

Developing the Ability to Hear and Respond to God

August 2, 2009 Pastor Bill Bump

It is important in life to be prepared to respond at the right moment.

Today we are going to learn that responding to God when He calls to us and invites us to be part of what He is doing leads to great blessing.

Our Subject: Samuel

Lesson: The lesson we learn from Samuel is that we must be ready to hear and respond to God's call in our lives—NOW!

Our Challenge: To learn there are crucial moments in our lives when God desires to mold us; if we grab those opportunities, then spiritual growth is ours.

Samuel's Story: I Samuel 3:1-10 (NLT)

vv. 1-3 Meanwhile, the boy Samuel was serving the Lord by assisting Eli. Now in those days messages from the Lord were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon. One night Eli, who was almost blind by now, had just gone to bed. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle near the Ark of God.

vv. 4-10 Suddenly, the Lord called out, "Samuel! Samuel!" "Yes?" Samuel replied. "What is it?" He jumped up and ran to Eli. "Here I am. What do you need?" "I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go on back to bed." So he did. Then the Lord called out again, "Samuel!" Again Samuel jumped up and ran to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "What do you need?" "I didn't call you, my son," Eli said. "Go on back to bed." Samuel did not yet know the Lord because he had never had a message from the Lord before. So now the Lord called a third time, and once more Samuel jumped up and ran to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "What do you need?" Then Eli realized it was the Lord who was calling the boy. So he said to Samuel, "Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Yes, Lord, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to bed. And the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Yes, your servant is listening."

The key is not how God speaks to us, but rather the key is our willingness to hear and respond.

Samuel's sensitivity to the voice of God, his willingness to listen, and his desire to obey opened

the door to great blessing.

The Bible clearly teaches that now, not tomorrow, is always the acceptable time to respond to the call of God.