

THE *Big 3*

EPISODE: 142

TITLE: What Voices Are Shaping Your Life the Most?

If you are listening to the Voice of love, hospitality, generosity, justice and compassion, creation and hope – NOTHING in this whole world will be able to snatch you away – nothing will be able to knock you down, tear you up, turn you around – it simply can't be done – because nothing can separate you from the grace and love of God through Jesus Christ who is Lord.

Here are three key things to believe and consider when filtering through the voices:

Head... heart... hands...

1. **Many voices are out there competing for your attention** and happy to tell you who you are and what you need to do in life. Be aware that you don't live in a vacuum and vast amounts of money and effort are spent to make sure you hear those voices. On the other hand, God's voice has been described as a whisper, or "still small voice". Are you actively listening to Jesus?
2. **Jesus has promised that listening to and following his voice is the surest way to be kept from the world snatching away your joy, salvation and eternity now, in this life.** He is not saying that it is dependant on you, but if you're not listening to his voice you may be confused or fooled by other voices and *choose* ways that are outside of his perfect will for your life.
3. **Start to practice listening prayer.** Set aside time to just listen to God's voice: don't pull out your to-do list for God, just listen. Try posing more of your prayers as questions (not commands) and then listen expectantly. Find other believers who you know also listen to and hear God's voice and submit your questions and decisions to them as well. We are all better listeners, and have more wisdom, together than alone.

Remember these ways to test the "voices" you hear and listen to...

- Does it line up with the words, ways and works of Jesus?
- Does it square with actual scripture...the FULL story found in the Bible? Not proof-texting
- When you pray and listen to the Spirit, do you feel calm and peaceful or full of fear and like it's all on you... as you move toward a particular voice or action?
- Turn off those voices that are not in line with Jesus' voice. Constantly bombarding yourself with negativity and strife will only produce more of that in your life. It's ok to turn it off...

Thanks for listening...we'll see you in the next episode!

Caesar & Heath

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