

Hearing God's Voice

John 10:27

"My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me."

I. "My sheep hear my voice..."

A. Jesus has given us a promise that we can, indeed, hear His voice.

This means a couple of things, then – He is speaking, and He is speaking **to us!**

1. Salvation didn't just give me a ticket to heaven when I leave this planet – it brought me into a relationship with God Himself.

He is now not only the Creator...

- He is my Lord.
- He is my Father.
- I am now in His 'fold', and Jesus is my Shepherd.
- He lives with me and in me, by His Holy Spirit.

I now have the ability to converse with Him, to speak to Him and to hear Him speaking to me.

2. I can never be upset with God for not speaking to me – if I'm not hearing his voice, the problem is not that he's not speaking but that I'm not listening!

- Isaiah 66:2, 4

"This is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word."

"... when I called, no one answered, when I spoke, they did not listen..."

B. How do we learn to hear the voice of God?

1. Focus

Eliminate all the hubbub of life, everything else vying for our attention, focus on the Lord.

Col. 3:1-3

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."

Begin to worship, read the Bible, or pray in tongues. See yourself before the throne of God. Jesus promised we could hear Him, so expect Him to talk to you.

2. Listen

Sometimes, we just need to stop talking!

Psalm 46:10 (NKJV) *“Be still and know that I am God.”*

Isn't it frustrating when you're trying to communicate something to someone, but they just keep talking? Sometimes we come before the Lord in prayer and we do all the talking! Learn to be still and listen for His voice.

Learn to meditate, think about what He's saying to you.

Joshua 1:8

*“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall **meditate** on it day and night...”*

The word translated 'meditate' means, *“to murmur, by implication to ponder, imagine ...”* (Strong's)

Have you ever walked away from a conversation knowing you needed to think about what was said to help you understand what was meant? Don't rush your conversations with the Lord – make time to ponder, to meditate.

Psalm 63:6

(NLT) *“I lie awake thinking of You, **meditating** on You through the night.”*

3. Discern

There are three internal voices we might hear when we're praying:

a. Satan

John 10:10 says that the enemy comes *“to kill, steal, and destroy.”*

- Does what you hear add to you, or take from you?
- Does it bring peace, or bring doubt and confusion?

Rev. 12:10 calls Satan *“the accuser of our brothers ...”*

- Are you condemned, or accused?
- Does what you hear accuse someone else to you?

James 4:8 tells us that when we submit ourselves to God, we can *“resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*

b. Yourself

Sometimes what you hear is just you, your own inward thoughts and musings.

Jer. 17:9 *“The heart is deceitfully wicked...”* We are not our own best counselor!

However, just because it's something you already think doesn't necessarily mean it's not God speaking to you. God knows us, and He talks to us through our own thoughts and desires.

The more you learn to focus on Him, the less you'll be caught up in your own thoughts, the more your mind will be clear to hear His voice.

c. **God**

John 16:13

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak..."

- God will not say anything that is contrary to scripture.
- He will not speak in a way that is contrary to His nature.
- He is able to convict you, discipline you, be very straight with you, but always without condemning, always with the heart and voice of a father.

Learning to discern God's voice is like anything worthwhile, it takes practice!

Submit what you hear to :

- The Word of God – does it line up with scripture?
- The Spirit of God – is there a sense of God's nearness, comfort, faith?
- The People of God – share with a trusted leader, brother, or sister.