

## Thoughts for the National Day of Prayer

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Rom 10:17 NKJ) Paul, in his letter to the Romans gives us insight on how to obtain faith. In saying, "faith comes from hearing," he reveals a key element to gaining faith. It doesn't come from presuming upon God. Instead it comes from listening to God.

Paul called himself the Hebrew of Hebrews. He studied under Gamaliel, one of the great Jewish scholars of his day. Paul's native tongue was Hebrew, so when he used the Greek word ἀκοῆς (*akoes*) which is translated here as hearing, it contained the connotation of the Hebrew word שְׁמָע *Shema*. Like *akoes*, we translate *shema* as hearing, but factually *shema* includes something more than hearing. It also contains the idea of obeying. It is putting your hearing into action. So faith comes from hearing the word of God. If we will truly believe that word, it will put our faith into action and will produce good results. Maybe the meaning of Romans 10:17 would be better understood if we said "faith comes from hearing and obeying the word of God. God will truly act according to His word. It becomes imperative if one desires to increase in faith for him to learn to properly discern his Father's word.

But how do we know what God is saying? The only way we can gain the ability to know His voice is to nourish our relationship with Him. It is a close relationship that enables us to hear His voice and recognize it. Practice in listening, rather than repeatedly telling Him what we desire, will produce a greater efficacy of seeing God work. Prayer is the answer to bolstering our relationship, but it only will increase our relationship if we learn to listen while praying.

If one continually petitions for what he believes is good for him, he may miss the true works of God. But, if he spends time in prayer to discover the exact path that God has for his life, he will see the mystery of his life unfold before his eyes and he will be able to walk out his destiny in faith, knowing the author of all things has a purpose for his life.

For this National Day of Prayer, I encourage each of you to listen to that still small voice guiding you into all truth. Discover the intimate details that God desires to share with you about your life and what you have been created

## Thoughts for the National Day of Prayer

to accomplish. Grasp hold of your destiny, and walk that special life that was given you by the creator of the universe. I am reminded of the inaugural address of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, in which he said, "**Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country.**" In like manner I would like to suggest that you pray not for what God can do for you to make this country into what you desire, but pray for what God would have you do differently that could beneficially change this country into what He desires. As we pray for our country, find out the action that God specifically has for you to do and obey His voice. A country putting His instructions into action will heal on its own. Go forth, but go with God.

*Frank Houtz*  
**DRY BONES RESTORATION COMPANY**  
Winchester, Kentucky

Copyright © April 2012