:1-6

- A- Contrasts to Samuel’s call
- B- Common elements to Samuel’s call

III- God Calls You and Me

- A- The requirements
- B- The reasons
- C- The response

GOD CALLS SAMUEL

God’s Special Child

Samuel’s life had a very special beginning. His mother, denied the privilege of bearing children, pleaded with God for a son. She offered to give the son back to God if only God would permit her to conceive. So Samuel was a prayed-for child. He was unmistakably a gift from God. All children are a gift from God, but those born from an answer to prayer simply carry with them the seal of His glory; for when God withholds to create a need, God gets the glory when He meets that need. So from the outset Samuel was a special child. As always, God’s special children are born according to God’s special timing. Just as He created a need for Samuel to come into the world, so He created a need before Samuel came into the world. It was a need only Samuel could meet.

Two things characterize the climate in Israel, spiritually when Samuel came into leadership. There was the failure of God’s man and the scarcity of God’s word. We will look at those two things in this lesson. So the stage is set for Samuel’s entrance

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into the platform of spiritual leadership. First because there were serious problems in family of Eli the priest. Turn in your Bible to I Samuel 2,

Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD.

And the priests' custom with the people was, that, when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand;

And he struck it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shiloh, unto all the Israelites that came thither.

Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came (these are Eli's sons), and said to the man that sacrificed, “Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw.”

And if any man said unto him (Eli's son), “Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and then take as much as thy soul desireth,” then he would answer him, “Nay; but thou shalt give it me now: and if not, I will take it by force.”

Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

(I Samuel 2:12-17)

Now let's skip on down to verse 22 to see Eli's response,

Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people.

Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD's people to transgress.

If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall entreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would (or was about to) slay them.

(I Samuel 2:22-25)

So there was more than a vacuum where potential leadership was concerned in the family of Eli. There was utter degradation. There was deep contempt for the things of God. We know three important about Eli's sons that set the stage for their removal from the scene.

1- They were unbelievers. Verse 12 tells us that they were the

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sons of Satan and they knew not the Lord.

2- They treated holy things with utter contempt. They even misused sacrifices of God for their own selfish purposes. Not only did they defile the offerings of the Lord, they also defiled the women who assisted in the temple. So Eli’s sons were unbelievers and they treated God’s property with utter contempt.

3- They were uncorrectable. Verse 23 tells us that Eli knew what they were doing. When he called it to their attention, they were not about to listen to dear ole’ Dad.

God had no choice then, to remove the mantel of the priesthood from the family of Eli. So in verses 27-36, God sent a man to Eli to prophecy that the days of his family were about to come to an end. The prophet said that both of his sons would perish in a single day. Not only that, but his relatives would one day come begging for food as a symbol of the punishment inflicted upon his family because of his sons.

God’s Special Timing

Our man Samuel had come into the kingdom for such a time as this. God’s man had failed to raise up believing sons to carry on his work, so God raised up a special son to raise the banner of His word. My friend, God always has His man to carry on His work. Samuel now was His man. So the first characteristic of the spiritual climate in Samuel’s day was the failure of God’s man. The second was the scarcity of God’s word.

And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli.
And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there
was no open vision. (I Samuel 3:1)

So Samuel’s world was not only without spiritual leadership but virtually without the word of God. *The word of God was very precious in those days and there was not open vision.* Just as God had withheld a son from Hannah to create a need in her, He had withheld the proclaiming of the word so that the word of God was scarce and it became very precious. I think there are two reasons why things become precious. The first is because of great affection. Someone you love is very precious to you. A book that means a lot to you is very precious to you. A painting may be very precious to you. Great affection makes things very precious.

The second reason things become precious is because they become scarce. I can remember before the oil shortage of a few years

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ago, oil was treated casually as though we would always have as much as we wanted. Suddenly, oil supplies became questionable, and oil became scarce. What was once taken for granted became very precious. Men and women would sit in line for hours just to get a few gallons of gas. Service stations ceased giving service. Some of them never started up again. They didn't have to give service because the shortness of their supply created a demand. They could virtually name their price because gasoline had become precious. The shortness of supply. People bought smaller cars, drove less and rode together because fuel was scarce and precious.

