



**Educate
+ Engage**



WHO ARE YOU
LISTENING
TO?



Minimizing Voices

OVERVIEW

Sometimes we let outside voices convince us of what God can or cannot do. In those moments we may forget the promises proclaiming the power of God. But instead of focusing on our worries and the fears of tomorrow, we must remember who our God is and all He can do.

Scripture Passage

Exodus 5:1-2 (ESV)

Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.'" But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go."

EDUCATE

There is an old story about training an elephant. Elephants by default are some of the most powerful animals on earth. They can weigh up to fourteen thousand pounds and have the largest brains of any mammal. The sheer power of an elephant is remarkable and unmatched. They have forty thousand muscles in their trunk and can live up to seventy years.

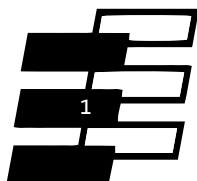
However, in spite of all of its power, when an elephant is trained it can be conditioned to be limited by its own self-doubt. Elephants tied to a spike when the animal is little will eventually accept that they cannot go beyond the limits of what they are tied to. They are conditioned to believe that they are not as strong as they really are.

They minimize their power because of their past. They minimize their potential because of their own doing. It's not that they can't but that they won't even try.

Why do you think some people don't try to do things?

Point 1: Recognize that voices will try to minimize the things of God.

There will always be voices that try to minimize what God can do. Consider that there is nothing comparable to the power of God and yet we see that we can be the one to minimize God. It's the voice in our own heads that wonders if God can. It's the minimizing voice that sows doubt into our scary situation. The minimizing voice casts a long shadow of hesitation as we pray for our miracle. The questions like: "Can God do this for me? Will God care enough to hear my prayer? Does Jesus see my pain?"



Have you had a doubt where you questioned if something would happen for you?

Those voices from inside are sabotaging our faith and staging a war against what the Lord wants to do. There are also voices that will try to minimize what God can do. The Bible declares that Pharaoh tried to manipulate the people of God by minimizing their God. In Exodus 5:2, "But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go?..." Pharaoh compared himself to the Lord and concluded that God was no match. He looked at what God had done and minimized the Lord. What an amazing concept to believe that people may think that they are greater than the Creator.

Do you think people today still believe that they are greater than the Lord? Celebrities? Nonbelievers?

Point 2: Shut down the voices that try to minimize who you are and what you will become.

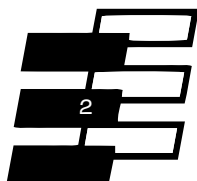
There will always be voices that try to minimize who you are and what you will become. Not only will they minimize what Jesus can do; they will also minimize who you are. When voices try to talk down to you, know that you are loved by God. When you hear that you are a nobody, know that you are a child of God and royalty in His eyes. When you hear that "you were an accident," know that there is nothing done by accident. You are fearfully and wonderfully made. You are somebody! Ignore those voices there to minimize your future, minimize your potential, and minimize who you will become. Like our friend the elephant, our conditions of today don't determine who we will become tomorrow.

There will always be voices that try to minimize what you can do for the Lord. Pharaoh was a harsh ruler and unfair to the Hebrews. He was a hard taskmaster with a hardened heart towards the people of God. He was not content to just minimize what God could do, but he wanted to minimize what they could do for the Lord. Moses declared the voice of God, "Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness" (Exodus 5:1).

Point 3: Trust God's voice that speaks of possibility and victory.

The voice of the enemy will always try to stop you from worshiping the Lord. The voices against you will always minimize what you can do for the Lord. You must hear God's voice declaring your freedom and victory.

If you could do anything for God, and you knew that it would happen, what would you do for the kingdom of God?



Lesson 2

The enemy will always try to talk you out of doing things for God. When you begin to hear what you can't do, remind yourself of the verse found in Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me." It may be impossible if it depends on just you, but with God all things are possible. Possibilities with just us seem impossible, but impossibilities with God become possible. Pray that prayer. Worship a little more today. Read your devotional a little longer. God's voice speaks possibilities.

Closing

If you are listening to a minimizing voice, today is the day to draw a line in the sand and say "No more!" Refuse to believe those things that are not of the Lord and decide you are going to start trusting the Lord.

ENGAGE

Today you are going to identify some areas where you are doubting, minimizing, or thinking you are not enough. Take about sixty seconds and think about one thing you think would be really hard for the Lord to do. It could be saving a lost family member. It could be get into that college. It could be starting that P7 Club, Campus Ministry, or Bible Study.

We are going to pray today that you will elevate God's voice greater than any fear. We will close off any minimizing voices of doubt or worry, and we will magnify God's voice of victory.

