

LOVE *of* Alpha & Omega

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails... And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

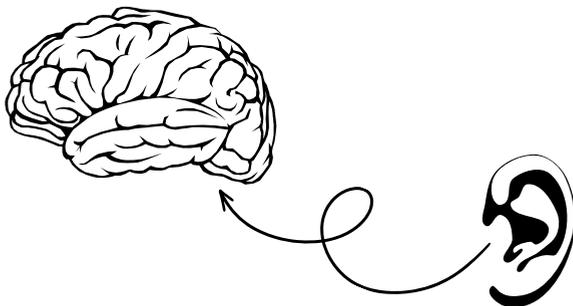
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Sanctify

God desires us to listen to His Word with the same care and attention that we give to the words of those we love. He longs for us to have Him alone as our deepest desire and greatest love. While our words and actions may please God, He knows the true distance of our hearts from Him. Under the theme “Sanctify”, we reflect on how God used Moses in the Old Testament to draw the attention of His people, calling them into a deeper, sacred relationship.



Sanctify

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

- Matthew 13:9

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ spoke to us in many ways throughout the Scriptures - in parables, prophetic visions, and direct conversations. God calls us to understand the clear meaning of His words, especially His Word directed toward us. However, many of us hear the words without truly understanding them, and therefore, fail to act accordingly - especially when it comes to God's Word.

When a preacher finishes proclaiming God's Word, how many of us reflect on the number of key truths we remembered? This shows the real level of our interest in God's Word. It is natural for our attention to drift, for sleepiness to come, or for forgetfulness to creep in.

But consider this - would a bride remain indifferent toward the loving words shared by her bridegroom?

- She listens attentively
- She understands those words in her heart
- She acts according to them
- She receives the love and praise of her bridegroom

In this analogy:



Bridegroom
(Lord Jesus Christ)



Bride
(Us, the believers)

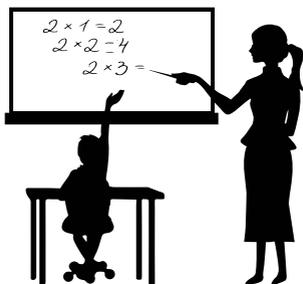
Let us reflect deeply—

Are we thirsting to listen to God’s Word with that same passion?

Do we long to hear His voice with eagerness, as a bride longs for her bridegroom?

Listening with Attention

What is the purpose of hearing if our attention drifts away, or if we fail to understand what is being said? Only when we listen to the teacher attentively can we get promoted to the next class.



To the teacher's lecture, one should:

1. Listen Carefully
2. Understand its Meaning
3. Practise it Well
4. Master it Successfully

Think of someone who is searching for an address.

Their ears are highly tuned to every direction: right, left, first lane, second street...

Without focused listening, they will easily get lost.



Similarly, we must pay careful attention to God's Word as we journey toward salvation. If our focus drifts, we risk going astray or falling into danger. What a wonder—listening requires such deep attention.

Keen Ears

Have you ever noticed how remarkably sharp the hearing of a blind person can be? Their ears often become extraordinarily sensitive, able to pick up sounds that others might easily miss. So why is it that we, with perfectly functioning eyes and ears, do not display such keen attentiveness to God's Word?

God has given us the same ears. Yet, the very fact that we have eyes seems to hinder us from having sharp, attentive ears.



Yes, beloved of God, from the moment our eyes were opened, we have struggled to hear the Word of God. If our eyes were closed, we would listen more carefully to His Words.

The sights we see can bring disappointment, doubt, and the unsettling question of “What comes next?” Until we can see clearly, we do not seek anyone’s guidance. Until the world around us appears prosperous and secure, we think we don’t need anyone—not even Jesus.



But the truth is:

- Our path should grow dark.
- Our eyes should lose their sight.
- We should stumble and fall.

Only then do we realize our need for support, guidance, and help.

From that moment, whoever shows us the way becomes our guide. Whatever they describe becomes our path in life.

Let us pray to the Lord:

"Lord, not by the ways my eyes see, but by Your word I will walk. Teach me to listen attentively to Your voice. Show me what pleases You—Your commands, Your justice, Your righteousness— so I may establish my life on them."

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
- Psalm 119:105

Even when our eyes perceive only wind or waves, when we listen to God's Word, we can walk above them. He shows us the way through the deepest waters. God desires to be with us forever and ever. The Bible is the living testimony of His constant invitation. Yet time and again, we drift away from God at every stage of life.

Holiness



"They listened to the voice of the Lord."
- Genesis 3:8

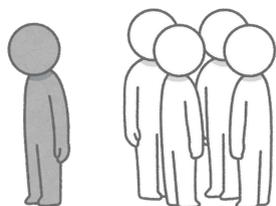
Our forefathers, Adam and Eve, were united in fellowship with God and listened to His voice. God dwelt among them in the Garden of Eden. But later, they distanced themselves from that unity and went out of His presence from Eden.

We too have separated ourselves from the God who desires to be with us. Yet, for the second time, God wished to restore this unity by sending His servant Moses. This verse stands as clear evidence that God still wants to speak with His people and remain with them.

