DISCERNING THE VOICE OF GOD

How to Recognize When God Speaks

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1. Jesus was clear to point out a relationship, naming us His sheep:
   “My sheep…”
   Romans 8:16—The Spirit Himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God’s children.

2. Jesus points out not only a relationship but a result of being His sheep:
   “… hear My voice.”
   John 8:47—The one who is from God hears God’s words.

3. Jesus points out a relationship, a result, and also a reason for being His sheep:
   “I know My sheep.”
   Intimacy is the foundation for getting to know God.

4. Jesus points out a relationship, a result, a reason, and also a response from His sheep:
   “They follow Me.”
   John 10:11—I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.
   Hebrews 13:20-21—Now may the God of peace … the great Shepherd of the sheep—with the blood of the everlasting covenant, equip you with all that is good to do His will.
The Holy Spirit is the __primary___ __way__ God guides His believers today.

The Holy Spirit, all of the Holy Spirit, __indwells__ every believer.

Every person, whether believer or nonbeliever, is made up of __body__, __soul__, and __spirit__.

When you become a believer, the __Spirit__ takes up residence in you.

Every person, whether believer or nonbeliever, has a conscience that is part of the __soul__.

The conscience is __not__ the voice of God.

When you think the Holy Spirit is leading you, look for

1. the witness of the __Holy__ __Spirit__.
2. the illumination of the __Scripture__.
3. the confirmation of God's hand in __circumstances__.

The Five Ms of Correctly Hearing God

1. Look for the __message__ of the __Spirit__.
2. Live in the __mode__ of __prayer__.
3. Search out the __model__ of __Scripture__.
4. Submit to the __ministry__ of __Eli__.
5. Expect the __mercy__ of __confirmation__.
When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. 
For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak whatever He hears. 
He will also declare to you what is to come. 
John 16:13, HCSB

When we go through life, we need a ___guide___ we can trust.

The Holy Spirit asks us to ___listen___ to Him, to ___follow___ Him, and to ___trust___ Him.

John 16:13—When the Spirit of truth comes, He will ___guide you into all truth___

“To guide” means to lead while one is ___on the way___.

The Holy Spirit offers you ___freely-given___ truth.

The Holy Spirit guides you with ___personal___ truth.

The Holy Spirit guides you into an ___inner-depth___ truth.

___Strongholds___ prevent you from hearing the voice of God.

Combat strongholds by ___destroying___ them with ___divine___ weapons.
We get to know God through His written Word to us.

The better you know God, the more clearly you can hear God.

Focus on God—not merely on hearing God.

You can distinguish God’s voice by pressing into Him.

2 Chronicles 16:9—For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to show Himself strong for those whose hearts are completely His.

Don’t go voice hunting instead of God hunting.

Correct communion with God in our ears can only emanate from intimate communion with Him in our hearts.

Search the Scripture to get to know God, not just to get from God.

It is God’s responsibility to cause you to hear and to recognize His voice.

God leads perfectly because He is love and He is good.
We are His creation—created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10, HCSB

Our God doesn’t just sit on ___high___ and look down ___low___.

Five Principles about God’s Plan for Your Life

1. God’s plan is often ___uncovered___ while you are in the ___desert___ ___seasons___ of your life.

2. You are ___equipped___ for God’s plan while you are in the desert:

   Moses was:
   A. equipped with ___dedication___
   B. equipped with ___direction___
   C. equipped with ___destination___

3. ___Supernatural___ ___markers___ will point you to God’s plan.

4. ___Intimate___ ___fellowship___ is the purpose of God’s plan.

5. God’s plan ___changes the course___ of your life.
Naaman was furious and went away and said, “Behold, I thought, ‘He will surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.’”

2 Kings 5:11

When God speaks, your response is to _______ obey______, not to _______ think_______.

Three Preconceived Expectations that Hinder God’s Healing

1. the means of _______ communication______

2. the method of _______ ministry______

3. the means of _______ deliverance______

Communication: _______ pride______ _______ steals______ from us the opportunity to hear God’s voice.

Ministry: _______ dramatics______ _______ steal______ from us the opportunity to hear God’s voice.

Deliverance: plain and simple— _______ go: be obedient______.