

LISTENING TO THE RIGHT VOICE!

#3071 0917 23A

There are so many *voices* speaking to us today—and from a multitude of sources—news-casts; social media; from online and so many other messages we hear in a day’s time. With God’s help we must know the *source* of the voice and if it has any spiritual value.

The world today is getting more corrupt, complex, and confusing—compelling us to be more alert than ever—and of being sure we are *Listening to the Right Voice!* From texts, tweets, and commercials, we can hear many voices—but many are *not* useful or even scriptural—and most would lead us in the wrong direction.

The *wrong* voice is always from the devil and those in his camp. Isaiah 14:12 “*How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!*”

Demons are fallen Jude 1:6 “*Angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.*” A high-ranking angel, Lucifer, led this rebellion of one-third of the angels against God, but two-thirds are still on the right side.

There are many references to Satan: Matthew 12:24 “*Beelzebub the prince of the devils.*” Revelation 12:7 “*And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels.*”

Satan’s objective is to *hinder* the purposes of the Lord and to *extend* the influence of the world—but the devil is not equal to God. Satan’s power is not even close to God’s power. Also, the devil can only be in one place at a time, but God is omnipresent.

The apostle planned to visit a church—saying 1 Thessalonians 2:18 “*We wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us.*” Satan’s objective is to *hinder* godly influence. The apostle said 2 Corinthians 12:7 “*There was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me*”—or to oppose me from doing the right thing.

The devil is not a cartoon caricature, but an evil being that *must* be taken seriously. Satan does not mind if we don’t believe he exists—therefore working undetected to destroy people. He works through our mind and says things we think are reasonable. Millions do not believe he even exists or that he is the *source* of the *voice* they are hearing.

Many wonder why a *God of love* would create a *devil of evil*—but God did *not* create the devil. He created an *angel* known as Lucifer who exercised the free will God gave him and rebelled against his Creator. He *chose* to be God’s adversary and became Satan. The devil *is* what he *is* by his own choice.

Genesis 1:31 “*God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*” Then something happened between chapter 1 and 3.

Ezekiel 28:15 “*Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.*”

18 “*Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.*”

Lucifer’s good looks caused his ultimate downfall—he became conceited, vain, and proud. Listening to the *wrong voice* about his good looks *caused* his corruption. He wasn’t satisfied with worshipping God, he wanted to *be* worshiped.

Therefore, this one-time “*guardian angel*” lost his exalted position in Heaven. Isaiah 14:12 “*How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!*”

Jesus said Luke 10:18 “*I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.*” And when he fell, he took *one third* of the angels with him, but *two thirds* of the angels are on the right side with believers. These angels on God’s side are His ministering spirits, and along with Jesus through the Holy Spirit within, can help believers on their spiritual journey.

A Question—What will we *do* when we *sin*? Will we listen to the *wrong* voice and do the wrong and destructive thing—or will we listen to the *right* voice and do the right and scriptural thing? The apostle told the people Acts 3:19 “*Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.*”

The *wrong* voice from the devil takes us *away* from the Word; *away* from the Lord; and *away* from anything that would help restore us to God. If we listen to the *right* voice of the Holy Spirit, He will direct us *back* to the Word of God; *back* to Christian friends; and *back* to trusting God in faith.

We need to know *God* better and to ask Him in prayer *how* to resist tempting things that are everywhere today—and in every possible *type* and *intensity*. We need to live in a way that our *direction* is always toward Heaven—staying within the will of God and remaining faithful to Him—*then* our eternal *address* will be Paradise.

Most people believe in some kind of heaven and that they will be going there after this life.

Jesus said, however, that most do *not* end in Heaven. Matthew 7:13 “*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat.*”

Listening to the *wrong voice* can put us on the *wrong road* and heading toward the *wide* entrance. The popular way of the *many* is heading for destruction in a fiery lake. Listening to the *right voice* directs us to the *narrow* road and taking us toward Heaven. Matthew 7:14 “*Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*”

No matter what anyone may think about most people heading toward Heaven, the truth of the matter is that most people today are *not* going in the *right direction* because they are *not* listening to the *right voice*.

Most people today are heading for the flames—although they do not want to hear that or even consider the possibility. Nevertheless, that does not change the *truth* nor change their *direction*—it takes a true *repentance* and a genuine *conversion* to a life of faith in God to have us going in the right direction.

It is interesting to note that millions in the world do *not* believe in an actual hell, yet they will punctuate their sentences with that word—like: *The situation was awful—like hell on earth.* And they use that word in many other offensive ways, even though not actually believing there *is* such a place.

Deep down inside most *know* there *is* a place called hell, and that people really do end there because of their wicked and sinful lifestyle. Surprising as it may be, most of the teaching on hell in the Bible is given by Jesus Himself—even though He was the personification of love, mercy, and grace.

Jesus has always personified love, mercy, and grace—and that is why He spoke so often about *avoiding* the worst possible fate. He does not want

anyone of *any* age to spend even a second in Hell, much less an eternity in that horrible place. The reason He came to earth is to make a way for us to leave this world and go to His kingdom—a *marvelous* place prepared for all who love and trust Him.

Jesus knows all about the Lake of Fire—that is why He repeatedly warns us that such a place is *real* and *must* be avoided. Of the forty parables Jesus told, more than *half* of them mention divine judgment and a lake of burning sulfur.

A Bible scholar said: *An endless Hell can no more be removed from the New Testament than an endless Heaven can* unquote. We must make *no* mistake—there is a *real place* called Hell with *real people* suffering there forever!

Listening to the *wrong voice* has us going in the *wrong* direction; attending the *wrong* places; accepting *wrong* advice; and making *wrong* decisions. Listening to the *wrong voice* has us keeping *wrong* attitudes—leading us in the *wrong* direction toward the *wrong* destination!

A famous singer wrote lyrics, saying: *Imagine there is no heaven. It is easy if you try. No hell below us. Above us only sky* unquote. A person can *imagine* all they want, but it won't *change* the eternal *reality* of Heaven and Hell—both are *real* places occupied with *real* people!

The Bible says there are two deaths—one physical and one spiritual. Jesus warned us to fear the *second* death more than the first. Revelation 20:14 “*And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*”

God warns: Revelation 21:8 “*But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*”

The *second death* in Hell is eternal *separation* from God—that *must* be avoided at *all* costs, and

it must command our undivided attention. It was said: *Eternity to the godly is a day that has no sunset; but eternity to the wicked is a night that has no sunrise* unquote.

Listening to the right voice becomes ever more crucial as the world becomes ever more wicked! We *could* be discouraged, but from His throne in Heaven God says Revelation 21:5 “*Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*”

So the good question that needs a good answer is: Are we *thirsting* for the *Word*? Or *thirsting* for the *world* and things of the world? With God's Spirit within, we can *overcome* the temptation to listen to the *wrong voice* that takes us in the *wrong* direction.

We pray: *Lead us not into temptation—and we know that* James 1:13 “*God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed*”—by listening to the *wrong voice*.

We *must* overcome the temptations Satan puts before us, because Revelation 21:7 “*He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*”

Listening to the *right voice* takes us in the *right* direction to a paradise kingdom—which James 1:12 “*The Lord hath promised to them that love him.*”



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