

John 10:27

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

II. "I know them"

A. We have a relationship with God.

We think about our salvation in terms of our knowing Jesus. But the issue is not only do I know Him, but does **He** know **me**?

Matt. 7:21-23 Jesus says that He will one day tell those who claim to have done mighty works in His Name, but did not do His will, *"...I never knew you..."*

He doesn't say 'you never knew me', but 'I never knew you.'

But we are His sheep who hear His voice and follow Him – He knows us!

That's why we focus on Him and listen intently for His voice – I'm waiting for personal, heart-to-heart, meaningful communication from the Lord of Glory, Who knows my name and everything about me!

B. Because He knows us, He knows –

1. What I need to hear

He speaks to us in relevant ways concerning our specific situations.

Matt. 6:31-32 (NLT) *"... your heavenly Father already knows all your needs."*

2. How I need to hear it.

God will speak to us in ways that we will understand, guiding us into His truth.

John 16:13-14

"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,..."

Be prepared to perceive God in whatever way He may be manifesting Himself.

Job 33:14

(CEV) *"God speaks in different ways, and we don't always recognize his voice."*

- **Quiet, subtle ways.**

1 Kings 19:11-12 (NKJV)

*“... the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire **a still small voice**”*

- **Loud, obvious ways.**

2 Samuel 22:14

“The Lord thundered from heaven, and the Most High uttered His voice.

Rev. 1:10

“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet...”

C. How does He speak to us?

1. Outwardly

a. Scripture

The Word of God is the primary, most consistent, most reliable way He will speak to us throughout our Christian lives.

1 Tim. 3:16 *“All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, ...”*

Everything therein was spoken by Him, and is therefore useful to conform us to His nature.

b. The Natural World

Psalms 19:1-2

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.”

c. Circumstances

Psalms 119:67-68

“Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word. You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees.”

We want to use wisdom here, we can’t let ‘signs’ lead us to wrong conclusions. Circumstances are better used to confirm than to direct.

It’s vitally important to use the Word and other means to verify what we think He’s saying to us.

d. Prophetic Word

1 Cor. 14:31

“...the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.”

e. Audible Voice

1 Samuel 3 Samuel heard the voice of the Lord, thought it was Eli.

Matt. 3:17

"...and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

2. Inwardly

a. Inner Impression

The "inward witness," what we would often consider to be our conscience. You find yourself knowing and wanting to do the will of God.

Psalm 37:4

"...He will give you the desires of your heart."

Col. 1:9 *"...filled with the knowledge of His will,..."*

b. Inner Voice

Isaiah 30:21 — *"You will hear a voice behind you saying, 'this is the way walk in it', when you turn to the right or turn to the left."*

Voice speaking in your spirit / mind. It might be a scripture verse – **John 14:26**
"He will bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

c. Inner Picture

An image in your spirit / mind. Let the Lord bring understanding, don't rush to interpret something you're not sure of.

John 16:13

"He will guide you into all the truth,..."

d. Dream

A dream that you remember upon waking, that has significance beyond the random occurrences in most dreams.

Job 33:15-18

"In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men, while they slumber on their bed, then he opens the ears of men..."

e. Vision

'Open vision', like John describes in the Book of Revelation – something revealed by the Lord in what seemed to John like a waking, 3-dimensional reality.

Rev. 1:10, 12, 17

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard..."; "And I turned to see..."; "I fell at His feet..."