

TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS.

17th January 2024



Hebrews 3:12-19 *see to it brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.*

But encourage one another daily, as is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sins deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. As has just been said: Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion. Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? And with whom was he angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert? And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not those who disobeyed? So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.

Read through 1Corinthians 10:1-22 - these are the warnings from the history of Israel through their physical journey from Egypt to the promised Land in the wilderness.

We are also journeying through faith, by not forgetting the trials that the Israelites had on their journey. We also face starvation, the world crisis of prices hike of commodities, war in various countries and facing some challenges of poverty, being sick from different ailments and so forth. All these God has brought to us that He may know from our hearts of which we've heard from the gospel preached to us.... 1 Corinthians 10:6-13

Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

James 1:12 blessed is the man who perseveres under trials, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

From these we learn that in every circumstance whether in bad or good, we must recall on the voice we have heard and believed.

It matters a lot to endure when facing trials of any kinds to know that God has not left us.

Now which voice do we need to hear?

We need to hear from the voice from God through His son Jesus Christ as at first used to speak to our forefathers through the prophets, but now he is speaking to us through his son Jesus Christ....read Hebrews 1:1-2. *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.*

Deuteronomy 18:15-19: *The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the Lord your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.'* “And the Lord said to me: *'What they have spoken is good. I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.*

Now this came to be as they told Moses to hear from God and tell them by fearing the direct voice from God that they may die...as explained in Exodus 20:18-21

The Israelites were instructed to hear his voice and obey it to be blessed from the land they were promised to inherit... Exodus 19:5-6

*Now therefore, if you will indeed **obey my VOICE** and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine. And you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.*

Question: were they obeyed? No, that is why it remains the rest for the people of God...read all Hebrews 4:1-13 and note 11-12 *Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. For the word of God is living and powerful, and*

sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart

Elijah had power to call the fire from heaven to consume his enemies, but listening from the threatening voice from Ahab the king of Israel, quit from his call, instead to find refuge in the Horeb cave in the mountain of God. He wanted the working powers of the spirit that worked at first to consume the armies of Ahab, as the way of being with God!

But all of the signs that God did, was not involved in...read 1 Kkings 19:11-14 *And he said go out and stand on the mount before the LORD. And a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. 🙄 And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. 🖐️ And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came A VOICE to him and said, what are you doing here Elijah? He said, I have been very jealous for the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.*

God gave the instructions to Joshua to be strong not to fear the threatening voices of the world...read Joshua 1:6-9. *Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day*

and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

There's nothing to please God more than to listen to His Word...John 1:1,14 explains when the Word was made in flesh, he was called Jesus. But when ascended to heaven, he was called The Word...read revelation 19:13 *he was clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The WORD OF GOD.*

It is not the matter of asking of whom to bring us the word from God for us to hear, note! the word is near our mouth and heart to hear and to do it...as we can read in Deuteronomy 30:11-18. John 3:12-13 shows it was the Word of God that came from heaven *No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.*

Jesus was the true voice from heaven to speak to us that we may hear the voice from God....read Acts 3:22-26 *22 For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'* Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. *You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'* To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."

Isaiah 40:3. *The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

This was fulfilled in John 1:19-28 in John Baptist who said *“I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.”*

John 3:16, *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life*

34-36. *For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit sparingly. The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”* Jesus is the VOICE.

The word TODAY is connected from Psalm 95:7-11 especially verse 11 ***Today***, *if you will hear His voice:...* God's pleasure is only to hear from His voice by avoiding other sounding voices of world.

Many people are looking for miracle, wonders and prosperities to be performed in their lives thinking that God is in those signs!...Revelation 1:3 *Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it. For the time is near...read*

Jeremiah 7:21-28 where the people of Israel refused to obey the Voice sent to them. Luke 24:44-45 shows it was the same message they ignored *Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures*

There's more questions to be asked...

1) How can we know from his voice!...read revelation 3:20 *behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone heard my VOICE and opens the door, I*

will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me...John 14: 21-23. He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

To testify this, John the Baptist on his revealing was to preach the gospel as the voice crying in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord..

Matthew 3:1-2 *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!* Jesus preached the same: Mark 1:14-15 *Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel!* (Also Matthew 10:7-10). Jesus told them this was the purpose of why he was sent...(read Luke 4:43) and this voice of the gospel was first preached to Abraham as the gospel ..read Galatians 3:7-8 - *And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham saying In you all the nations shall be blessed.*

So we must be not be keen to listen to other sounding messages of the world which are not concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ... (Acts 8:12) Instead, they promise people go to be in heaven, so missing the plan of God of the coming World Order under Christ's Kingdom. Note, from Paul's letter to Galatians 1:6-9. *I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.*

John 12:47-48...*He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day...*

Paul's message to Timothy is very clear in our days we live..read 1timothy 4:1-5 ...*charge some that they teach no other doctrine...* 2 Timothy 3:1-5,13-17 *But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 📖 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.*

We need to be well armed with the spiritual word of God to test them from the truth of the gospel.

Jesus called the Pharisees and Scribes as the hypocrites and ravaging wolves clothed in sheepskin. They didn't want to hear the voice from God. He called them thieves and robbers who came before him - *but the sheep did not hear them..* Read John 10:8 (connected to Ezekiel 34:1-31.)

Paul also warned the overseers to be on guard...read Acts 20:28-31: *Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the ecclesia of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves...*

After Jesus had raised higher the standard of his teaching, the disciples were to move backwards leaving him alone, but after Peter understood from the voice he heard, he said, Where do we go? John 6:60-69 ...*You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*" Peter declared in

2 Peter 1:16-18. *For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty...We heard this **voice** which came from*

heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain... (Matthew 17:1-5)
This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!

Now we still are waiting to have another promising voice to be heard again, - my question is - how will you do?

Will you be confident to recall what you have heard from his voice to make you stand stronger? read Hebrews 12:18-29...*you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and ecclesia of the firstborns who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant...*

Matthew 13:51-53 *Jesus said, " have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "yes." And he said to them, therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of the house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."*

The question is, do we have the new and old that we bring out from our treasures?

Be with the riches of the word from the new and the old kept in our treasures, but not the riches of this world that vanish leaving us with nothing.

Thanks my brothers and sisters for being keen observers from the Hope we share.

Brother Leonard Wafula