

PASTOR JOE'S CORNER - NOVEMBER 2025

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PASTOR JOE'S CORNER

Freak Out or Fear Not: Finding God's Voice in Difficult Times

When life gets tough, we often have two choices: freak out or fear not. It's much easier to panic, get nervous, and become emotional when challenges arise. We quickly ask, "God, where are you? Did you leave me?" We become like the widow in 1 Kings who was ready to prepare her last meal and die. The Story of Elijah and the Widow in 1 Kings 17. we find the story

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2025
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December 18th,
2025

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- ▼ 2025
 - November
 - December

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- Christian Music
- Christmas
- Events
- Forgiveness
- Hearing from God
- Humor
- Letters to the Editor

and after the death of Elijah and the widow in Zarephath, he found the widow of Elijah during a severe drought that came because of King Ahab's wickedness. Ahab, married to Jezebel, was considered the worst king Israel ever had. God sent Elijah to a widow in Zarephath, saying, "I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain you." When Elijah arrived, he found the widow gathering sticks. He asked her for water and bread, but she replied that she only had enough flour and oil to make one last meal for herself and her son before they would die. She was in full "freak out" mode.

Elijah's response is remarkable: "Fear not. Go and do as you have said, but make me a little cake first." He then promised her that her flour and oil would not run out until the drought ended. The widow obeyed, and just as Elijah had said, her supplies never ran out.

Why Do We Struggle to Hear God's Voice?

There are three main reasons we struggle to hear God's voice:

- We're uncertain if it's really God speaking
- We're not spending enough time in prayer and God's Word
- We make excuses for why we can't follow through

When God tells us to do something, we often hesitate because we're not sure if it's truly His voice. But the Bible says, "My sheep know my voice." Just as we recognize the voices of our loved ones, we should be able to recognize God's voice.

How Can I Know If It's God's Voice?

If we're not getting into God's Word and applying it to our lives, we'll never truly know His voice. We need to:

- Spend time in prayer (not just talking but listening)
- Study Scripture regularly

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- Remove distractions that keep us from hearing clearly

Many Christians claim "God told me" to do things that clearly contradict Scripture. That's not God's voice. God will never lead you to do something that contradicts His Word.

The Problem with Our Excuses

We often make excuses for why we can't do what God is calling us to do:

- "I can't read the Bible because I don't retain what I read"
- "I can't witness because I'm not good with words"
- "I can't serve because I don't have the time"

Proverbs 18:21 says, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit." When we constantly say "I can't," we're speaking death over our potential.

God's Promise for Understanding His Word

For those who say they can't retain what they read in Scripture, John 14:26 offers a powerful promise: "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

The Holy Spirit is our teacher. He helps us understand God's Word and brings it to our remembrance when we need it. When we claim we can't understand or remember Scripture, we're essentially calling Jesus a liar.

God's Provision Doesn't Always Make Sense

God doesn't think like we do. When we're out of milk, we think we need money to buy more or a cow to produce more. But God might provide in ways we never imagined. The widow thought she needed more flour and

oil, but God had a different plan. He didn't give her more ingredients; He made her limited supply last. God's solutions often don't make logical sense to our human minds.

Life Application

This week, I challenge you to move from "freak out" to "fear not" by:
Spending time daily in God's Word and prayer
Identifying the excuses you make that keep you from following God's direction
Taking one step of faith in an area where you've been hesitating
Ask yourself: What situation am I currently freaking out about instead of trusting God? What excuses am I making that prevent me from hearing God's voice clearly? How might God be trying to provide for me in ways I'm not expecting? Am I willing to obey God's direction even when it doesn't make logical sense? Remember, you have been ordained by God for a purpose. Don't be like the widow who was so focused on her problems that she almost missed the blessing God had for her. Choose to fear not, even when everything around you suggests you should freak out.

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