



## I Hear You, I really Do

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You are in the storm of your life. Emotions have commandeered all rational thoughts. Your heart is slowly breaking as you feel abandoned. Hopelessness begins to sit in. You are so desperate that you will do anything just to hear the voice of God saying, "I hear you." All of a sudden the clouds of doubt roll back, and the rain of impatience ceases. The storm is over. Yes! God heard me! Inside your mind you have battled through a pounding storm that has ripped your faith to shreds. Every obstacle that wasn't tied down by the Word has served as a spiritual projectile of doubt, hopelessness and abandonment, capable of delivering a mortal wound to your faith and those around you.

You instinctively know when your storm has passed. You can't articulate exactly how you know it, but you do. Every person has that moment when they finally feel God saying, "I heard you." After the storm, the debris of your faithlessness has to be cleaned up. Not only have you weathered through another storm, but through your hour of uncertainty you may have littered the faith of others.

Sadly, as humans we often separate and lean toward what we feel in desperate times rather than what we know (Proverbs 3:5). We know that God hears prayers (John 9:31b). We know that God answers prayers (Matthew 21:22). The power of victorious living is to walk in the authority of God's Word rather than in our own interpretations and emotional responses to life's toils and snares. So... why do we remain so anxious about hearing from God?

An answered prayer may be no simple matter to God. Did you know that God's biggest resource to answered prayer is people? While it is a fact that God uses the elements, animals, as well as anything He chooses to proclaim His Word, the fact remains that people are his favored vessel. Did you know that people are no more responsible or dependable to God than they are to their brothers and sisters in the Lord? If you can't depend on them, neither can God. If you can't trust them, neither can God (Luke 16:10).

As a chess player you are taught from day one that chess requires a strategy from the first move. Not only do you have to plot a strategy to capture your opponent's King, but you must continually respond to your opponent's efforts to win the game. As he moves his piece, you must counter and advance your own strategy. Like in the game of chess, God deals with people every day that serve to advance their own agendas, goals and aspirations, all of which are not always holy. As God plans out an abundant life for you (John 10:10), there are hindrances. In fact, there are trials and tribulation; however, don't confuse these obstacles with God's plan for you to win (Romans 5:3).

How many times have you felt led to say or do something for somebody only to retreat out of fear or uncertainty? Has it occurred to you that God was using you as an answer to someone's prayer? You see, just as you submit your own wants and needs through prayer, others are praying as well.

Unfortunately, man is a free moral agent. In other words, he can choose to obey God or not. People resist God every moment of the day. Imagine all the times you and I have resisted (1 Thessalonians 5:19). The fact is, our resistance may be resulting in delayed answers to other people's prayers.

When we pray, consider all the people God has to use along with all the circumstances God has to create, change, and/or destroy just to get your prayer answered. Now, imagine God using people that are weak in their faith with little discernment to act on His command. When one person chooses to resist, God employs another.

Consider a traffic cop standing at an intersection directing traffic. Every automobile has a destination, but each one must be carefully directed to arrive safely. We pay little attention to the things that are mundane, but in order to reach your destination, the roads must be maintained, the automobile must have fuel and regular service, traffic signals must function, and all drivers must obey laws and drive responsibly.

Imagine a huge symphony playing just for you, one hundred people striking a note at the right moment to create beautiful music that is orchestrated for you. Now imagine this same symphony using the same instruments keeping perfect time, playing separate songs for five different people at one time. My friend, this is a day in heaven. Only there, God is balancing the whole world while remaining equally as Faithful to every Christian's prayer.

Daniel 10:12 says "Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words." When Daniel prayed the first time God heard his prayer. God heard Daniel's words – his own words. If you continue to read through this passage you find that Michael the Archangel was in battle to get Daniel's prayer answered. This resistance held up Daniel's prayers for twenty-one days.

The lesson here is that Daniel didn't give up (1 Thessalonians 5:17). God was committed to answering Daniel's prayer from the beginning. My friend, God is just as committed to answering your prayers as well. God has heard your prayer. God heard your words, exactly the way you prayed. The Lord isn't concerned about formalities in prayers; he hears the tender prayer of a child as it is simply spoken. Certainly there is power in solidarity (Matthew 18:19) and people's faith being exercised in prayer (James 5:15), but remember, my friends, that God hears you.

The storms of doubt, hopelessness and abandonment are in your mind. I know these storms seem very real, but God's Word must prevail. Just as a front drives the weather in this life, you must let the wind of God's Spirit coupled with your Faith in God's Word drive out these damaging storms in your life (Hebrews 11:6).

God is Faithful (Deuteronomy 7:9). God never goes back on His Word (Luke 21:33). God does not lie (Numbers 23:19). Know this - heaven is moving earth to get you your answer. It may take moments, days or years for you to realize that God has finally answered you; however, never forget that He heard you the first time you prayed and more than anything He heard what you prayed – your words.