Another illustration is diamonds. Diamonds are precious because of controlled availability. Were the market to be flooded with diamonds their value would decline because they would not be scarce. They are precious now because they are scarce and in demand and therefore of great value. Antique cars are precious, too. An Edsel was not worth much a year or two after they were made, but I would like to have a warehouse full of them today. You can't find them so they are precious. Same car. The simplest things of life become precious when we lose them. To a prisoner of war how valuable is freedom. Ask someone who lives where it rains all the time how precious sunlight is. Ask someone who lives in the desert how precious water is. When you lose something it becomes precious. We take people for granted until we lose them.

As the curtain of history was being lifted on the ministry of Samuel, God had dried up the water supply of the Living Water, and the word of God had become very precious. To many Christians and throughout the world the word of God is still precious. There are still little groups of believers in Muslim-controlled countries who huddle together for survival and read the Bible as though they had found a treasure more precious than gold. They take turns just to get a glimpse of the word of God. The sound of footsteps and a knock on the door may still mean that they will never see that word again. Only what they have laid up in their hearts is theirs to keep.

But in our country the word of God has ceased being precious to many. Every Christian has choices of dozens of translations sold at Christian book stores. Department stores sell Bibles. Drug stores sell Bibles. Sears Catalogue has Bibles. Some grocery stores sell Bibles. You can turn on your Christian radio station wherever you are and listen to Christian tapes. You can get Christian video tapes. Christian magazines explain the word. Christian books

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elaborate on the word. Christians pulpits proclaim the word, but Christian we must not allow the word to cease to be precious just because it is plentiful. I see it in the trunks of people’s cars. I see it on the floor. I see it in closets. I see it in stacks of boxes. We must be grateful. It is so available, may its availability never detract from its value. We must still teach our children to respect it and stand in awe of it. We must teach them to understand what it is.

Do you stand in awe of the word of God? Do you understand what it is? The word of God is not a book about God. It is not a book at all. It is enclosed in a book that we might find it to be available, but it is not a book. The word of God is the nature of God so expressed that the spirit of God can communicate the will of God to the child of God. That is the word of God. It is in essence the person of God. The word of God is a person and until the word of God becomes precious to you, Christ will not be precious to you for He and the word are one. You and I have a choice. The word can be precious to us because of our deep affection for it or God can make it precious to us by taking it from us.

How do you treat something that is precious? You hide it in a safe place, don’t you? It is a place where thieves and robbers have no access to it. That is why the psalmist proclaims, “Thy word have I hidden in my heart.” Jesus said that His words were like precious seed and Satan was a thief. His goal was to steal that seed. So we have to put it in a safe place where Satan cannot snatch it away. That place is in our hearts. We memorize it. We meditate on it. It is ours to keep because it is precious to us. We may not always have Bibles on every corner. We may not always have Bibles on every shelf. But we will always have Bibles if we store them in the vault of our hearts where the enemy cannot break through and steal. The word of God was scarce in Samuel’s day, so it had become precious, and God was preparing His people for His prophet.

God’s Special Training

So God’s special child in God’s special time had come into the kingdom. But he had to have God’s special training to function before he could be called to God’s special task. I think that the way God trained him is so neat. It tells us a lot about how to prepare ourselves and our children to answer the call of God. But it is interesting because it is different from what most of us consider training to be. Let’s look at four verses that tell us of that training.

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And Elkanah went to Ramah to his house. And the child did minister unto the LORD before Eli the priest.

(I Samuel 2:11)

But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with a linen ephod.

(I Samuel 2:18)

And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli.

(I Samuel 3:1)

And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD.

(I Samuel 3:15)

Do you remember what the Psalmist says in Psalm 84:10 said about the most menial task? He said that he would rather be the doorkeeper in the house of the Lord than to live in the tents of wickedness. Samuel was trained to serve and to minister. He was trained to do the most menial things to meet the needs of others. He became a leader because he learned to serve. He learned to be a servant. Even Jesus proclaimed of Himself in Matthew 20 that *the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give His life as a ransom for many. So whosoever will be greatest among you, let him be a servant. Who would be chief among you, let him be your minister.* What are the angels doing? They are coming to minister and meet our needs.

