

THE VOICE



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Be a Voice Not an Echo!!



THE VOICE

Everything about the life of Christ was passionate

His life was full of emotion passion and purpose

Jesus always ministered:

1. Out of the presence of God.
2. He always ministered with compassion
3. whole purpose was to please the Father

He started His ministry with a positive statement

A declaration of who He was

LUKE 4:16-21 So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind. To set at liberty those who are oppressed. To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord” Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing”

This is Jesus taking a stand

Being a voice and not an echo

Jesus here is declaring to the world **“This is why I AM here”**

- Anointed,
- ready to get on with it
- this Jesus the fulfilment of prophecy
- the saviour of the world
- the healer
- the restorer
- the prince of peace
- the son of god

I am the voice for now

The voice for the future

A prophetic voice

A voice of life

He was not an echo of someone else

He was a Kingdom voice he was a voice from his father power in this voice

God is looking for a voice – A proclaimer of good news
Some to take a stand and not be tossed to and fro

VOICE means: **A person or agency by which the thought, wish or purpose or another is expressed**

Expression of a thought

Opinion or choice

The right of expressing a thought

A voice does not just make a noise.

A voice comes from a person who has a relationship with the Father and expresses His revelation.

It brings direction, correction, life or death

A voice has authority

Mathew 7: 29

because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law

JOHN 14:6 Jesus answered “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life.

No one comes to the Father except through Me he also said I have come to bring life

That is a voice with passion

Too many people are an echo and not a voice

AN ECHO is: **To repeat or send back**

To repeat words or opinions

To be repeated

God is a God of the new, not of the old

He is a God of the living

Let's not be a reject

Let's be what God wants us to be -

- **High Achievers**
- **Overcomers**
- **Winners**
- **Sons**

A voice does not repeat but lives on its own revelation.

Get into His Presence – To be His Voice

Draw from the wells of salvation. A voice draws from the depths from

The wells of salvation

His well He put in you

Let's be a voice for Jesus

God did not make you to be a clone or carbon copy, but he created

You in His likeness to be His mouthpiece speaking forth His

Revelation

We are the voices now a prophetic generation with a message of

- life
- healing
- Freedom
- The voice of the Father

God has given us all something to say

John the Baptist was a voice

LUKE 3:4-6 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: "A voice of one calling in the desert prepare the way for the Lord. Make straight paths for Him. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall be made straight, the rough ways smooth and all of mankind will see God's salvation"

John the Baptist knew what he was called for

He was not an independent voice

- To prepare the way
- To get things ready
- To be a voice
- A proclaimer
-

THE FIRST THING ABOUT BEING A VOICE

**** To try and understand it – Understand who we are in Christ**

You can't be a voice if you are losing and battling all the time

Just struggling through

PHILIPPIANS 3:10 I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings. Becoming like Him in His death and so somehow attained to the resurrection from the dead

Paul's cry was **"I want to know Him. Know His sufferings"**

The more we know Him the more effective our voice becomes

PHILEMON 6 (AMP) And I pray that the participation in and sharing of your faith may produce and promote full recognition and appreciation and understanding and precise knowledge of every good thing that is ours in our identification with Christ Jesus and unto His glory

Not some echo of the past

John the Baptist said he should decrease while Jesus increased

**** To be a voice you must make a noise**

John the Baptist calling in the wilderness

People take notice of voices

They want something alive, effective and real

That's the Jesus I know -

- **Alive**
- **Very Real**
- **effective**

The Shepherd makes a noise because the sheep know His voice

This world is full of echoes

The devil has got the same echo of the past:

- You're sick
- You're tired
- You won't make it
- You've lost
- You're finished
- You've blown it
- You're poor
- You're no good
- You're useless

The same old story

Same old dry argument

Don't listen – It is an echo

It should have no impact on your life

Only a voice gets a response

The Voice of God

ISAIAH 30:21 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"

