

My Faith Story



Hi, I am Doug and I want to speak of God's faithfulness.

Oswald Chambers writes: "Just because I have listened carefully and intently to one thing from God does not mean that I will listen to everything He says...I can only hear God's voice at certain times. At other times I become deaf to Him because my attention is to other things— things which I think I must do."

Some time ago, Al Machamer shared of his hearing God's voice. Do you believe him? Do you believe He speaks to you? "When we talk to God, people call it prayer but when God talks to us, people call it crazy." When we speak to God, we expect an answer, often our answer? We can find ourselves deaf to His voice, because of our unmet expectations, lamenting at His "silence." We don't want something spectacular, just something obvious. The prophet Elijah waited on the mountaintop. There was the rock shattering wind, an earthquake, a fire, Elijah got a whisper and it was enough.

Years ago, I went to South Carolina, to train on machines my company purchased. I decided it would be more advantageous to eat at the hotel always offering a prayer before each meal. At checkout, the hotel receptionist shared that she had noticed my praying and asked if I would pray for a friend of hers which we did. I assured her I would place her on our prayer chain at church. **I heard God's voice.**

Weeks passed and as I was making my rounds through the plant, one of the employees walked past me and asked what I had in my back pocket. "A Bible," I said and without judgement, she replied, "Oh, I didn't know you read that." I was crushed. Was my life so missing the word of God she didn't even notice my faith? I heard the Lord's rebuke to the people of Ephesus: "Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first..." **I heard God's voice** and its sword pierced deeply. Did I do something "wrong?" No, but something wasn't "right," so God spoke. Shaken I sat in my office with tears in my eyes, unable to utter a word, but God was listening and would speak to me again as He did Peter, calling me to start walking with him again in a way that would be noticed by others: "Do you love Me? **Feed My sheep.**"

I wish I could tell you I have never been in such a situation again, but I can't. I have heard that same voice many times and this is my faith story. No matter where we are or how we are. No matter what we're doing, or not doing, have done or not done. Whether His voice causes us to smile or lament, whether He praises us or offends us, Jesus is always there waiting, faithful to His word and calling us to Him. Wherever you are, He is speaking to you.

"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.' Isaiah 30:21 (NIV)

Are you crazy or listening?