A dramatic sky with a bright sun breaking through dark, swirling clouds. The sun is positioned in the upper center, casting a strong light that illuminates the surrounding clouds. The clouds are dark and textured, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall tone is moody and atmospheric.

Sermon Text:
I Samuel 3:1-18

Hearing or Listening...

Propositions

Does God speak to people today?

Hebrews 1:1-2 (NLT)

Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son.

Revelations 2:7 (NKJV)

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

John 16:13 (NLT)

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.

Propositions

Do people still hear & listen to God?

Matthew 13:13-16 (NIV)

Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: 'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'

But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.

Propositions

What's required in the process of hearing and listening to God?

- 1. Remain in God's Presence.**
 - Proximity vs. Intimacy
- 2. Recognize God's Voice.**
 - Interpretation vs Discernment
- 3. Respond even if it's Difficult.**
 - Reaction vs Obedient Action

Lessons from Samuel's Encounter with God!

The “Word of the Lord was “Rare” and
“Visions were Uncommon”.

- God was not silent.
- His people were disconnected.

God speaks with whom He chooses.

- God speaks with anyone, not just those with positions or seniority.
- He's looking for upright, trustworthy, attentive and obedient people.

Never undervalue divine interruptions.

- Spoke to Samuel at night, just before dawn.



Listening and Hearing Requires...

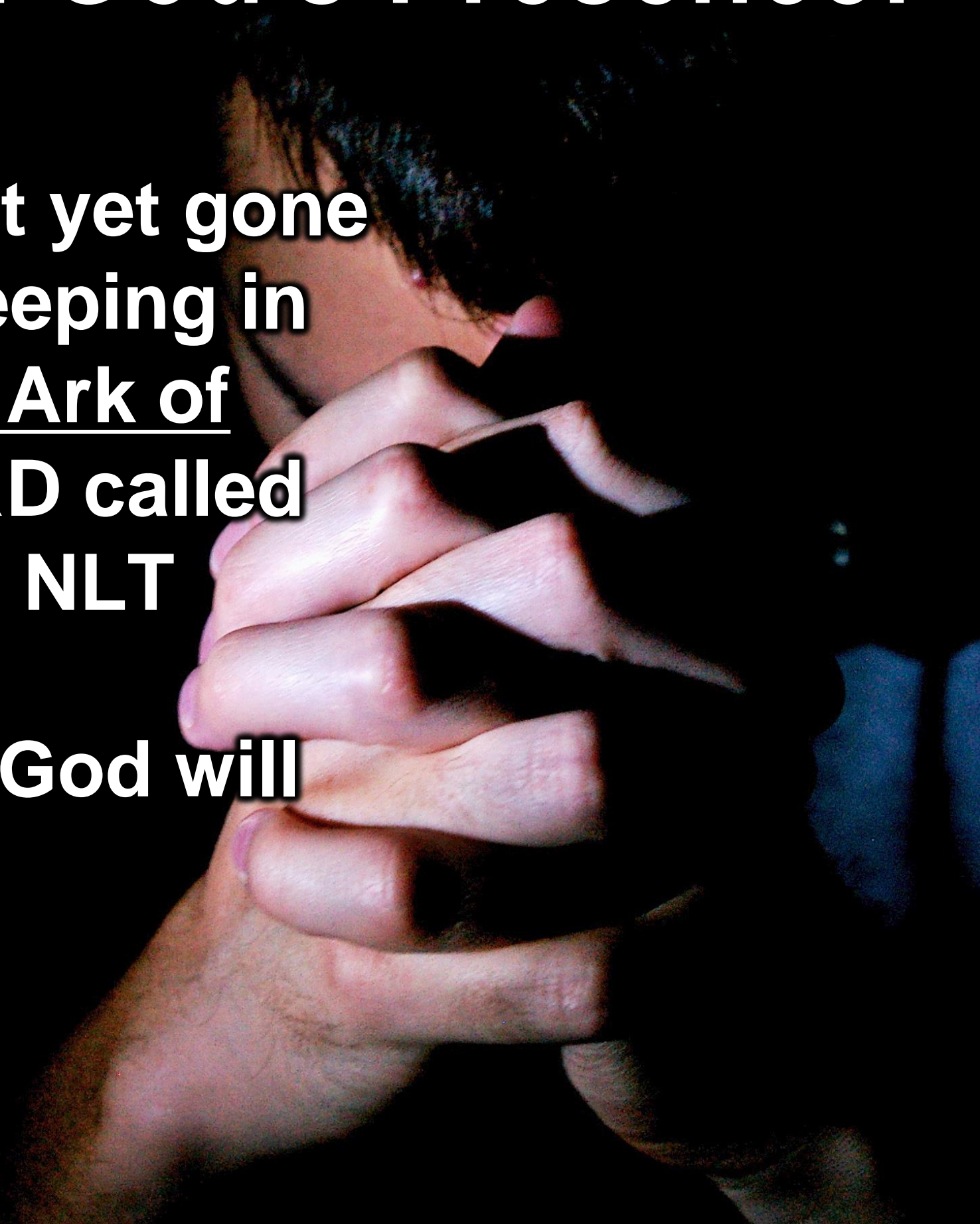
#1. Remaining in God's Presence!