We need to make that sort of noise

Stand up and be counted

**** To be a voice we need to make it clear**

- Say the truth
- don't compromise to be popular
- Be bold
- be a Spirit person

Don't hide behind religious garbage and sayings that make you look
Spiritual

Truth sets people free

Jesus spoke of - **A way that was narrow, but broad is the way to destruction**

Jesus makes it clear between religion and Him

He called the religious snakes; vipers

He called them children of the devil

Strong words, but He was the voice

Now it is our turn to be the voice

Clear and loud, like Peter and Paul

A voice of healing, hope and a future

A voice into the future Not an echo of the past

A voice takes a stand A voice gets something from God

Just like Stephen – after he had preached to them, they gnashed their teeth
And were furious

But his voice was heard

Be like Joshua

JOSHUA 24:15 But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then chose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord

A voice for the Lord

Choose you this day whom you will serve. Who will you speak up for?

Jesus said in **MATTHEW 10:32-33**

If we acknowledge Him - Be a voice for Him

He will acknowledge us - Be a voice for us

**Let your voice be heard for Christ take a stand for the kingdom not religion or tradition
don't be ashamed to speak up for Jesus he stood for you**

THE VOICE - PART 2

LET'S CONTINUE TALKING ABOUT THE VOICE

The voice to make a difference

Different is not wrong

Different is different

Mark 6:12-13

Then they were on the road. They preached with joyful urgency that life can be radically different; right and left they sent the demons packing; they brought wellness to the sick, anointing their bodies, healing their spirits.

We are so used to conforming to each new fad

People who God uses to speak conform to Him

People who are led by His Spirit

Not just going along with the flow

Another respectable echo

People whom God uses to speak through, bring change

Not to be popular but to be right

God spoke and created a universe

A voice needs something positive to say

Peter was the first Pentecostal voice

ACTS 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words."

Peter started proclaiming the Word:

1. Declaring
2. He spoke of the purposes of God
3. He raised his voice
4. He spoke with authority
5. The anointing gave him boldness

**** A voice does not sit in silence**

God's called you all to speak out

We are Ambassadors – His voice

To make a noise

In the song 'The Voice' it says – We're not going to sit in silence

Quiet Christians!

It is open season on them

Where is His voice? Where is the revelation of the Kingdom.

Church is called 'The sleeping giant'

The church – the called out ones are not a quiet people

The Head of the church, Jesus, came from the Lion of the Tribe of Judah

He has a roar

Jesus was not silent about what He came for

MATTHEW 4:23 Jesus went through Galilee teaching in their synagogues preaching the good news of the Kingdom and healing every disease and sickness among the people

He came to bring the Fathers Kingdom

He came to reveal the Father

John 16 if you've seen me, you've seen the Father.

A true Son is a voice for His Father

A voice spreads good news

When a voice has something good and purposeful to say, **this** is what Happens

MATTHEW 4:24 News about Him spread all over Syria, people brought to Him all who were ill with various diseases. Those suffering severe pain, demon possessed, those having seizures and the paralytics, and He healed them. Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed Him

When you're not silent, look what happens:

- News spreads
- People bring the sick
- Demons manifest
- Healings take place
- Large crowds come
- People follow Jesus

The voice of hope of the Kingdom

Not some pathetic echo with no passion

Jeremiah complained about being:

- Ridiculed

- You always bear fruit

Voices speak of the goodness of God with boldness

If we: Understand

Make a noise

Make it clear

Don't sit in silence

Don't live in fear

Then we know we all can stand together

A voice of unity is a voice of victory

We all have one Father

Our family is not divided

It's time to stand together - Make a mark

ACTS 4:20 For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard

Cast off differences

We are one in the Holy Ghost

Let go of offences

Jesus says they would come but choose what to do with them

Paul said "**Come together in the unity of your faith not doctrine**"

A united voice of Jesus

Stand together

Jesus said, "**He and the Father are one**"

He wants us to be one

Together we are the voice

So we will:

1. Be Vocal -Not ashamed
2. Offer -A new way A different standard of life
3. Inform - Give people truth People perish through lack of knowledge
4. Challenge -A good challenge brings change Challenge is better than being dead
5. Be Effective -We will effect society
Silence just condones sin
A voice is effective against sin

Jesus says preach, not go in silence

Be a voice, not an echo!

