

Can You Hear Him Now?



ANDREA JOHNSON/Editor

One of my professors challenged us to listen to God in our prayer times, a new concept for me. During prayer I usually did all

the talking, trying to remember to be thankful, spending some time praising God, and then ticking off my list of requests – mostly people I wanted to see saved and for help with classes. When I allowed God to speak to me, it was through music, sermons, or Bible reading. So now, kneeling beside my bed in my dorm room, I struggled to be still enough to hear His voice for myself. Pushing aside my own agenda was difficult enough, but then I questioned, “How does one *hear* God’s voice?”

“Father God, I really do want to hear from You,” I began, “so please speak to me. Tell me how to serve You, what You want me to do, where You want me to go.”

The distinct impression that came to my mind was, “I love you, Andrea.”

I wasn’t counting on that. I expected Him to say, “I want you to go to Liberia”, or Japan, or something that would require sacrifice, proof of my commitment.

“God, I know You love me. What do you want me to do for You?” (The audacity, to think I could actually “do” something for God.)

Again, I felt a strong impression: “Andrea, I love you.” That was it. He did not ask for anything.

Tears came unexpectedly. It didn’t make sense. I had been taught that Jesus loved me, but I hadn’t really comprehended that fact. I didn’t have to earn that love, nor could I.

Have you ever been loved – not because you were good enough – but just because?

That revelation came back to me a few years later during a desperate time when I felt I had completely failed God. He reminded me of that night in the dorm room and assured me He still loved me. I couldn’t change that fact.

God has done so much for me. I want to serve Him. I want to share His love with others. I want to show my gratitude. Yet what can I “do” for Him? He needs nothing. I am reminded of a statement I tell my kids on Mother’s Day. The greatest gift they can give me is to spend time with me. I long to “be” with them – playing games, working, talking, or just hanging out.

Recently I was pacing in the prayer room at work on a stressful day, again trying to listen to God. (Why is it so hard to be still?!) While my mind speed warped toward a thousand different scenarios I was worried about (none of which worried God), I curled up by a bench, lay my head down, and said, “God, can I just ‘be’ with You?” I didn’t say anything. Nor did I expect Him to. We just “were.” It felt right being with my Heavenly Father in that way.

I’m learning to “be” with God at other times as well – when we’re working on a project together (I talk to Him about everything), when I need His advice, when I’m struggling, when I’m grateful, when I’m awestruck. And I’m getting to know Him better. I can be intimate with God because I don’t have to worry I will do something to make Him reject me. He knows me better than anyone knows me, yet He loves me. What is He saying to you?

Andrea

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