

1 Kings 19:13

So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

You may be reading today's verse and wondering what it's talking about. Well, let's back up starting with verse 9 and read some verses that you are probably familiar with.

† **1 Kings 19:9-12** *And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" So he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life." Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces 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 a still small voice.*

Oh yeah, I love that “*still small voice*” thing, you may be thinking. Yet how often do we seek those earth shattering responses from the Lord, like a “*strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces*” or a “*an earthquake*”, or even “*a fire*”. Yeah we want something loud, and earth shattering, and hot, letting us know that it is definitely from the Lord before we will believe and know for sure that He is talking to us, or guiding us. But if you read the first sentence of today's verse, that's not what we are being taught here.

So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. (underlined for emphasis)

I don't get it, you may be thinking. Well, if you think about it, God did some awesome things, He “*passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD; and after the wind an earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire.*”

Now if you read today's verse, notice that Elijah did not move and go running out of the cave after anyone of those mighty events happened, even though if you think about it, they all make a sound and they are sounds that make you quake in your boots, and isn't that how we imagine God speaking?

But not Elijah, he just sat there, because he was waiting to “hear” from the Lord, and he knew the Lord's voice and knew that it was the Lord speaking to him in “*a still small voice*”. Elijah didn't need any big fanfare, he just needed His God and Savior to speak to him.

What are you going through today that you are looking for God to do something earth shattering in your life? Have you been so stressed about it that you are going crazy, running around talking to others and talking to the Lord about it, but not stopping to listen to Him? And because you are doing all the talking, or even seeking others counsel or advise that you can't hear the Lord's still small voice?

Maybe you are not familiar with His voice. Usually the reason is that you don't spend time in His word every day. I'm not talking reading a devotional or reading one or two verses in the bible every day, but I am talking reading through the bible, because you can't hear His voice until you hear all that He has to say, and that "all" is in His word.

Just like a parent will talk to their child, even when it is in the womb and constantly when it is out of the womb so that their voice becomes familiar to their child. If they just looked at their child all the time and watched them and never spoke to them, what would they associate a parent's voice with, a TV, a neighbor, a babysitter, a stranger?

Yet so many seek earth shattering things, signs, wonders, miracles, laying down those fleeces, wanting God to answer them in their way, and if He doesn't answer in their way, then He is just not talking to them, at least that's what they think.

But if you think about that, then what happen to the beloved "*still small voice*" you love hearing so much about. Anyone can talk about it and quote it, but have you actually heard it for yourself? I'm not talking a audible voice, but a voice you get familiar with as you read the bible, and you can hear His voice or heart speaking to your heart through His word. It happens all the time when I read the bible, something just pops out like I know it's the Lord speaking those words off the pages to me, in His "*still small voice*".

Why not stop doing all of the talking to God, and curl up in a cave (Your room, some where alone outside, or your own quite space) and listen to Him speak to you with that "*still small voice*" from His heart to yours.

† **John 10:3-4** *To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.*

† **John 18:37** *Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."*

† **Psalm 119:176 (MSG)** *And should I wander off like a lost sheep—seek me! I'll recognize the sound of your voice.*

† **John 10:3-5** *To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.*