THE VOICE – PART 3

WE ARE LOOKING AT THE VOICE

1 cor. 2:4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,

Voice of power

To be powerful

Believe

Unbelief is our biggest hindrance: Unbelief in ourselves and who we are in Christ. We should be living under the resurrection power of Jesus.

Unbelief in God

We can make it better

A voice without power is like clanging symbols

It brings condemnation

Jesus said in **ACTS 1:8** **You will receive power from on high. Power to be My witnesses**

From the moment the power of the Holy Spirit came on them, they could not stop

They were full on for Jesus

In the first five chapters of Acts:

- They were laughed at
- Judged
- Threatened
- Ridiculed
- Jailed
- Flogged

Listen to the disciple's response after they were told to stop speaking Anymore about Jesus

ACTS 4:18 **Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak at the entire Name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God, for we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard"**

To be a powerful voice gets ready to be:

1. Quietened – Put Down
2. Ridiculed

But to be powerful

1. Obey God, not man
2. Speak about what you have heard
3. Speak about what you have seen
4. Keep praising God
5. Testify
6. Stay focussed
7. Be persistent
8. Have strong convictions

Do what God wants

Voices make a difference

Gamalel was a religious person but he started to take notice of these Powerful apostles

ACTS 5:35-39 Then he addressed them: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God”

This guy compares an echo of Theudas and Judas; how they rose up but faded away

Just two echoes – Bit of a sparkle but faded away

Voices don't fade away

He says:

1. Be careful. Consider your ways
2. Don't touch the anointing of God
3. Leave what you don't know about alone
4. Let them go
5. If it's human it will fail
6. If it's God you won't stop it
7. You will only be fighting against God

Wise counsel

What God began, He will finish

His Word will always accomplish what it was sent forth to do

No one will silence it or you

Powerful people do five things:

1. Pray
2. Overcome
3. Walk in the Spirit
4. Evangelize
5. Risk-Takers for God

Power comes from belief

People who are a voice have a strong belief. They are not tossed too and fro. They have learned to live out of truth.

Any doubt causes us to be an echo

But a person in belief can make it better

The Roman Centurion

MATTHEW 8:8 The Centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof, but just say the word...."

He had faith in the voice of Jesus

Unbelief keeps you silent

Jesus gave us authority to speak in His Name

A strong belief in something gets people talking

Does the church believe we have something worth talking about?

JOHN 11:43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out"

A **loud** voice to wake up the **dead**

Jesus called out

He is calling us out

To take a stand

To make a statement

If we believe the voice then we will live powerfully

ISAIAH 48:16-19 Come near me and listen to this: From the first announcement I have not spoken in secret; at the time it happens, I am there. And now the Sovereign Lord has sent me, with His Spirit.

This is what the Lord says – your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I am the Lord your God, Who teaches you what is best for you, Who directs you in the way you should go.

If only you had paid attention to My commands, your peace would have been like a river, your righteousness like the waves of the sea.

Your descendants would have been like the sand, your children like its numberless grains; their name would never be cut off nor destroyed from before Me

Isaiah says:

- Come near
- Listen

Isaiah – the voice of God flowing through him

Listen what God has to say to you and believe

1. God is our Lord
2. He teaches us
3. He knows what is best for us
4. He directs us
5. We should pay attention
6. We would have peace
7. Righteousness
8. Souls would come in great numbers
9. Their name would be in the Book of Inheritance
10. Children would not disobey

Let's be a voice

People need you

God needs you

Open your mouth and speak

Don't be silent

If the church is silent religion takes over with its pathetic controlling echo

Our voice must be heard

Like Martin Luther King

He had a dream which became a voice

Billy Graham has been a voice

So can you

THE VOICE – PART 4

We have the chance to turn the page over and bring change

Only the church can bring change – God’s voice

Our voice can make a difference

2 Chronicles 7:14

New International Version (NIV)

¹⁴ if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Change is our responsibility. Silence changes no body. Charities change no body. Jesus didn’t come to patch you up. He came to put new wine into new wineskins.