"The Lord said to Moses... when I speak to you, the people shall listen to you carefully..."

- Exodus 19:9, 11

If a person were to be present among us every single day, they would no longer seem extraordinary. However, if they visited us once a month or once a year, our full attention would be on them, and we would treat them as very special.



No matter how important someone is, if they are always present, we often do not treat them as special. On the contrary, sometimes we even become indifferent. In the same way, we have been indifferent toward God.

Therefore, the forefathers, chosen by God's promise in the Old Testament, were allowed by God to become slaves in Egypt. This was so they could fully experience His power, miracles, wonders, and His need in their lives.

Indifference Toward God

Our God is not one who desires to be ignored. He longs for our full attention.



Imagine a child at home, let's say three years old. If the child is repeatedly ignored in favor of others, or if their love and attention are given elsewhere, the child becomes upset. The child does not fully understand why, yet cannot bear to be neglected.

In the same way, if ordinary humans—from children to adults—cannot bear being neglected by each other, how much more important is it that the God who created us receives our attention?

God desires us to listen to His Word out of love. He is most pleased when we wholeheartedly submit and listen to Him. God is not ordinary—He does not desire any people to treat Him with indifference.

Plan to Understand God's Importance

The people of Israel did not fully understand the plan of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. According to God's plan, they were led to Egypt through Joseph, and they lived there happily for a while. Because God was with Joseph, Pharaoh showed kindness toward Joseph, and through him toward Israel.

After some time, a new Pharaoh arose who did not know Joseph. The people of Israel were oppressed, made slaves, and their freedom was taken away. No one came to rescue them. They lived as slaves for their needs and survival.

Yet, even this hardship was allowed by God, so that Israel would deeply recognize their inability to do anything on their own. Today, God expects the same from us: a posture of humble seeking and reliance on Him. God spoke to Jacob (Israel):

"Do not be afraid to go to Egypt."

- Genesis 46:3-4

But today, fear alone seems to remain as Israel's response. Yet again, God used Joseph to bring their brothers to Egypt.

"But God will surely visit you and bring you up from this land to the land He promised..."

- Genesis 50:24

These were the promises given to Israel, but their condition was:

"They groaned because of their slavery and cried out, and God heard their groaning and remembered His covenant."

- Exodus 2:23-25



All those who had forgotten God are now in a position to speak His Name together. From little children to adults, they have turned back to God. They are seeking God with full attention, without delay. Observe what God has done now.

"God looked upon the children of Israel and remembered His covenant."

- Exodus 2:25

In many places (Genesis 12:1; 18:1; 26:24,28; 12:15), God came seeking after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But now, Israel is actively seeking God.

This is what God desires: That we seek Him powerfully, continually, without pause—Amen. Our voice must reach God’s presence. With great anticipation, He has been waiting for these days.

Slavery in Our Lives

- Bad habits (Smoking, drinking, drug abuse)
- Bad friends (Those who lead us in the wrong path)
- Debt, worry, loss
- Weakness, disease
- Sins related to the flesh, bad character traits
- Excessive entertainment (Dancing, singing, celebrations)

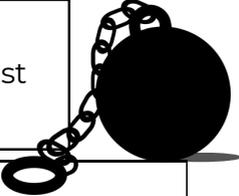


No matter what we are enslaved by, the only One who can deliver us is Jesus. Egypt is a house of slavery. Many times, we forget that we are living in Egypt.

As long as our needs are met, we don’t care where we are. But when troubles arise from that same place, our attention turns back to God, and our understanding becomes clear. (Exodus 13:3)

Our weaknesses, incapacity, and helplessness are what draw us to Him. Only our God can rescue and deliver us! Hallelujah.

Read this list carefully and patiently. What would you do if all these were taken away from you?

Food	Clothes	Money	Job	Savings
Friends	Husband / Wife	Child's Love	Rest	
Education	Sports		Entertainment	

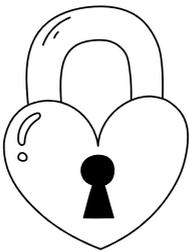
Only then does our attention turn toward Him. This was the condition of Israel in those days: **Slavery** (Exodus 2:23-25)

A Hardened Heart

Where is our attention focused? On our needs, or on the God who meets those needs? At the very moment we eagerly expect, God comes. He confronts Egypt with ten plagues to rescue Israel, drawing His children close to Himself. Now, having delivered Israel, He has led them into joy.

Through the miracles He performed to draw His people, He challenged Egypt.

- Moses' staff turned into a serpent
- Water turned into blood — Pharaoh's heart remained hardened
- Frogs covered the land, followed by lice and wild beasts
- Then severe pestilence
- Boils afflicted humans and animals alike
- Hailstorm raged
- Locusts devoured everything
- Darkness prevailed for three days
- Finally, the death of Egypt's firstborn



One by one, Egypt's land created a loud, undeniable cry to capture our attention.

Yet, consider Israel's indifference, even after seeing and experiencing God's power directly.

The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death."

- Exodus 16:3

"They said to Moses, 'You have brought us out into this wilderness to kill us with hunger!'"

