



## Removing Some of the Static from the Line

1 Samuel 3:1–21 (HCSB)

*The boy Samuel served the Lord in Eli's presence. In those days the word of the Lord was rare and prophetic visions were not widespread. <sup>2</sup> One day Eli, whose eyesight was failing, was lying in his room. <sup>3</sup> Before the lamp of God had gone out, Samuel was lying down in the tabernacle of the Lord, where the ark of God was located. <sup>4</sup> Then the Lord called Samuel, and he answered, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> He ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "I didn't call," Eli replied. "Go back and lie down." So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup> Once again the Lord called, "Samuel!" Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, "Here I am; you called me." "I didn't call, my son," he replied. "Go back and lie down." <sup>7</sup> Now Samuel had not yet experienced the Lord, because the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup> Once again, for the third time, the Lord called Samuel. He got up, went to Eli, and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli understood that the Lord was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup> He told Samuel, "Go and lie down. If He calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. <sup>10</sup> The Lord came, stood there, and called as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel responded, "Speak, for Your servant is listening." <sup>11</sup> The Lord said to Samuel, "I am about to do something in Israel that everyone who hears about it will shudder. <sup>12</sup> On that day I will carry out against Eli everything I said about his family, from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup> I told him that I am going to judge his family forever because of the iniquity he knows about: his sons are defiling the sanctuary, and he has not stopped them. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, I have sworn to Eli's family: The iniquity of Eli's family will never be wiped out by either sacrifice or offering." <sup>15</sup> Samuel lay down until the morning; then he opened the doors of the Lord's house. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, <sup>16</sup> but Eli called him and said, "Samuel, my son." "Here I am," answered Samuel. <sup>17</sup> "What was the message He gave you?" Eli asked. "Don't hide it from me. May God punish you and do so severely if you hide anything from me that He told you." <sup>18</sup> So Samuel told him everything and did not hide anything from him. Eli responded, "He is the Lord. He will do what He thinks is good." <sup>19</sup> Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and He fulfilled everything Samuel prophesied. <sup>20</sup> All Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a confirmed prophet of the Lord. <sup>21</sup> The Lord continued to appear in Shiloh, because there He revealed Himself to Samuel by His word.*

1. Sin is the leading cause of static.

Isaiah 59:1–2 (HCSB)

*Indeed, the Lord's hand is not too short to save, and His ear is not too deaf to hear. <sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have built barriers between you and your God, and your sins have made Him hide His face from you so that He does not listen.*

Psalms 66:18 (NIV)

*If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;*

- Disobedience is a hindrance to the voice of God.

Amos 8:11 (ESV)

*"Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord God, "when I will send a famine on the land—not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.*

2. Being in the right place reduces the static. (1 Samuel 3:3)

3. Another set of ears reduces static.

Proverbs 15:22 (HCSB)

*Plans fail when there is no counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.*

4. The right response reduces static.

- Putting your yes on the table reduces static! (1 Samuel 3:10; 1 Samuel 3:19)

5. Expecting some tingle versus tickle reduces static.

- The Lord's voice many times brings conviction and challenge. (1 Samuel 3:11)

2 Timothy 4:3–4 (NASB)

*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, <sup>4</sup> and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.*