1 Samuel 3:3-4

The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle near the Ark of God. Suddenly, the LORD called out, 'Samuel! Samuel!' NLT

James 4:8

Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you. NLT



The Lost Art of Lingerin:

‘Drawing Close to God’ is not an issue of proximity. It’s an issue of Intimacy.

James 4:8 (NLT)

Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

Obstacles of Intimacy.

Busyiness.

Spiritual Indifference.

Impurity, hypocrisy.

Unresolved sin.

Double mindedness.

Listening and Hearing Requires...

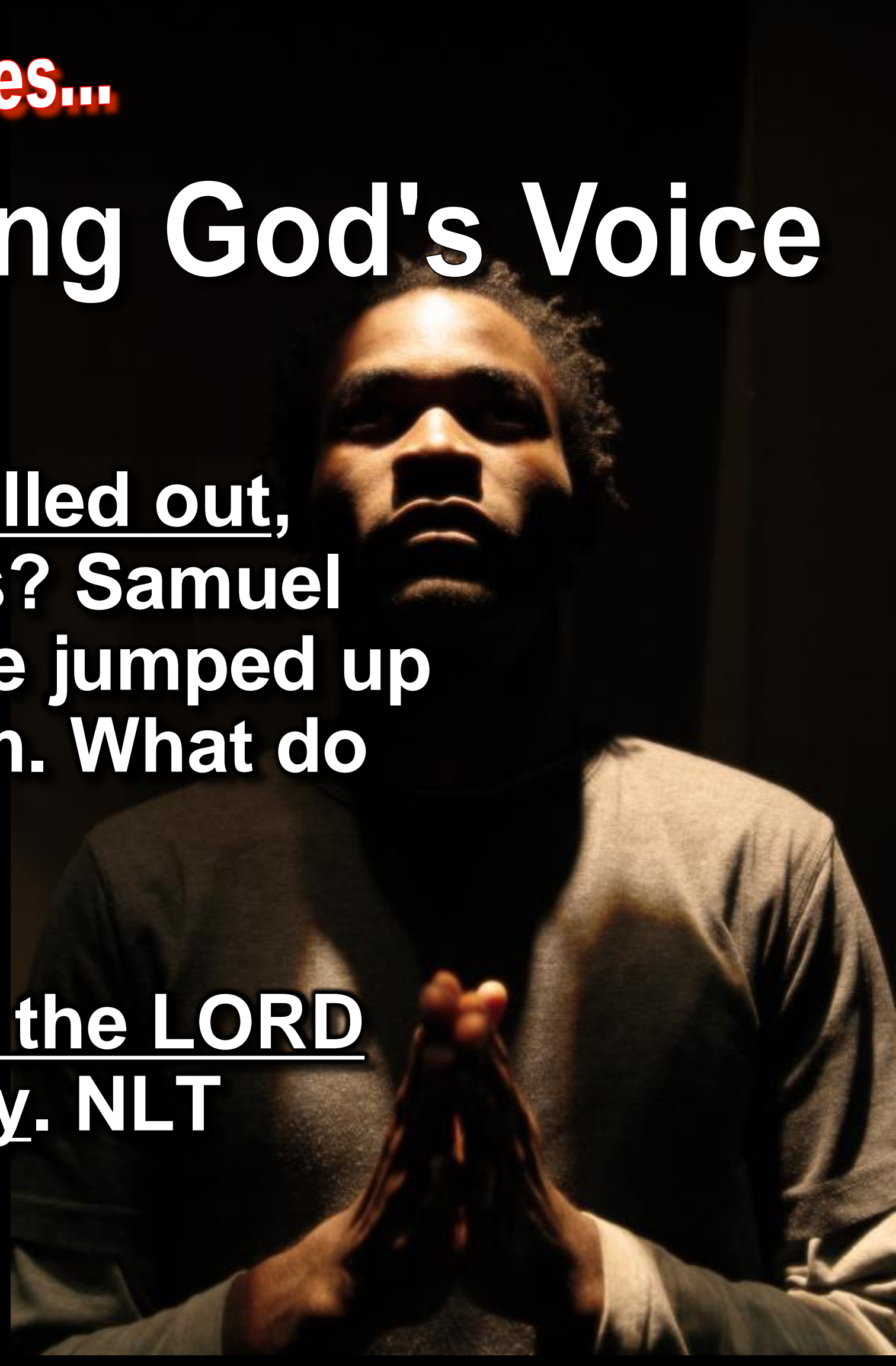
#2. Recognizing God's Voice

1 Samuel 3:4-5

Suddenly, the LORD called out, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Yes? Samuel replied. "What is it?" He jumped up and ran to Eli. Here I am. What do you need?

1 Samuel 3:8-9

Then Eli realized it was the LORD who was calling the boy. NLT



What prevents people from Recognizing God's Voice?

