

DISCERNING
THE VOICE OF
GOD

How to Recognize When God Speaks

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ANTICIPATING THE VOICE OF GOD

My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me. John 10:27, HCSB



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

When you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation—in Him when you believed—were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. He is the down payment of our inheritance, for the redemption of the possession, to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:13-14, HCSB



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.



THE VOICE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*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.

GOD'S VOICE REVEALS HIS CHARACTER

*With all my heart I have sought You;
Do not let me wander from Your commandments.
Open my eyes, that I may behold
Wonderful things from Your law.
Psalm 119:10,18*

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.



GOD'S VOICE REVEALS HIS PLAN

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.



RESPONDING TO GOD'S VOICE

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.