

Voices – 6

Through out the course of an average day we are bombarded with 50,000 – 70,000 thoughts
That's 35 to 48 thoughts per minute per person
Research shows that as many as 70% - 80% of those thoughts are negative

There is a word for this kind of “self talk”

Logorrhea meaning

1. Pathologically incoherent, repetitious speech.
2. Incessant or compulsive talkativeness; wearisome volubility

Most of us think that God never speaks to us, but the truth is God is always speaking, always directing, always protecting, warning, correcting and affirming

The Spirit of God will speak to us with promptings that may not be audible yet in perfect harmony with the scripture

Romans 8:26-27

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered . 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. NKJV

4 things we must remember to quiet the clutter

God says I am – Overpower the *Voice* of your insecurities

God says He will – Overpower the *Voice* of your fears

God says He has – Overpower the *Voice* of condemnation

God says I can – Overpower the *Voice* of discouragement

If we are tuned in to the voice of FEAR it will be hard to hear the voice of the Lord

1 John 4:18

18 There is no fear in love [dread does not exist], but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror! AMP

Full grown love moves fear out of the doorways it is trying to block

It removes the “Keep Out” signs on the path God has for us

We must defeat the “what ifs” and the “where is God” in life with the fear of the Lord – “God Will”

2 Timothy 4:17-18

17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion . 18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen! NKJV

The voice of fear is so difficult to isolate, let alone eliminate it that most of us assume we have to live with it

Let's look at a time when Elijah faces his greatest fear

No Slide: 1 Kings 19:3

3 And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life

Let's look at some of the highlights of the life of Elijah

- *He prays that it won't rain – it doesn't*
- *God feeds him with meat from the mouths of ravens*
- *Provided for supernaturally through a widow*
- *Defeats 450 prophets of Baal*

1 Kings 18:23-24

23 Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it.

24 Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God." NKJV

Challenge:

Whoever's God is the true god will execute the others

1 Kings 18:36-40

36 And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word.

37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."

38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"

40 And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal ! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there. NKJV

You would think that Elijah would celebrate this victory with a new level of confidence but instead he is overcome with fear and runs

1 Kings 19:1-3

1 And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." 3 And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. NKJV

- Fear is not logical – it can come at anytime and may take us by surprise!
- It may come right on the heels of victory
- Fear will always try to get you to back down from what the Lord has spoken

1 Kings 19:3-5

3 Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, 4 while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." 5 Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. NIV

In verse 3 it says Elijah ran for his life and then in verse 4 he asks God to take his life – which is it?

I believe Elijah was running from his life not for it

Sometimes even winning can be exhausting
Sometimes even the pressure of success can drain you
Sometimes worse than the frustration of failure

Elijah knows full well that Jezebel's gods can't kill him
– "Prophets of Baal"

1 Kings 18:29

But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.

His greatest fear is not Jezebel but the fear of fighting yet another antagonizing battle

Our greatest fear is not necessarily the situation we face but what we tell ourselves about the situation

The enemy voices will try to deafen your spirit to God's reassurance of what you may already know to be true

All the Devil needs to do is get your focus on the fear of what might happen to get your focus off of what you know God says WILL happen

Instead of praying God's word from a place of victory and power we pray to be delivered from a potential threat that will probably never come to pass

The power of insinuation

“The Jezebel Effect robs you of the time and space that is meant to be reserved for restful confidence in God. What you get instead are exaggerated interpretations of negative outcomes of battles you haven't even fought yet”
– Steven Furtick

We need a fresh revelation that the voice of the Lord is infinitely more powerful and persistent than the enemy's attempts to silence it

2 Corinthians 6:4, 7

4 But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses,

7 by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left. NKJV

God's word is our armor and the Power of God in our lives!

1 Kings 19:5-8 NKJV

5 Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat." 6 Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. 7 And the angel of the LORD came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you." 8 So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

- When God finds us in our fears He doesn't speak with threats of punishment
- He speaks with reminders of His love and care for us

If you are being dominated by a spirit of fear get up and EAT! – Man shall not live by bread alone!

2 Timothy 1:6-7

6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. NIV

Many times we are not missing courage, bravery or a resolve of the good things of God

Many times we are just malnourished – Get up and eat!

We must intentionally feed the faith that we already possess

You can't expect to hear from God with your bible closed any more that you can expect to read a text message with your phone turned off

“Modern day society generates more information than all of civilization had created before 2003”
– Eric Schmidt – Google Chairman

Just because there is more *noise* (useless information) generated does not mean there is more *signal* (truth)

1 Kings 19:9

9 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?" NKJV

WHAT are you doing here? – What are you thinking?
What are *YOU* doing here? – Forgotten who you are?
What are you *DOING* here? – What is this accomplishing?
What are you doing *HERE*? – Get back on assignment

1 Kings 19:10-13

10 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.” 11 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; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. 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?" NKJV

In the cave it's hard to hear God
In the cave are your fears and doubts
The reception is terrible
Must meet with God in the open on the mountaintop
Nothing to obstruct the signal

The Devil knows that Gods word is beyond the realm of his authority so he will lure us to places where our perspective of Gods word is diminished

We must actively position ourselves in the presence of God to hear the voice of the Lord

Worship – Confession – Transformation – Power

1 Peter 5:6-8

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. NKJV

We must learn to enjoy the silence

He's not in the wind

He's not in the earthquake

He's not in the fire

No Slide: 1 Kings 19:12

and after the fire a still small voice. NKJV

o NIV – Gentle whisper

God's not in a shouting match with all of the other *Voices*
in our life

It's not about who's voice is the loudest

It's about being close

You only need to whisper when you're close to someone

The enemy shouts his lies because he has on other weapon

God whispers the truth because He has no need to shout

Isaiah 54:17

17 No weapon formed against you shall prosper,

And every tongue which rises against you in judgment

You shall condemn.

This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD,

And their righteousness is from Me,"

Says the LORD. NKJV

The key is training your mind to know the difference
between the enemy's threats and God's whispers

Psalm 46:1

1 God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble. NKJV

*The enemy's threats are embedded in lies
God's whispers are rooted in truth*

*The enemy's threats are designed to paralyze
God's whispers are empowered to mobilize*

*The enemy's threats condemn vaguely
God's whispers instruct specifically*

*The enemy's threats conspire to diminish hope
God's whispers empower change*

*The enemy's threats are aimed to take you out
God's whispers speak to move you forward*

Psalm 27:1

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation;
Whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the strength of my life;
Of whom shall I be afraid? NKJV

Try again!
Don't hold back!
You're closer than you think!
Nothing is wasted!