In Samuels Case:

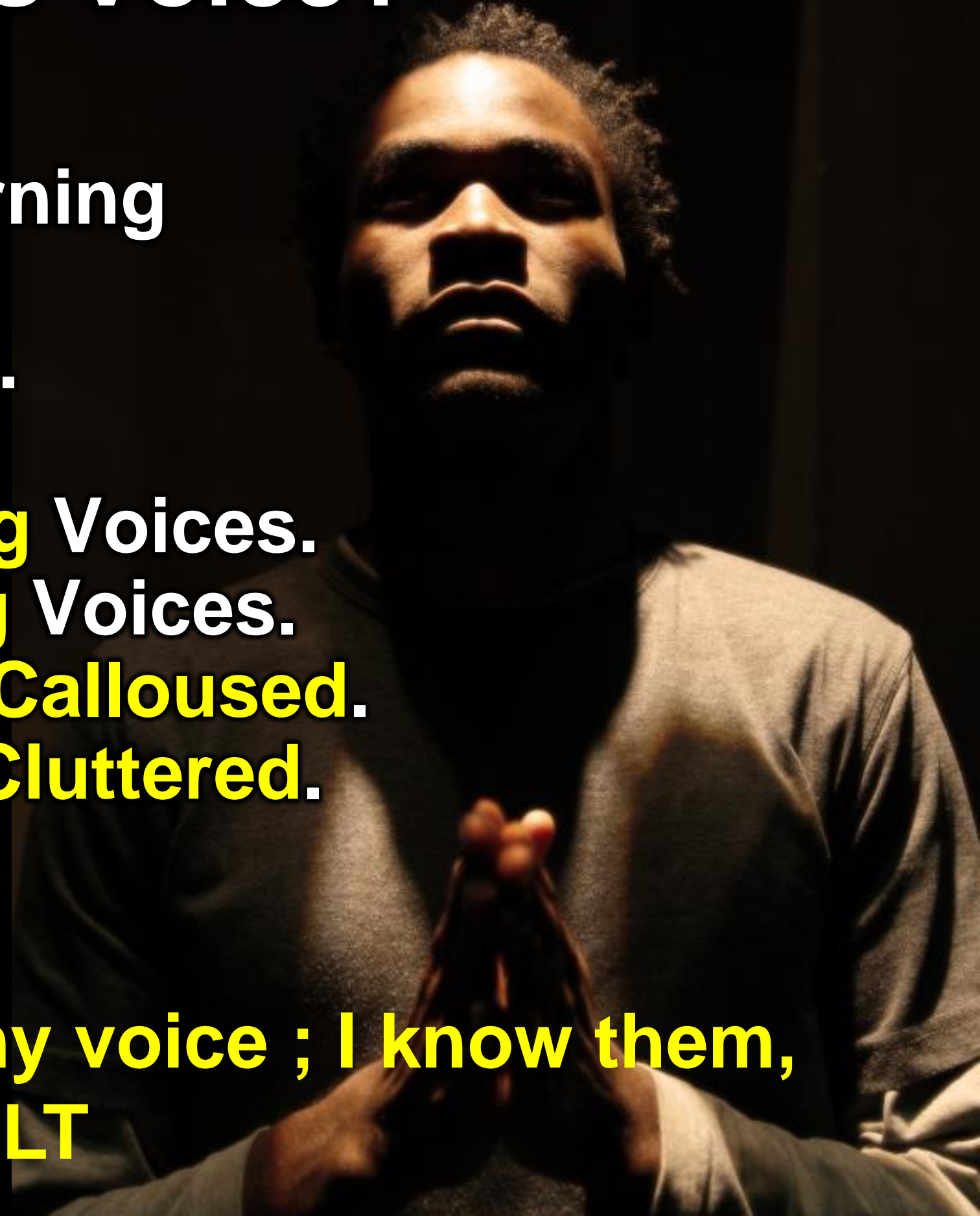
- Hearing & not Discerning
- Being Unfamiliar.
- Being Inexperienced.

In Our Case today:

- Too many **Competing** Voices.
- Too many **Confusing** Voices.
- One's Heart may be **Calloused**.
- One's Mind may be **Cluttered**.

John 10:27-28

My sheep recognize my voice ; I know them, and they follow me. NLT



Listening and Hearing Requires...

#3. Responding to God, ...Is Not Always Easy

1 Samuel 3:10

And the LORD came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Yes, your servant is listening." NLT

1 Samuel 3:15-16

He was afraid to tell Eli what the LORD had said to him. NLT





Listening & Responding to God Is Not Always Easy!

Sometimes God requires us to do difficult things

It's Not always...

- **Convenient.**
- **Popular.**
- **Gratifying.**
- **Financially Beneficial.**
- **Simple.**
- **Comfortable.**

But God Rewards Faithfulness and Obedience!

Application:

Will you 'Dare to Discover' what God is saying to you...

1. Reside in His Presence, Daily
2. Pray, Expectantly
3. Listen, Attentively
4. Obey, Unconditionally

Lord, what do you want to do through my life, to accomplish your will?