

CONSISTENT & UNPREDICTABLE

PART 4 MONTE INGERSOLL OCTOBER 25, 2020

1. Does God ever make deals?

Share a time when you tried to make a deal with God.

Hannah has a fertility problem and it's breaking her heart. In total desperation, Hannah says;

"O Lord of Heaven's Armies, if you will look upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime." -1 Samuel 1:11

"And the Lord remembered Hannah." -1 Samuel 1:19

Lesson: If you get desperate enough and there's no human help available to you and there's something on your heart so strong that you'd like to see God do, and it lines up with the nature and character of God, then ask! There are several places in Scripture where people do ask to make deals with God, and He agrees. Now there are also many places in Scripture where people try to deal with God and He won't agree.

2. Does God still speak to people today?

"One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, 'Here I am.' And he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.' But Eli said, 'I did not call; go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Again the Lord called, 'Samuel!' And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.' 'My son,' Eli said, 'I did not call; go back and lie down.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. A third time the Lord called, 'Samuel!' And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.' Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Then Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'" -1 Samuel 3:2-10

How do you hear God speak to you?

Share how you confirm or know you heard from God.

Can you share a time when you later found out you ignored or were careless about the whispers of God?

3. Can God ever be pressured into doing something He'd really rather not do?

“He said, ‘This is what the king who will reign over you will claim as his rights: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. Your male and female servants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the Lord will not answer you in that day.’” -1 Samuel 8:11-18

“But the people refused to listen to Samuel. ‘No!’ they said. ‘We want a king over us.’” -1 Samuel 8:19

God: *“Listen to them and give them a king.” -1 Samuel 8:22*

How does your wisdom in parenting children compare to our requests to God?

4. Does God ever regret a decision He's made?

God: *“I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions.” -1 Samuel 15:11*

Despite thinking whatever you will about God, there are scores of passages in Scripture that say He has deep feelings of joy and pride when we follow Him fully and respond to Him in relationship. And He has deep feelings of frustration and grief when we wander off the path.

5. Does God ever move in someone's heart and give them an intense hunger for righteousness?

“Samuel said to all Israel, ‘I have listened to everything you said to me and have set a king over you. Now you have a king as your leader. As for me, I am old and gray, and my sons are here with you. I have been your leader from my youth until this day. Here I stand. Testify against me in the presence of the Lord and his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Whose donkey have I taken? Whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed? From whose hand have I accepted a bribe to make me shut my eyes? If I have done any of these things, I will make it right.’” -1 Samuel 12:1-3

Can you share a time when you decided to make things right with God? How did it feel?

Do you feel like now is the time to get your life right with God and others?

How can our group help you?

Who do you need to call before the sun goes down and say: I want to apologize for something or make something right?

“Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” -Romans 10:13