If you want to train up a child in the way he should go then teach him to be a servant. Teach him to wait on others and respect the needs of others, to be quick to serve and be unconcerned about being served. We apologize today to children for making them do their own chores. We think we have hired slave labor if we ask them to serve us or serve others. “Here, baby, let Mommy do that,” we say. “Daddy will get it for you, sweetie,” we respond. My friend, the scripture teaches that if you want your child to be a leader, teach him to be a servant. Give him menial tasks to do. Until he finds fulfillment in menial tasks don’t reward him with great responsibility. God doesn’t need prima donnas in the kingdom; He needs servants.

Teach those you disciple to serve, not to make them insecure but to make them usable. If someone comes into your midst and wants recognition of their talents, ask them to serve, to wait tables, to make hospital visits, to do menial tasks. Their response to serving will tell you the quality of their walk. You don’t need their talent, talent is not a problem for God. You need a servant heart and so do they.

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God’s Special Calling

Samuel was prepared to lead by serving. It was God’s basic training program and it still is. Having served and served and served, Samuel was ready to be called into service. Let’s read about it in I Samuel 3,

And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see;

And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep;

And the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I.

And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child.

Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.
(I Samuel 3:1-11)

Now let’s look at the facts about Samuel’s call.

1- Samuel was in his usual place in the temple when God called him. If you are looking for the call of God, you usually find it by being faithful where He has placed you. He called the disciples the same way. They were going about their business when the Master said, “Come and follow Me. I will make you fishers of men.”

2- Samuel mistook the call of God for the call of man. We often do the same.

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3- God called Samuel by name. It was a personal call. It always is. God never calls station-to-station and takes whoever answers the phone.

4- God patiently kept on calling until Samuel heard and understood. Most of us need spiritual hearing aids and God just keeps on calling a little louder each time until He gets our attention.

5- Samuel needed help from Eli to understand what was really happening. Sometimes you and I need counsel to help us understand the call of God.

6- Samuel did not yet know the Lord. He was serving the Lord, but he didn't know the Lord. God kept on calling him because until you know the Lord, your service is in vain. Don't you sometimes wonder how many people there are in the world today who think they are serving the Lord but who do not yet know the Lord?

7- The key to Samuel's call was Samuel's response. He did not know the Lord and he did not know what the Lord had in mind, but he answered quietly as Eli had suggested. He answered, “Speak, Lord, Thy servant heareth.”

GOD CALLS PAUL

Now in Acts 9 Paul was called and Paul responded. There are many similarities between Samuel's call and Paul's. Some things were decidedly different, there are many common principles, but no two callings are exactly the same. So listen now to the abbreviated explanation of Paul's call in Acts 9,

And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks (oxgoads).

And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?

(Acts 9:1-6a)

“Speak, Lord, Thy Servant Hearth.”

Contrasts to Samuel’s Call

Samuel was serving and seeking. Paul was striving and struggling. Samuel didn’t know it was the voice of God that called him. Neither did Paul. Samuel did not yet know the Lord. Neither did Paul. Samuel was called by name. So was Paul. Samuel responded to a still, small voice. For Saul it took a blinding light. On a scale of 1 to 10 of emotional trauma, Samuel’s call was about a 3, he lost some sleep. Paul’s was about an 11, he lost his sight. When he realized who it was that was speaking, Samuel replied, “Speak, Lord, Thy servant hearth.” Paul replied, “Lord, what would Thou have me to do?” So no two calls are exactly alike. But there are some things that seem to be true always.

Common Elements to Samuel’s Call

1- He generally calls us where we are. It is a responsible call.

2- He calls us by name, it is a personal call.

3- He keeps calling until we know that it is the Lord. It is a patient call.

4- He will use whatever it takes to get our attention. It is a persistent call. For some, a still, small voice will do. For others it takes at least a blinding light, some form or trial or tragedy that helps us realize that He is calling.

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The key isn’t how He calls us, He will do whatever it takes. The key is how do we respond when He calls. Now I believe God is looking for 3 characteristics essential for responding to the call of God. It can be either a call to service or the call to surrender. They may not be the same 3 things that you would expect. These are the 3 things God is looking for when He calls someone.

The Requirement

1- Humility. Jesus said that before a man could be exalted he must be humbled. God actually resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Now what is humility? Humility is the quality of life that loses a sense of its own importance and pursues the exalting of others. How humble are you? God is looking for men and women of humility to hear His call.