- Exodus 14:12

Even after all these miracles, Israel's attention did not turn toward God. What a tragedy! Could it be that we too are the same? The Lord speaks again: "Sanctify yourselves, for I desire to speak with you."

"Let them make me a sanctuary so that I may dwell among them."

- Exodus 25:8

Preparing to Meet God

After delivering Israel from Egypt, God prepared them to speak with Him through Moses. After all the miracles, each Israelite's heart should be deeply touched by God. The condition that God set for His people to meet Him was clear:

"Sanctify them today and tomorrow."

"Let them wash their clothes."

"On the third day, they must be ready."

- (Exodus 19:14–15; Exodus 35:2; Leviticus 15:16–18)

"You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy, and you shall be holy."

- Leviticus 20:26



God wanted the people of Israel to realize:

There is no one but Him who can deliver them. Their entire thought and life were meant to be governed by God.

Generally, our thoughts are occupied by what we desire most. Sometimes, the one who delivered and helped us becomes the one we focus our thoughts upon. But here, God desires something different. He wants our entire thought life to be filled with Him—completely and solely. This is what is called a **holy mindset**.

A mind filled with the thoughts of the Holy One is referred to as holy thinking. Just as God is fully focused on us, He desires that we be fully focused on Him. When our mind is fully occupied with Him, there is no room for any other thought. This is the path to sanctification. Just as a bride's thoughts are fully filled with her bridegroom, God desires that you and I be filled only with thoughts of Him.

This is the holiness that God desires—our thoughts fully filled with Him alone. The Bible defines sin as forgetting God and thinking about something else. We will meditate further on this in the following chapters.

Outward Readiness

Now, the people of Israel knew God and had been gloriously delivered by His mighty hand. Yet God desired their complete attention. So He instructed Moses to have the Israelites sanctify themselves and be prepared. For the Israelites of that time, the act of sanctifying themselves involved physical and outward practices—things related to the body and clothing.

Just as God powerfully freed Israel from Egypt, He still delivers us from the grip of the world today. For the Israelites, who had known God only through His mighty works and had not yet heard His voice, this was a rare opportunity to listen to Him.

Let us consider the instructions God gave carefully. His words are profound; His wisdom cannot be fully comprehended.

Notice the outward preparations God asked the Israelites to perform:

Sanctify your people...

- Today and Tomorrow
- Remove foreign influences
- Wash your garments
- Abstain from sexual relations



These actions symbolized a genuine readiness for His coming. They represent the outward condition of preparation required to encounter God.

Inner Readiness

Have you noticed how someone prepares internally before going on a trip during their holidays? Their mind is filled with joy, anticipation, and attention—not only to all the essentials for the journey but also to the beautiful sights they will encounter. Observe their **internal preparation** beyond the outward actions. Sometimes, we also prepare ourselves critically to meet ordinary people in the world. They may hold a high position or be deserving of our love, respect, or fear.



Like a bride preparing meticulously for her bridegroom, her love is reflected in her inner adornment. Generally, those engaged in preparation allow no distractions; their thoughts are completely focused on the person they are about to meet.

Similarly, the people of Israel were given three days of preparation to meet the Lord. They engaged in both mental and practical preparation, fully aware that they were about to see God and hear His voice. Imagine, if today an angel told you that the Lord would come to meet you in three days—how prepared would your inner self be? We must examine and purify ourselves.

- Actions that displease God
- Possessions that displease God
- Clothing that displease God

We will remove what is displeasing to Him, replace it with what is pleasing, and continually refine ourselves. Do you think three days are enough for preparation? Every moment, we examine ourselves and correct our faults. During those days of preparation, if anyone tries to disturb the bride, she will not notice them. She is entirely adorned and ready to present herself to the bridegroom. This is her discipline; her true desire is the bridegroom.

Thus, to “**Sanctify**” means to be prepared in thought and action, fully filled with the mind of God. When our thoughts are entirely God-centered, we will be fully engaged in preparation. There is no room for distractions, idleness, or fun.

"But in keeping with His promise we look forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. So be diligent and eagerly await the coming of the day of God."

- 2 Peter 3:12

This was God's method through Moses to bring His people near a second time. He wanted the attention of His children fully turned toward Him, eagerly seeking Him, and filled with thoughts of Him. As we prepare internally with thoughts of God, we should remain steadfast. Was God's expected sanctification and readiness present among His people? We will continue to examine, reflect, and pray on what the Lord said to His people as He came to meet them.

For Reflection

- What are the wonders God has performed in your life to draw you closer to Him?
- Has He delivered you from the qualities of “Egypt,” the land of bondage?
- Does our voice reach God?
- Do I truly know God? Who is He? How can I know Him?
- What does He expect from me? Am I prepared to see Him?
- In the temple, whose voice am I listening to? Whom am I seeking to see?
- Do my clothes reflect a God-centered mindset? Do I dress to please myself, others, or God?
- Were the six days before Sunday sufficient preparation for worship?
- Have I removed what displeases God from my life?
- Whose voice is better—man’s or God’s? Why?
- What does sanctification mean? Where is our attention drawn, and why?
- Do I call upon God for help, or do I struggle on my own, relying on myself?
- Is God our need, or are we dependent on Him to meet our needs?