

Still Small Voice of 1 Kings 19:11–12

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Feb. 12, 2022.

By Dave Havar

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation about the “still small voice” of 1 Kings 19:11-12. I wanted to share some of the scriptures in this short article.

In 1 Kings 19:11-12, we read about four methods in which the Lord can communicate to His people on the earth. (We realize that He is not limited to these four methods.)

1 Kings 19:11-12—“Then He said, ‘Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD.’ And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.”

- Strong wind
- Earthquake
- Fire
- Still small voice

We will focus on the still small voice.

Wanting to help you

I hope that the material in this article can help you to hear the still small voice of the Father.

I personally do not hear voices from God or even from His angels. Yet I believe that our Heavenly Father leads us in our Christian walk.

Not necessarily voices

When you and I seek to hear God’s “still small voice,” we should not assume that we have to hear a literal voice.

- Most translations—“after the fire a still small voice.”
- The New American Standard Bible—“after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing.”
- James Moffatt Translation—“after the fire the breath of a light whisper.”

We are looking for the guidance of God by the power of His Holy Spirit.

Father gives His Spirit

There are many places in the Bible that show God giving His Spirit. Here are three.

- Matthew 3:16-17—The Father gave His Spirit to the Son.
- Acts 2:1-4—The Father gave His Spirit to the Jewish converts.
- Acts 10:44-48—The Father gave His Spirit to the gentile converts.

Father and Son

In a moment, I want to list 24 verses that show a personification of God's Spirit.

But, before I do that, I want to remind you how the Bible does not place the Spirit of God on the same level as the Father and the Son.

Have you ever noticed the introduction of many of the epistles in the Bible? The writers show respect toward the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Check it out for yourself.

- Romans 1:7
- 1 Corinthians 1:3
- 2 Corinthians 1:2
- Galatians 1:3
- Ephesians 1:2
- Philippians 1:2
- Colossians 1:2
- 1 Thessalonians 1:1
- 2 Thessalonians 1:2
- 1 Timothy 1:2
- 2 Timothy 1:2
- Titus 1:4
- Philemon 1:3
- Hebrews 1:1-4
- 1 Peter 1:3
- 2 Peter 1:1
- 1 John 1:3
- 2 John 1:3
- Jude 1
- Revelation 1:1-20

Notice how the Father and the Son work together.

1 Corinthians 15:24-28—"Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For 'He has put all things under His feet.' But when He says 'all things are put under Him,' it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all."

Ears to hear

Notice these first seven examples of the personification of the Spirit.

Revelation 2:7—"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Revelation 2:11—"He who has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Revelation 2:17—"He who has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Revelation 2:29—"He who has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit say to the churches."

Revelation 3:6—"He who has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Revelation 3:13—"He who has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Revelation 3:22—"He who has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Having an "ear to hear" does not necessarily limit a person to learn only by hearing.

Personification of God's Spirit

Here are 17 additional verses describing the personification of God's Spirit.

- Acts 8:29—"said"
- Acts 10:19—"said"
- Acts 11:12—"told"
- Acts 11:28—"showed"
- Acts 13:2—"said"
- Acts 13:4—"sent out"
- Acts 16:6-7—"forbidden"
- Acts 16:7—"did not permit"
- Acts 18:5—"compelled"
- Acts 19:21—"purposed"
- Acts 20:23—"testifies"
- Acts 20:28—"has made"
- Acts 21:4—"through the Spirit"
- Acts 21:11—"says"
- Hebrews 3:7—"says"
- Hebrews 9:8—"indicating"
- Hebrews 10:15—"witnesses"

Keep in mind that this is an impressive list to show how a child of God can accept the direction of God the Father.

Visions and dreams

Notice a few verses that talk about visions and dreams—often in bed.

Job 33:14-16—“For God may speak in one way, or in another, yet man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while slumbering on their beds, then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction.”

- Numbers 12:6
- Daniel 2:28-29
- Daniel 4:5, 10, 13
- Daniel 7:1
- Acts 2:17

Not always from God

We should remember that God is not involved with all visions and dreams.

A classic example can be found in the book of Job.

Many people read the words of Job’s three friends (sprinkled throughout Job 4-25) and think that their advice sounds good.

But, in Job 42:7, the Lord said that He was angry with the words spoken by the three friends.

Notice a source of Eliphaz’s advice.

Job 4:12-16—“[Eliphaz said:] Now a word was secretly brought to me, and my ear received a whisper of it. In disquieting thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falls on men, fear came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones shake. Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair on my body stood up. It stood still, but I could not discern its appearance. A form was before my eyes; there was silence; then I heard a voice . . .”

Before you fall asleep

I have a question for you—How do you spend your time before you fall asleep?

Psalms 4:4—“Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Selah.”

Psalms 6:6—“I am weary with my groaning; all night I make my bed swim; I drench my couch with my tears.”

Psalms 36:4—“[A wicked man] devises wickedness on his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good; he does not abhor evil.”

Psalms 63:6—“When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches.”

Psalms 132:3-5—“Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house, or go up to the comfort of my bed; I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, until I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.”

Listening to Father

As I said earlier in this article, it is not important for you to hear a literal voice when you seek God's direction in your life.

Yet I believe that our Heavenly Father will lead His children—if we will have eyes to see and ears to hear. I hope we are paying attention to the Father and the Son.

Are we listening for the still small voice?