

Read Receipts

Big Idea: God has already spoken- are we paying attention?



We've all been there before. We send a text message to someone eager for their response. We anxiously wait. And wait. And wait... We double check our phone. Are we in a spot with bad cell service? Did our message not go through? Did we forget to hit "Send"? We open the messages on our phone and none of those are true, in fact the opposite is true. The message was sent, delivered, and even opened and "read" by the other person, but they didn't reply...

If we aren't careful, we can do the same thing on a spiritual level to the Lord. He's sent us a message, how have we responded? Notice some important messages in Hebrews about our response to the word of God.

Hebrews 1:1-2 "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son..."

Hebrews 2:1-3 "Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?"

Hebrews 4:12-13 "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

There are a variety of reasons someone may not reply to our text message- maybe they were busy, maybe they forgot, maybe they're thinking of the best way to reply. Whatever the reason, there was a failure to respond. Are we guilty of failing to respond in faith to the message God has sent us through His word? What are some reasons Christians fail to listen in obedience to God?

- Uninterested- *"I don't care what God has to say."*
- Ignorant- *"I don't know what God says so I don't know how to respond."*
- Vulnerable- *"Obeying God might put me in danger of being treated differently by others."*
- Distracted- *"I've got to many other things to listen to rather than God."*
- Proudful- *"I must appear a certain way - changing my life to God's way might make me look weak."*
- Arrogant- *"I know what is best for me. There is nothing God can tell me that I really need."*

Discussion:

- Which one of these attitudes might describe us? How can we overcome this tendency?
- What are some other passages outside the book of Hebrews that teach us the importance of God's word and how to properly obey/respond to Him?
- What are some parables of Jesus that teach about obedience to what God has asked?
- John 1 describes Jesus as the "Word" of God. So, when we fail obey the Bible as God's word, we also fail to obey Jesus as God's Word. How does this idea change our perspective of Scripture?

-Austin Swinea

Wi-Fi vs. Connection

Big Idea: Access isn't the same as connection



Your phone can show full Wi-Fi bars and still not work. You open an app, hit refresh, and nothing loads. The signal is there—but you're not connected to the right network. That's a picture of faith in a digital age.

We have more **access** to spiritual content than any generation before us—Bible apps, sermons, worship playlists, faith posts, and podcasts. **But access isn't the same as connection.** Being surrounded by spiritual things doesn't automatically mean we're hearing God.

Jesus warned about this kind of disconnect:

Matthew 15:8 — *“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.”*

It's possible to look spiritually “online” while our hearts remain offline.

Connection requires intention. Your phone doesn't connect by accident—you choose the network and sometimes disconnect from weaker signals. Listening for God works the same way.

Real connection often means:

- **Stillness instead of constant noise**
Psalm 46:10 — *“Be still, and know that I am God.”*
- **Listening instead of scrolling**
James 1:22 — *“Do not merely listen to the word... do what it says.”*
- **Depth instead of speed**
Psalm 119:105 — *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”*

Digital life trains us to expect instant answers and quick results, but God often speaks in quieter ways—through Scripture, prayer, conviction, and peace that grows over time.

The goal isn't to unplug from technology completely. The goal is to stop letting it dominate our attention. Notifications make great tools but terrible masters.

So here's the real question: **what network are you connected to?**

Jesus said, **John 10:27** — *“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”*

In a world full of signals, don't settle for access alone. Choose connection. Slow down. Listen. Stay connected to the voice that leads to life.

Discussion

What helps you personally feel most connected to God, and what usually pulls your attention away from that connection?

-Larry Davenport

Too Many Tabs Open

Big Idea: We struggle to hear God when our minds are over loaded



“Be still, and know that I am God.” — Psalm 46:10

I don't know if this has ever happened to you, but there are moments when everything looks fine on the surface—and yet it's not. Your phone is on. Your apps are open. Your screen lights up. But suddenly nothing responds. It freezes and usually at the most inconvenient time (at least for me).

That's what a soul freeze feels like. Not a dramatic breakdown. Not a loud failure. Just... stuck. When a phone or computer freezes, it's usually not because it's broken. It's because too much is running at once. Music playing. Notifications buzzing. Messages stacking up. Tabs open you forgot about.

Life works the same way. School. Sports. Friends. Family. Social media. Pressure. Expectations. Anxiety. Fear of missing out. They all add up! God hasn't gone silent. Your soul is just overloaded.

In 1 Kings 19, Elijah expects God to speak through something loud and overwhelming—a wind, an earthquake, a fire. But God isn't in any of those. Instead, Scripture says God comes in a gentle whisper (1 Kings 19:11–13). God was present the whole time. Elijah just had to slow down enough to hear Him. That hasn't changed. If God only spoke through noise, we'd hear Him constantly. But because He often speaks quietly, attention matters.

Jesus once said, *“Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand”* (Matthew 13:13). That's uncomfortable—because it means it's possible to be close to truth and still miss it. Not because we don't care, but because we're crowded.

A frozen soul isn't empty. It's full. Too full. So here's the honest question—not for the person next to you, but for you: What's running in the background of your life right now? A distraction you won't let go of? A worry you keep replaying? A voice you trust more than God's? A habit that constantly pulls your attention?

None of those things are always loud—but together, they drown things out. Psalm 46:10 doesn't say, *“Wait until life gets quiet.”* It says, *“Be still.”* Stillness is a choice. It's choosing to pause. To listen. To close some tabs—not because everything is bad, but because too much is competing.

When we make room at the top for God, clarity returns. Movement comes back. The soul unfreezes. God isn't asking for more noise, more activity, or more pressure. He's asking for your attention. And sometimes the most spiritual thing you can do... is close a tab and listen.

DISCUSSION:

- What does a “soul freeze” look like in real life?
- Why do you think God often chooses to speak quietly?
- Read Psalm 46:10 together. What does *stillness* look like for you this week?
- What is one “background tab” you need to close to hear God more clearly?

-Caleb Sampson