2- Inability. You wonder if I have that right. I think so. Paul said *not many mighty, not many noble, not many wise have been called*

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for God has chosen the foolish things of this world to confound the wise, the weak to confound the strong that no flesh can glory in His presence. It is the inability, the consciousness that apart from Him you can do nothing. Remember, that whatever you can do for God is one less thing that God can do for you.

3- Availability. Here is the key to it all. *He that hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him and have fellowship with him and he will Me.* What is availability? It is the act of remaining on call to do the will of God without reservation or delay.

Now I believe that humility plus inability but availability equals usability. What is usability? It is the condition needed by God that He might manifest Himself through a person. God did not need Samuel’s reputation or his talent. God only needed Samuel to be available. God has the reputation. God has the talent. God is simply looking for hands to serve with, tears to care with, feet to run with, eyes to see with. He needed Samuel so that He could be God in Samuel. He needed Paul so that He could be God in Paul. He needs you and He needs me so that He can be Himself in us and our world.

The Reasons

The reasons for His calling are simple. Maybe I have oversimplified them, but I believe there are at least 3 reasons why God calls us.

1- Because you are unique. You may say, “I can buy that, I looked in the mirror and I am unique.” No two people in God’s army of saints are exactly alike. They are different physically, emotionally, spiritually and experientially. So God has brought each of us into the kingdom to manifest Himself into certain lives He has prepared to receive Himself through only you. It is not that we are better; it is that we are different. So He calls each of us so that all of us together might proclaim His word to all the world. He has called you because you are unique.

2- He has called you because people need you. You may say, “I don’t have anything to offer.” You have Jesus, what more is there to offer? Jesus described mankind as sheep without a shepherd. The entire world in which you live is gasping for spiritual breath. Your life is like an oxygen tank that, when connected to the Holy Spirit and then to other lives, can provide the difference between living and being alive. God isn’t calling you to satisfy you, God is calling you to use you because you need Him.

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3- God is calling you now because people need you now. There is an urgency in the voice of God that few men seem to hear. He has a plan to meet the needs of men. His plan is to feed them when they know they are hungry, to give them living water when they become conscious of their thirst, to come to their side when they cry for help. God knows when that moment will be so that timing of God’s call is never accidental. Our delay in responding is not incidental. When the alarm clock of God goes off in your heart don’t push the snooze button and go back to sleep. You may oversleep and miss the war.

The Response

So the requirements are three, the reason are three. What about the response to our calling? I believe there are 5 ways that we can answer God when He calls. I can relate to 4 of the 5.

1- Limited availability. We say, “Lord, I am available, but... Lord, I would love to respond, but the cost is too high. I want to be a soldier, but I want to pick the battles. I refuse to do KP and I won’t do calisthenics. I am available Lord, but...”

2- Conditional availability. We say, “I am available Lord, if... Lord, I don’t mind being used, but here are my demands. You do this thing my way and we will negotiate. No, no, not Africa. No, not to my parents, Lord. Yes, I will consider Hawaii. I am available Lord, if...”

3- Postponed availability. “I will be available Lord when... First, Lord, I have to bury some things. Lord, after I get a little of this nonsense out of my system and enjoy my sins a little more. I will put you on standby Lord. Hold on for a little while. I will be available when...”

4- Unavailability. “Lord, I am sorry, I am not available.” Now this may be a more honest response, but it is honestly disastrous. It flings its fist in the face of Calvary and says, “Lord, I will take what You have done for me and assume that it is all for my enjoyment. I will receive Your life, but I prefer to live it my way.”

5- The response God is seeking is unconditional availability. It says, “Lord, I am available to You and to Your people. It doesn’t matter what You want to do with me. It doesn’t matter where You want me to go. It only matters that You want me. Speak Lord, Thy servant heareth. What wilt Thou have me to do?”

Samuel said yes when God called. Paul said yes when God

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called. Neither of them knew the Lord, but they knew He had called so they gave Him their hearts and then gave Him their lives to do with as He saw fit. For both men it meant warfare. For both men it meant glory. For both men it meant success for real success is hearing the call of God to do the will of God and saying, “Yes, Lord, Thy servant heareth.”

