

Voices

Our head is filled with voices day by day
*Originally spoken by someone telling us what we would
amount to or what we should or shouldn't do with our lives
Maybe telling us that we would never amount to anything
or that we would only be valuable if we did this or that*
– you get the picture

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

Amidst these voices God's voice gets mixed up in all this
clutter

Be assured of this – God is faithful to speak to you and you
can hear His voice

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

God has given us the ability to choose the dialogue we believe and respond to
We can learn to hear the whisper of Gods voice by using the word of God to shut out the voices in our heads

Psalm 131:2

2 Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with his mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me [ceased from fretting]. AMP

Voices that tell us...

Why we shouldn't do it

You'll never be able to do it

You're too dysfunctional

You're too petty, immature, melancholy or impulsive

Winning the war inside our souls requires consistency in learning to defy our inner critic

“Beware of no man more than yourself; we carry our worst enemies within us” – Charles Spurgeon

Romans 7:22-23

22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. NKJV

It is in our minds that the transmission of Gods plans for our lives either succeeds or fails

When we allow our thoughts to go unchecked, a steady stream of lies builds a wall of wrong patterns within our minds

And don't forget the Devils influence

John 8:45b

He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. NKJV

Did you hear the lie in the closet while you were getting dressed?

*You'll never look good no matter what you put on
You're to flabby, to bony, to pale, to old, defective*

Did you hear it at the office or at home where you raise your children?

There's no point in trying so hard, no one notices anyway

Do you hear it loudest at the end of the day?

When the mistakes and regrets and missteps can bounce around the silent room as your day is coming to an end

You sounded really stupid when...

How will you ever recover from...?

Why would anybody want to be around a person like you?

God must be disappointed in you

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

What guidance did God try to give you today that you didn't get because of all the verbal clutter?

There's more at stake than just thinking happy thoughts or being a more cheerful person or improving your lot in life when we learn how to overpower the lies of the enemy with the power of God's word

What's at stake are great deeds that remain undone

*“Great deeds remain undone and the possibility of growth into greatness of soul is **aborted**”* – Brennan Manning, *Abba's Child: The Cry of the Heart for Intimate Belonging*

Daniel 11:32 vision of the latter days

32 Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who **know their God** shall be strong, and carry out **great exploits**. NKJV

What great deeds remain undone because of the lies that were planted in your past or fears of the uncertainty of the future?

What sense of purpose in your heart remains unfulfilled?

What weeds are growing where there were once God inspired ideas?

How many contributions remain no more than good intentions because of spiritual hesitation?

What good deeds are in your future that require you to confront these lies right now?

If these lies are not quieted what will come of the calling that God has placed on your life?

How many relationships are being negatively impacted in your life because you have chosen to believe these lies?

2 Timothy 1:6

6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. NKJV

Hebrews 10:24

24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, NKJV

“The wealthiest places in the world are not gold mines, oil fields, diamond mines or banks. The wealthiest place is the cemetery. There lies companies that were never started, masterpieces that were never painted... In the cemetery there is buried the greatest treasure of untapped potential. There is a treasure within you that must come out. Don't go to the grave with your treasure still within YOU.”

– Miles Monroe

God has gone to great lengths to *know* you and to make Himself *known* to you

Galatians 4:9

9 But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? NKJV

- God is trying to communicate with us on a level that is not of this world
- The clutter and chaos in our minds makes it hard for His signal to get through

Stop wishing God would take away the struggles we face for it's in those struggles we overcome the clutter

Philippians 3:8

8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ. NKJV

In his book *The War of Art*, Steven Pressfield writes about overcoming the battles that block creativity

We feel like hell. A low grade misery pervades everything. We're bored, we're restless. We can't get no satisfaction. There's guilt but we can't put our finger on the source. We want to go back to bed; we want to get up and party. We feel unloved and unlovable. We're disgusted. We hate our lives. We hate ourselves.

This is where the enemy wants to keep us – confused forever questioning God and our purpose

Isaiah 61:7 NKJV

7 Instead of your shame you shall have double honor,
And instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion.

Everything that has ever existed started with a word spoken by God – call and response – Isaiah 46:10

Genesis 1:3 NKJV

3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Here we see the cadence of communication that declares the creative potential of the voice of God in our lives

The enemy questions and tempts us

Genesis 3:1b

And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" NKJV

God's voice speaks with precision and power, inviting us into a way of life that is truly life

Opposing voices seek to draw us out of His presence through seduction and deception

Genesis 3:11

11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" NKJV

John 10:27

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. NKJV

Philippians 3:9 NKJV

9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

We must believe that we have a new identity and that we hear His voice

We must remove the clutter and distraction so we are able to discern His voice clearly and live in the power of His resurrection

“When it comes to hearing God's voice, identity always comes before activity.” – Steven Furtick

Isaiah 55:3 NKJV

3 Incline your ear, and come to Me.

Hear, and your soul shall live;

And I will make an everlasting covenant with you

Take your thoughts captive

Speak life into your situation – with authority

Endure temptation – resist deception

Receive the good things God has for your life by embracing the truth of His voice!

2 Corinthians 10:5

5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. 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