Change isn’t Change until you’ve changed

Kingdom voices are entirely different to government voices. Governments have never changed the world only voices that reflect the king of kings and lord of Lords will bring true change.

LET’S LOOK AT WHOM WE ARE SPEAKING FOR AND WHOM WE REPRESENT

We are Ambassadors

Sons of the Living God

We were all born sinners – so we all were a voice of the devil once – a negative voice

There are so many negative religious voices around – dressed up, hiding behind pulpits, denominations, titles and traditions -Respectable, seeker friendly echoes

They don’t bring life – just a condemning voice

Who we are in relationship with reflects a voice or what we speak

We should discern which voice we are listening to

The voice of the soul is:

- a. Self gratifying
- b. Independent
- c. Tears down the church
- d. Condemns people

But by grace, He has called us out

We have changed sides (From echoes to voices)

We have moved. We are now living at a new address. Our citizenship is now heaven

Ephesians 2:6

New International Version (NIV)

⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus

We are a righteous voice

We don't think or speak as the world does

We are not a negative condemning echo but a voice of the Father

Our voice is that of a son

Children are echoes

Sons are voices of revelation

A son of God – when God spoke, life came

It should reflect the thoughts of God:

- a. A positive voice
- b. A passionate voice
- c. A purposeful voice
- d. A partnership voice
- e. A prayerful voice

Our voice should be a Kingdom voice

**MATTHEW 6:10 Your Kingdom come
Your Will be done
On earth as it is in heaven**

The church is a voice of hope; of healing; of restoration

It's the voice of the Father for His people

ISAIAH 43:21 The people I formed for Myself, that they may proclaim My praise

1. We are formed for God by God
2. He knows your frame
3. You are a Royal Voice
4. We are formed for His purposes

TO PROCLAIM is to:

- 1. Announce**
- 2. Make known publicly – not hiding**
- 3. To make plain**

A plain clear voice for God

To announce publicly His goodness

ISAIAH 49:2 He made my mouth like a sharpened sword in the shadow of His hand. He hid me. He made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in His quiver

Isaiah says. **“God made his mouth like a sharpened sword”**

It is sharp when we voice the Word of God

Not some echo

The Word of God is sharp

Voices don't sit and look at each other

While the world lives in fear

How can we sit any longer?

The world is looking down the barrel of a gun

A gun to their head

A gun of destruction

A gun of self righteous echoes

Peoples only hope is the voice of the church

Not condemning them but a voice of direction

A voice of victory

A voice that shines

A voice that show the Way

The government and society, they can't make the difference

They just echo

They just regurgitate

It is us – A voice

God's chosen ones

Let us be a voice that hits the mark

The key to being effective is relationship and fellowship

We are to imitate our Father

Hanging around God – Knowing Him

Our confession will make a difference

**LUKE 23:46 Jesus called out in a loud voice, “Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit”
When He had said this, He breathed His last**

Let us die to self

Get away from the cesspool of:

- Control
- Religion
- Respectability

And cry out, "**Jesus is alive!**"

So let's start to understand:

You're a voice

- 1. Make a noise**
- 2. Make it clear**
- 3. Don't sit in silence**
- 4. Don't live in fear**
- 5. Stand together**
- 6. Be powerful**
- 7. Believe**
- 8. You're a son**
- 9. Stop looking at each other**

Let's make a difference

Make your life count for God

Don't waste what God has given you

HEBREWS 13:16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others for with such sacrifices, God is pleased

Share with others

Speak to others

God loves it

God wants some mouths open

BE A VOICE NOT AN ECHO!