Now our purpose for this lesson is not to gain an intellectual knowledge of how God calls His children. Nor is it to arouse an emotional atmosphere in which we will in the excitement of an appeal respond to a voice other than God’s. But in between those two extremes lies the reason for this lesson. We need to understand how God calls and why God calls so that we can recognize it and respond when God calls intelligently but immediately. There are some of us who, like Samuel, think we are serving the Lord, but do not yet know the Lord. You don’t need to wait around for a more opportune time. Now is the time. Today is the hour. This is the moment. God has already called you. He called you from a Roman cross 2,000 years ago and said, “Whosoever will may come.” He isn’t asking for your reputation or your talents or your righteousness. He is asking for your life. You can receive Him right now. When you come to know Him you will come to know what it is to serve Him.

Many of you already know Him. But some are still looking for purpose. Some are still looking for success. Some of you are looking for some indefinable sphere of achievement or acceptance. God may be calling you this very moment. He may not be calling you to some foreign field, but just to the kitchen sink or the desk in the office as a man or woman with a mission. He calls you because you are unique, because people need you, and they need you now. God doesn’t need your self-righteousness. He is looking for humility. God doesn’t need your talent; He is looking for inability. He does not need your promises; He is looking for your availability. Not, “Lord, but...” or “Lord, if...” or “Lord when...” but “Lord, yes.” You can stop striving so hard to achieve. God is calling you and saying, *“Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy-laden and I will give you rest,”* All He is after is you. That maybe why that every time you read the word, God seems to be speaking your name. He is waiting for an answer.

There may be some of you here that God is calling to for a special assignment in the King’s army. It may be an overseas assignment or a vocational assignment to that doubly accountable

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call where your ministry becomes your vocation. It is an awesome responsibility. But if God is calling you, *faithful is He who is calling you, He will also do it.* It is a very personal thing, but we have a very personal God. From the Living Legend of Samuel we can learn that He is looking for a very personal response which is, “Speak, Lord, Thy servant heareth.”

SPEAK, LORD, THY SERVANT HEARETH

“Speak, Lord Thy servant heareth,”
God’s servant did reply.
When Samuel heard the voice of God
He answered, “Here am I.”

“Speak, Lord, Thy servant heareth,”
Cried Saul of Tarsus, too.
The blinding light caused him to cry,
“What wouldst Thou have me do?”

Today the voice of God still calls
Now through His precious Word,
And as His Spirit calls our name
And says, “I am the Lord.”

“Speak, Lord,” we ought to say
“Where’er You lead, I’ll go.
Speak, Lord, I’m waiting
I’ll wait until I know.”

It may be to some foreign field
To some exotic land,
Or maybe my Jerusalem or
A field that’s close at hand.

It does not matter where, Lord
It does not matter how,
What matters is my answer,
And I must answer now.

“Speak, Lord, Thy servant heareth.
And, Lord, whate’er You choose.
Just speak, Lord and I’ll reply
My life is Yours to use!”

“Hello, This is God Calling.”

For Focus and Application

1- How would you define “success”? If someone were to ask you if you were “successful”, what would you say? If someone were to ask you to name the most successful people you know, what would you answer? Is your definition of success in harmony with your list of successful people?

2- What three things do we know about Eli’s sons? How did God use even their rebellion to accomplish His plans?

3- Why was there “no open vision” in those days? How would you compare that with conditions in America today? In other parts of the world? How does a scarcity create a demand? What does an overabundance produce?

4- What makes something “precious”? What do you do with something precious? How do you apply that to the Word of God?

5- How did God groom Samuel for leadership? How does that differ from man’s concepts of leadership training today? How can we apply that principle to our children? To those we mentor or disciple?

6- Consider the way God calls men and women. Samuel gives us some principles. Where was he when he was called? What was his first response? How personal was his call? How patient was God? What did Samuel do to try to get help? Did he know the Lord?

7- Samuel’s response to God’s call is a classic verse to memorize. How did his call and his response mirror that of Paul? How was it different?

8- There are at least three basic things God looks of in a man or woman when He calls them. See if you can define them and find Bible characters that typify these qualities: humility, inability, availability?

9- God may be calling you this very moment. It may be a call to trust Him with you salvation. It may be a call to trust Him with some part of your life you are clinging to. It may be a call to some special work or some special ministry. There are at least five ways you can respond:

- limited availability (Lord, I’m available...but)
- conditional availability (Lord, I’m available...if)
- postponed availability (Lord, I’ll be available...when)
- unavailability (Lord, I’m not available)
- unconditional availability (speak, Lord, Thy servant heareth)

Ask yourself which response typifies your response when God calls you.

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