



C2: Hearing the Voice of God

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*For God may speak in one way, or in another, yet man does not perceive it.
Job 33:14 (NKJV)*

Introduction

This subject not just about gaining knowledge but about cultivating a deep, personal relationship with the God. As Jesus said in **John 10:27 (NKJV)**, *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."* Together, we'll explore how we can recognize and respond to His voice in every area of our lives.

God's voice announces his presence.

- Like when I am away on a trip and I come home I walk in the door and say hello, and my kids come running.

1. The Expectation of Hearing God's Voice

The Bible consistently teaches that God desires to communicate with His people. In the Old Testament, God spoke through prophets, visions, and dreams. In the New Testament, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit enables every believer to hear Him directly.

- **John 16:13 (NKJV)**: *"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."*
- **Acts 2:17 (NKJV)**: *"'And it shall come to pass in the last days,' says God, 'That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.'"*

These verses show that hearing God's voice is not just for the spiritually elite; it is a privilege for all believers.

How do you learn to know someone's voice?

You must spend a lot of time with them. My wife can call me, and I will instantly know that it's her, the second I hear her voice because I have spent time with her. The same is true with God.



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Having History with God

Hebrews 5:14 (NKJV)

But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

God doesn't go through puberty. Funny story of calling Home and not recognizing my son's voice on the phone.

Can you hear me now? Sometimes it's hard to hear God's voice when there is a lot of static.

Because of the time and relationship, I have with my wife:

Not only do I recognize the tone of my wife's voice, **but I recognize the character** of her what she says. If someone says that my wife said something I will be able to know if what they said was true. I would be able to say yeah, that sounds like something that my wife would say. Or no way would she never say something like that.

That's how it is with hearing God's voice as well. We spend time in his word learning to know what he has already said. That way when we hear something and we think this could be God because that sounds like something he would say.

We learned to know God's character and his divine attributes by studying his word.

2. The Ways God Speaks

God uses various methods to communicate with His children. It's vital to be aware of these so we can discern His voice:

- **Through Scripture:** The Bible is one of God's primary way of speaking to us. It provides instruction, correction, and encouragement.
 - **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV):** *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."*
- Getting in God's word and knowing it is like tuning the dial on an old radio. There are radio stations frequencies floating all around us right now. But you have to have a receiver and then tune that receiver to the specific frequency.
- We learned to know God's character and his divine attributes by studying his word.
- Studying the life of Jesus
 - Jesus is the word of God made flesh,
 - Jesus was the word full manifestation of the word is what John tells us.
 - Colossians 2:9 (NKJV) - *9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*
 - One preacher said, **"Jesus is everything that God has to say about himself"**.



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- **Through the Holy Spirit:** The Spirit's inner witness speaks directly to our hearts.
 - **Romans 8:16 (NKJV):** *"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."*
 - The spirit of God will never contradict the word of God.
- **Through Others:** God often uses people to confirm His word, encourage us, or give direction.
 - **Proverbs 11:14 (NKJV):** *"Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety."*
- **Through Circumstances:** God can open and close doors to guide us.
 - **Revelation 3:7 (NKJV):** *"These things says He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens."*
- **Learn to work with impressions of the heart**
 - Some of the most powerful ministry times can come out of simple impressions.
- **Luke 24:13**
 - Imagine the disciples on the road to Emaus and they encounter Jesus, but they do not know it's him.
 - Jesus could have said Hey guys, it's me.
 - But Jesus wanted them to have an encounter with him in his word first.
 - They could have just left him walk on and talk together later saying man that was amazing that guy had such understanding and revelation.
 - But they responded to the inner witness of their burning hearts!
 - They insisted on sharing hospitality with Him, inviting him in and insisting of spending time with him, they continued to have a personal encounter with God beyond just the history of his written word.
 - Too many times, as Christians we hear good sermons and then we say, wow wasn't that great and we go on with our life.
 - We should go beyond hearing a good sermon or teaching into encounters with Jesus.
 - This is not to devalue good sermons or the written word of God

God speaks through: (notes from *Larry Kreider*)

