

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE

The Voice of the Lord

SERIES

DATE

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KEY SCRIPTURE

Psalm 29

SYNOPSIS

Hearing the voice of the Lord brings power and peace.

HIGHLIGHTS



☞ The Voice of the Lord

Just for fun... Words of wisdom??:

- * Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.*
- * If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.*
- * When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.*
- * Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.*
- * Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.*
- * We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.*

We've been talking about getting to know God more and more. We want to press into his presence when we praise. We need to pursue him above all other things, sacrificing other pursuits in our lives to put him first. When we do these things, we need to listen for his voice...

☞ Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord, O mighty ones, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. 2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness. 3 The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters. 4 The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic. 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox. 7 The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning. 8 The voice of the Lord shakes the desert; the Lord shakes the Desert of Kadesh. 9 The voice of the Lord twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, "Glory!" 10 The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever. 11 The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.

Here, David is watching a storm move across the land and it makes him think of the voice of the Lord. Here is a lesson right at the outset. I have found personally, and for others, especially men, that I can tune into God better when I am out in the timber or by a lake. There's something about getting alone in nature that helps me hear God.

Verses 1-2

Ascribe to the Lord, O mighty ones, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. 2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.

Our worship is inadequate in giving the glory and praise that God truly deserves. Only when all of creation, both in heaven and earth worship together do we come close to giving him the honor that is due. Here, "worship" is literally "to bow down." We worship him when we sing, and here at Open Bible, if you feel moved to do so, you can kneel down as we sing and pray. But more importantly, **worship is given to God by the way we live.**

Romans 12:1

offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship.

We worship God because He is holy. (*the splendor of his holiness*) That not only refers to his goodness and purity, but it also means there is nothing else like him. He is one of a kind and **he is worthy.**



Psalms 113:4-6

The Lord is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens. **5** Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, **6** who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?

Verse 3

The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters.

☞ **His voice has authority over all people and circumstances** (*the waters*). No person or circumstance has the final say, but only God.

It's a common saying when asked, "How are you doing," to say, "Just trying to keep my head above water." Sometimes we feel like we're drowning in the circumstances of life, but God is still in charge. Like with Peter walking on the water, but beginning to sink, the Lord is reaching out to you and can pull you up if you'll listen and take his hand.

Verse 4

The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic.

☞ **His voice is able to accomplish his purposes.** When we hear his voice and follow his leading, we are able to accomplish what he calls us to do. His voice is not just powerful, as in brute force, but is majestic; it is royal and carries a kingly authority. God can create just by speaking.

Genesis 1:3,9

3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light... 9 And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so.

Verse 5

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

The cedars of Lebanon were known for their size and durability. This speaks of strength. But God's voice all by itself can break the cedars. His voice can disrupt the plans and power of people.

☞ **Nothing is set in stone and unchangeable; God's clear voice and direction can break up the hardest of situations.**

Jeremiah 32:17

"Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. **Nothing is too hard for you.**

In 2 Kings 6 and 7, the city was under siege and the conditions were so bad that the people were turning to cannibalism. But the word of the Lord came through Elisha saying, "this time tomorrow..." there would be plenty for everyone. And it happened. The besieging army thought they heard troops from Egypt and fled, leaving all of their supplies behind for the people to simply go out and take home.

Luke 1:37



nothing is impossible with God.

Are you facing a situation that seems impossible? With God, that can change!

Verse 6

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox.

☞ Hearing his voice brings ultimate joy. When you know you've **heard from God it stirs your faith and raises your hopes**. Have you experienced that? Times when things may be bleak, but you've got a word from the Lord; a reassurance; and you are simply at peace.

Verse 7

The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning.

Just as lightning can light up the darkest of nights, his voice can cut through the uncertainties and concerns of life that we face, and show us a clear way. Like the story with Elisha and the besieged ☞ city, **he can suddenly change things**.

In Acts 9, Saul was on his way to Damascus, when all of a sudden came a flash of light and God spoke to him. It completely changed his life. It gave him a new direction and a new calling.

Verse 8

The voice of the Lord shakes the desert; the Lord shakes the Desert of Kadesh.

☞ **His voice can reach us even in the driest of times. In fact, God often uses those dry times to speak to us**. The truth is, when we feel like we're in a desert in our lives, we usually seek God harder. We go after God because of the discomfort of those dry times. And when we go after God, we eventually hear from him.

Moses was in the desert when he saw the burning bush and heard God's voice.

Gideon was in a desperate situation when the angel of the Lord spoke to him.

Do you feel like you're in a dry, desperate situation? Then listen for God's voice. What's he saying?

Verse 9

The voice of the Lord twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

☞ **His voice brings new life**. (*Makes the deer give birth; also, strips forests bare*). He can remove the old hardness and bring about new life.

Isaiah 43:19

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

I know some people have been in hopeless situations when they got a word from the Lord that suddenly renewed their hope.



When Jesus called out to Lazarus, he came alive and exited the grave.

Verse 10

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever.

☞ **His voice has authority over the enemy.** *(The enemy comes in like a flood).*

Isaiah 59:19 KJV

When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.

Jesus drove out demons by simply speaking to them. If the enemy has been harassing you, God has the power and authority to bring that to an end.

1 John 4:4

the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

Verse 11

The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace

Daniel 10:8-9; 19

I was left alone... I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. **9** Then I heard him speaking... **19** When he spoke to me, I was strengthened

☞ **When you know you've heard from God, there is an unshakeable confidence and tranquility to carry on.** The Lord strengthens his people and his voice brings peace. We all want peace. Ultimately peace comes from God. So, we need to go after God and listen for his voice.

God actually speaks in a variety of ways and we may discuss that further next week. But for today, I'll just remind you that the primary way God speaks is through his word, the Bible. He's already spoken a whole bunch. So, read the Bible! Don't read just to get it off your checklist. Read it to hear what God is saying and to simply know God more. The more you know God, the better you'll recognize his voice.

Lord, help us to hear your voice!