



## Selah-The Sound of the Master

When my son was 8 years old, he and I were listening to a recording of Grieg's "Piano Concerto in A Minor." I pointed out how playing such a difficult piece would take hours of disciplined practice. "That's not true," Tommy sniffed. "I could play that!" He accepted my challenge to demonstrate his skill on the piano. With enough passion to make Grieg himself proud, Tommy played up and down the keyboard, backwards, forwards and inside-out, hitting every note at least four or five times apiece. At his conclusion he declared, "See! That was easy!"

It reminded me of a time when I was young, I watched a television interview of an opera singer. The lady described her hours of practice and the tremendous amount of energy required to project a full sound. Perplexed, I spread my lips and belted out the same song she sang in what I considered fine opera style. I couldn't understand why she thought it was so hard.

As children our ears were not yet fine-tuned enough to detect the difference between a novice and an expert (especially if the "novice" were "me"! ) Even as adults, we understand why Uncle Billy didn't make it to Nashville and Bill Gaither did, but detecting the nuances that separate a very good or excellent musician from a true master takes more refined listening skills. The only way to develop that fine-tuned ability is through spending hours and hours of listening to and learning to recognize a master's sound.

So it is with hearing the voice of our Master Shepherd. How do we refine our spiritual ears to detect the nuances between our own human (novice) intuition, imagination or experience, and the Master's true voice? Through spending time with Him, hours and hours, listening, studying His words, learning to recognize the Master's sound, and proving His voice through obedience.

*... He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear **To hear as the learned.** The Lord GOD has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away. - Isaiah 50:4b-5*

***Heavenly Father,***

***Thank you for giving us ears to hear what you are saying to the Church. Thank you Lord for awakening our ears to hear as the learned! Amen***