

# Listen Up!

Joan of Arc, considered a heroine of France and a Roman Catholic saint, was arrested on a variety of charges, including heresy, and burned at the stake at the age of 19.

About 25 years after her execution, an inquisitorial court authorized by Pope Callixtus III examined the trial, debunked the charges against her, pronounced her innocent, and declared her a martyr.

Someone once asked Joan why God spoke only to her. She responded, “Sir, you are wrong. God speaks to everyone. I just listen.”

In the Bible, when God spoke to Samuel, it was as the boy lay down quietly in the middle of the night. Even then, Samuel did not at first recognize that the voice belonged to God. He needed the wisdom of his experienced mentor, Eli, to understand who was communicating with him.

But based on how often Samuel heard God’s voice as an adult, it’s clear that he did learn to identify, listen to and obey God’s voice.



Commenting on these incidents, John C. Maxwell, author and internationally recognized expert on leadership development, said leaders are often very busy people. “And they can easily get caught up in the activity of their obligations.

“If you’re a leader, that’s why it’s important to set aside times to quiet yourself and listen for God’s direction,” Maxwell added.

The Bible underscores the value of being a good listener:

- *Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors, for whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the Lord (Proverbs 8:34-35).*
- *And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. So it was, when Elijah heard it (1 Kings 19:12-13).*

As a leader, let your team know that they are important to you and to the mission. By your words and actions, convey to them, “I want to hear what you have to say. I will listen.”

– Beecher Hunter