

Here I Am

Joe Slater

When Jesus called to Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus, Saul answered, “*Here I am, Lord*” (Acts 9:10). Saul wasn’t informing Jesus of his whereabouts; the Lord was quite aware of his location! Rather, he was saying, in effect, “I am listening; You have my undivided attention.”

“Here I am” is heard from quite a number of Old Testament characters, too. Sometimes they answered God’s call this way. On other occasions, they spoke these words to one another. For example, when God called Abraham, he responded, “*Here I am*” (Genesis 22:1). Then God told him to offer Isaac on a mountain in the land of Moriah. As they went up the mountain, Isaac called to his father; Abraham answered, “*Here I am*” (22:7). Then Isaac asked where the sacrificial lamb was.

A few verses later, when Abraham was about to slay Isaac, the Angel of the Lord called out to him. Once more, Abraham answered: “*Here I am*” (22:11). In each instance, Abraham was saying, “I am listening; I want to hear what you have to say.”

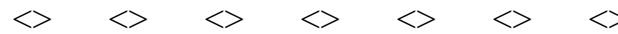
Other great men who answered God and their fellow-men with “Here I am” include Jacob (Genesis 31:11; 46:2), Joseph (Genesis 37:13); Moses (Exodus 3:4); Samuel (1 Samuel 3:4-8, 16); and Isaiah (6:8). Even God Himself promised that when His people cried out to Him, He would respond, “*Here I am*” (Isaiah 58:9). What a magnificent thought, that the Almighty Ruler of the universe is interested in what you and I have to say to Him! “What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!”

In addition to the privilege of prayer, let us learn two things: First, we ought to be genuinely interested in

what other people are saying to us. Abraham listened attentively as his son asked him a question (Genesis 22:7). Joseph respectfully listened to his father and obeyed his instructions (Genesis 37:13). Family members need to listen to each other! Sometimes, in the break-neck pace of life, we tune each other out. Let’s start saying, “Here I am. You have my attention. I am interested in what you have to say.”

Second, let us listen to God and obey Him. God speaks today through His inspired word, the Bible. Are we listening? That is, are we interested enough to read His word? Not every passage will be understood at first glance. Are we willing to study, digging deeply to gain the needed understanding?

Can we honestly say, “Here I am”?



Like a Jewel

You've given me another day, dear Lord!
May I handle it like a jewel;
not waste it away
by vain words I say,
just chatting away like a fool.

Let me do something constructive today;
(Time is slipping away so fast)
by prayer, word, or deed
fill somebody's need,
a jewel that forever will last!

Alice Hansche Mortenson (via Bulletin Gold)

Seven S's of the Savior

JESUS CAME TO THIS EARTH TO . . .

. . . **Speak** – “I have many things to say . . . He who sent Me is true, and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him” (John 8:26).

. . . **Seek** – “for the Son of Man ahs tome to seek . . . that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).

. . . **Serve** – “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve . . .” (Mark 10:45).

. . . **Suffer** – “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God . . .” (1 Peter 3:18).

. . . **Sacrifice** – “. . . as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us . . . a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma” (Ephesians 5:2).

. . . **Sanctify** – “Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate” (Hebrews 13:12).

. . . **Save** – “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners . . .” (1 Timothy 1:15).

--Edd Sterchi (Campellsville, KY)