

40 Days of Prayer and Fasting

October 25th

Daily Devotional #25

We Are in the Season of Listening

As We Ask, “What Is GOD Preparing Us/for Us to Do?”

An introduction to “Listening” (part 1B of 3)...☺

*After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James,
and led them up a high mountain by themselves.*

² There he was transfigured before them.

His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

³ Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

⁴ Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here.

If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

*⁵ While He was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them,
and a voice from the cloud said,*

“This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.

Listen to Him!”

Matthew 17:1–5 (NIV84)

((Part 3 of 3 of our Introduction to Fasting is rescheduled to tomorrow. This is Part 1B, a practical consideration of GOD’s decree, ***Listen to Him!***))

Poor Rocky (Peter’s nickname). He tried. He really did. But, he completely missed the point, didn’t he...

I think we are a lot like Rocky.

We, too, listen to many voices competing for our attention. This will make me smell better, you say? OK, I’ll take it! This will make me look better, you say? Great! I’ll take it. This will make me skinnier? Awesome! I want it. This will make me cool? Fantastic! I need it. This will impress other people (so they can decide to believe I’m as incredible as I think I am/want to be)? Give me two! Our consumer-driven mentality has convinced us we need products to be happy – and somehow, “a better or more complete version of ourselves” and we’ve bought into it.

And what about the other voices competing for our loyalty? Facebook & Instagram (and other sites) tell us every single thing we think or do is newsworthy! At last! Someone understands how overwhelmingly interesting I am! TV, the movies, and the internet tell us pornography and uncommitted sex are natural expressions of our internal wiring (GOD put the DNA in us that way, so it must be OK to play!)

Everywhere we turn there are voices competing for our attention. And too often, far too often, we stop and listen.

Guess what, at this point, Rocky's doing better than we are! At least the voices he considered significant enough to listen to were Moses and Elijah – not commercials or mass media or movies or any of the other billion voices that do not even pretend to be GOD or GOD-related. Those are the voices crippling Christianity today.

As I said in Thursday's Daily Devotional... Congrats to satan and his minions. They've managed to fill our ears with cheap, shallow lies to the point where we do not consider because we cannot hear the voice of Jesus.

I'm tired of the lies and the games of this rat race. Aren't you?

What would happen if we, as a Family, decided to simplify our lives a bit, and purposefully *listen for and listen to Jesus*? What could GOD, what would GOD do with us? Through us?

If I could imagine a dedicated church Family like that, it would be a beautiful and deeply spiritual (and therefore, truly satisfying and inspiring and deeply life-affirming) blessing that would bring GOD great joy and honor.

Hmmmm... Sounds a lot like:

*²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,
according to His power that is at work within us,*

*²¹ to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations,
for ever and ever! Amen.*

Ephesians 3:20–21 (NIV84)

What do you say, WH Family? Shall we take the dive? Shall we commit to *listening* to Jesus --- first and last and everywhere in-between? Shall we purposefully pay attention to GOD-in-the-flesh and His teachings and fight the other competing voices quest to cause us to conform to their ideas of good or beautiful or real or human and choose to conform to Jesus and His character, His Words, His ideas and ideals?

Let's say "We Shall!"

And let's be transformed for His Kingdom's style of living!