



CHRONIC JOY® DEVOTIONAL

KEEP LISTENING

By Karin Fendick

Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you to fear the Lord [with awe-inspired reverence and worship Him with obedience]. (Psalm 34:11 Amp)

Years ago, I received a precious gift from the Lord. I could be anywhere at all and suddenly hear chimes, a silvery flicker, a shimmering sound, just on the edge of my natural senses. After acknowledging the sound, I would sense a word, a phrase, a message in my spirit. Once this had happened a few times, I realized that I would hear the sound when the Lord had something to share with me.

DID I GET TOO BUSY?

Life so easily can get overfilled with the voices and concerns of others. I maintained my regular morning quiet times, but I sensed a new distance from the Lord. I came to Him in prayer:

Lord, You used to call me, with a ring and I would answer, "Here am I." like picking up the telephone or opening the door.

Did I grow too accustomed or familiar? Did I begin to rely on the gift instead of the Giver? Or was it simply time to remove the easy access, the familiar gate that had made me lazy?

You have not stopped speaking, but more often than not, You wait until I ask.

I hear you in the breeze, the beat of my heart, the scratching of a pen on crisp pages of my journal, the sky streaming golden at day's end, the warmth of a house shut tight against the wind, and my husband's "I love you." I hear You in the "yes, Yes, YES" that rises in my spirit when I read Your love letter written for me, for all of Your children, Your eternal promises.

I will seek. I will wait. I will listen still. But speak, Lord.

And the Lord came and stood and called as at other times, Samuel! Samuel! Then Samuel answered, Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening.

(1 Samuel 3:10 Amp)



THE LORD'S REPLY

In the quiet, keep listening. When it is difficult to hear Me, it may well be when I have the most to say. Just be, little one. Just be.

You are Mine, and I know what I'm doing. I will direct, Am directing your every step.

Breathe, surrender, go limp like a marionette. Allow the Master to pull the strings. Yes, you were trained to believe it is wrong, weak and foolish to be a puppet. But what better hand should control your life?

In My time, in My way, for My glory, your life will accomplish that which I desire. I Am, so relax be and let Me Be Me.

I am not calling you to laziness, no, I tell you there is work to do, but in My strength. And when our purposes collide? When We work as one? There is a release of great passion and joy.

Keep listening.

NATURAL HEARING LOSS

I noticed difficulty with my natural hearing that worsened over the years. I wrote it off as aging until it began to have a serious impact on my daily life

As I was learning to adapt to the profound and permanent loss in my left ear, I sensed the Lord assuring me that though my natural hearing was impaired, my spiritual hearing could continue to increase.

"Keep listening."

PRAYER

Father God, help us remember that we are not leaders because of our abilities but because we are available to be used by You. Show us places of pride and stubbornness that we might be unable to see. Each day, may we grow more and more like Jesus. It is His name, I pray.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Can you think of a time when you were too stubborn to heed the advice of others? Can you also remember a time when you were genuinely teachable, not only hearing but acting on what you have heard from team members or God Himself?
- Have you ever been an example of humility by depending on God instead of your strength?
- Do you know what your edge is? Can you tell when you've lost it?

