

Static On The Line

IT'S UNAVOIDABLE!

Acts 15:35-41 & Acts 16:1-10/ Romans 7:15-25

- Two Great Men – One Confusing Mess

- Question of The Day:
If it's so **easy**, why couldn't THEY get it **right**?

WHAT CAUSES STATIC ON THE LINE?

- ① Our **SIN**
Isaiah 59:1-2/ Romans 1:18-32/ Numbers 15:27-29
 - **Intentional**
 - **Unintentional**

- ② Our **HUMANITY**
Isaiah 55:8-9/ 1 Corinthians 13:9-12/ 1 Peter 1:10-12

- ③ Spiritual **WARFARE**
Daniel 9:20-23 & 10:11-14/ Mark 6:1-6

CLEARING THE STATIC

Proverbs 1:23-31

- Obey whatever is **crystal clear** & remove any **known sin**.
- Get an extra set of **ears**.

IF THE LINE SEEMS DEAD

- Do a **sin** check

- Do a **freedom** check

Food for Thought

For the week of September 2, 2007

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. This week we heard about how to clear the static on the line when it comes to hearing God speak. One of the most important steps to take is to remove any known sin. In Psalm 139 David is angered by those opposing him and calls out to God to take some action. As you read this passage, answer the questions below.

What can we learn about spiritual static on our line from David's situation and experience in verses 1-18?

Psalm 139:1-18

For the director of music. Of David. A psalm

O Lord, you have searched me
and you know me.

[2] You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

[3] You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.

[4] Before a word is on my tongue
you know it completely, O Lord.

[5] You hem me in--behind and before;
you have laid your hand upon me.

[6] Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.

[7] Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?

[8] If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

[9] If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,

[10] even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.

[11] If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"

[12] even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

[13] For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

[14] I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.

[15] My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place.

When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,

[16] your eyes saw my unformed body.

All the days ordained for me
were written in your book
before one of them came to be.

[17] How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
[18] Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand.
When I awake,
I am still with you. [NIV]

How is David's response to God in verses 19-21 different than how many people today think we should talk to God (see verses 19-21)? How do you think most people hearing a modern-day David speak this way would think God would respond?

Psalm 139:19-21

If only you would slay the wicked, O God!
Away from me, you bloodthirsty men!
[20] They speak of you with evil intent;
your adversaries misuse your name.
[21] Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord,
and abhor those who rise up against you? [NIV]

What is the key to David getting the static off his line even in this heated situation (see verses 23-24)? Is this a prayer that might be important to add to your prayer with God? Would it be worth occasionally asking your friends the same question?

Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
[24] See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting. [NIV]

2. Part of getting the static off the line is involving other people in our lives. What do the following verses suggest about how this might look?

1 Thessalonians 2:10-12

You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. [11] For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, [12] encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. [NIV]

Hebrews 3:13

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. [NIV]

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. [NIV]

Is there anything you need to do to move in the direction of developing these kinds of relationships?

3. Another thing that puts spiritual static on the line when we try to hear God is our own limitations as human beings. How do the following verses help us stand strong even though all might not be clear as to what God is saying or how He's leading?

Jeremiah 9:23-24

This is what the Lord says:

"Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom
or the strong man boast of his strength
or the rich man boast of his riches,
[24] but let him who boasts boast about this:
that he understands and knows me,
that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness,
justice and righteousness on earth,
for in these I delight,"
declares the Lord. [NIV]

Proverbs 3:5-7

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
[6] in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.
[7] Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear the Lord and shun evil. [NIV]

Philippians 4:6-9

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. [7] And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

[8] Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. [9] Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. [NIV]