1. The Bible (John 6:63)
2. His Peace (Col 3:15)
3. Circumstances (I Cor. 16:9)



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4. His Still, Small Voice (I Kings 19:12)
5. Other People (Prov. 24:6)
6. Common Sense Wisdom (Prov. 16:21)
7. Conviction (John 16:8)
8. Worship (I Thess. 5:18)
9. Authorities (Rom 13:1)
10. Natural things (Psalm 29:3)
11. The Church (Heb. 13:17)
12. His Character (I John 1:9 & 4:8)
13. Visions (Acts 2:17-18)
14. Dreams (Acts 2:17-18)
15. A Message of Wisdom (I Cor. 12:7-11)
16. A Message of Knowledge (I Cor. 12:7-11)
17. Discerning of Spirits (I Cor. 12:7-11)
18. Spiritual Languages (I Cor. 12:7-11)
19. Prophecy (I Thess. 5:20-21)
20. A Quiet Time (Psalm 46:10)
21. Journaling (Hab. 2:2-3)
22. Prayer (Daniel 10:2-3 & 10-14)
23. Fasting (Daniel 10:2-3 & 10-14)
24. Angels (Acts 10:1-6)
25. Surprises (Matt. 3:17)
26. The Way He Made Us (Prov. 22:6)
27. Signs (Judges 6:36-40)
28. Practicing His Presence (Gen. 5:24)
29. His Silence (Psalm 139:7-8)
30. Partial Revelation (I Cor. 13:9)

3. Developing a Listening Heart

To hear God's voice clearly, we must cultivate a heart that listens:

- **Be Still:** In the busyness of life, it's crucial to find quiet moments to hear His whisper.
 - **Psalms 46:10 (NKJV):** *"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"*
- **Seek Intimacy with God:** Prioritize your relationship with Him through prayer, worship, and meditation on His Word.
 - **James 4:8 (NKJV):** *"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded."*
- **Obey What You Hear:** When God speaks, our obedience deepens our relationship with Him.
 - **James 1:22 (NKJV):** *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."*



4. Discerning God's Voice

Not every voice we hear is from God. Discerning His voice is essential:

- **Align with Scripture:** God's voice will never contradict His Word.
 - **Galatians 1:8 (NKJV):** *"But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed."*
- **Seek Godly Counsel:** Share what you believe you've heard with trusted, mature believers.
 - **Proverbs 15:22 (NKJV):** *"Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counselors they are established."*
- **Check the Fruit:** God's guidance will produce the fruit of the Spirit in your life.
 - **Galatians 5:22-23 (NKJV):** *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."*

5. Overcoming Hindrances to Hearing God's Voice

There are obstacles that can hinder our ability to hear God:

- **Unconfessed Sin:** Sin creates a barrier between us and God.
 - **Isaiah 59:2 (NKJV):** *"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear."*
- **Doubt and Unbelief:** These can prevent us from receiving what God wants to say.
- **Distraction:** A cluttered life can drown out God's voice.
 - **Luke 10:41-42 (NKJV):** *"And Jesus answered and said to her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.'"*

6. Wrapping it Up

Hebrews 11:3 (NKJV)

3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

Have you allowed the word of God to frame your world?
When you frame something, you bring definition to it.

The word of God helps bring definition to the world around us, to the purpose of our own life, to the purpose of our life, to the purpose of life in general.



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Learn to be tender and tentative with what you believe. You are hearing until you know, for sure that it is God.

God will speak through many different ways. He will speak through his word, dreams, other people, preaching, impressions in the heart, Supernatural gifting, like prophecy, words of wisdom, words of knowledge

- Test prophesy

Don't doubt in the dark which you have received in the light.

Get other people's input on what you're hearing.

Recognize the fruit of the voice of God.

God's word brings order Not a spirit of confusion.

1 Corinthians 14:33 (NKJV)

33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

This doesn't mean that we never have questions. But God's Word brings a settled supernatural peace.

Conclusion

God is always speaking, but the question is: are we listening? Today, let us commit to tuning our hearts to His voice. As we close, remember the promise of **Jeremiah 29:13 (NKJV)**: *"And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."*

Allow the Lord to speak to you in any way that He chooses.

Three basic ways the Lord speaks to us: His Word, on the inside, on the outside God is speaking. Are we listening?