

2 Corinthians 11:3, NIV – *But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*

We can have impure devotion to Christ!

Matthew 5:8, NIV – *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

When we maintain a pure heart, we'll be able to see God in every situation

### 3. Integrity

1 Kings 9:4-5, NIV – (4) *“As for you, if you walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, (5) I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever ...”*

Defn: “Adherence to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral character; honesty; the state of being whole, sound, entire, complete, undivided, undiminished, unimpaired

Their words and actions are always in agreement

Proverbs 10:9, NIV – *The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.*

Proverbs 11:3, NIV – *The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.*

### 4. Charity (Love)

Psalms 85:10, NIV – *Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.*

Romans 13:10, NIV – *Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

We often underestimate the power of love, because our love is often impure, and so our motives are often tainted with selfishness, or hidden agendas.

1 Corinthians 8:1, NIV – *We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.*

### SUMMARY

John 5:25, NIV - *I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.*

## MAINTAINING YOUR VOICE

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### DISCOVERING THE POWER OF GOD'S VOICE

#### 1. At Creation

Genesis 1:3, NIV - *And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.*

God's voice has the power to command change, even at a molecular level, and cause things to become new things

Revelation 21:5, NIV – *He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”*

#### 2. At The Exodus

Exodus 15:26, NIV - *He said, “If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes ... I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you.”*

God is greatly concerned that we hear his voice, and obey it

#### 3. At Moses' Call

Deuteronomy 4:12, NIV - *Then the LORD spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of words but saw no form; there was only a voice.*

Moses was attracted by the burning bush, but he was changed by God's voice

#### 4. During Moses' Life

Numbers 7:89, NIV - *When Moses entered the Tent of Meeting to speak with the LORD, he heard the voice speaking to him from between the two cherubim above the atonement cover on the ark of the Testimony. And he spoke with him.*

God's power is displayed and released, as His voice is heard

#### 5. During King David's Life

Psalms 29:3-9, NIV – (3) *The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters. (4) The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic. (5) The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. (6) He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox. (7) The voice of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning. (8) The voice of the LORD shakes the desert; the LORD shakes the Desert of Kadesh. (9) The voice of the LORD twists the oaks and strips the forests bare.*

When the voice of the Lord is clearly declared and heard, things change!

## 6. During Our Lives

Deuteronomy 4:36, NIV – “Out of the heavens He let you hear His voice to discipline you ...”

- Discipline = “Yasar” (Hebrew) = admonish, correct, discipline, instruct, warn, teach, train, turn

### GOD WANTS TO USE OUR VOICE AS HIS VOICE

#### 1. Good News Requires A Voice

Isaiah 40:9, NIV – You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God!”

#### 2. Wisdom Requires A Voice

Proverbs 1:20, NIV - Wisdom calls aloud in the street, she raises her voice in the public squares.

#### 3. Understanding Requires A Voice

Proverbs 8:1, NIV - Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice?

### JOHN THE BAPTIST – A VOICE FOR GOD

John 1:19-23, NIV – (19) Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. (20) He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, “I am not the Christ.” (21) They asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” He answered, “No.” (22) Finally they said, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” (23) John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’”

- It doesn't matter who you are – what matters is whose voice you are speaking with

John 1:23, NIV – “Make straight the way for the Lord”.

Matthew 3:2, NIV – “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

Matthew 3:7-8, NIV – (7) But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? (8) Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.”

- John lived in such a way that he protected his ability to have a voice.

Mark 1:4,6, NIV – (4) And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ... (6) John wore

clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

### GOD'S PEOPLE ARE LOSING THEIR VOICE

#### 1. Immorality Silences Our Voice

#### 2. Divisive Attitudes And Actions Silence Our Voice

Isaiah 58:4, NIV - Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high.

#### 3. Scepticism Silences Our Voice

Luke 1:13,18-20, NIV – (13) But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John.” ... (18) Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.” (19) The angel answered, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. (20) And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time.”

### FOUR CHARACTER TRAITS TO MAINTAIN YOUR VOICE:

#### 1. Humility

- Humility is seeing ourselves honestly, as we really are.

Romans 12:3, NIV – For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

- The opposite of humility is not pride, but self-deception.
- Pride (thinking more highly of yourself) and false humility (thinking more lowly of yourself) are both self-deceptions.
- True humility recognizes your own contributions, but it also recognizes everyone else's

#### 2. Purity

- Defn: “Free from anything of a different, inferior, or contaminating kind; free from extraneous matter; free from foreign or inappropriate elements; untainted with evil; innocent.
- Purity is a choice to avoid anything that would distort or contaminate our motives, our mindsets, or our methods.

Job 14:4, NIV – “Who can bring what is pure from the impure? No one!”