

Hearing the Voice of God

Deuteronomy 31:8

The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

Joshua 1:5

No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.

What Does God's Voice Sound Like?

Audible

John 12:28-31

²⁸ Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. ³⁰ Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.

Many Waters

Revelation 14

¹ Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder.

Loud Thunder

Job 37:2

² Listen! Listen to the roar of his voice, to the rumbling that comes from his mouth.

Still Small Voice

1 Kings 19:12-13

¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Different ways we hear God

Something to Consider;

God is creative. He talks to everyone in many different ways. There is no set formula. God is Multi-faceted...

Scripture - Have you ever been drawn to a certain scripture? Or have you ever opened the Bible to a passage that speaks directly to you?

Nehemiah 9:20 *(In this example, the Holy Spirit leads your heart to God in goodness and instruction.)*

You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst.

Pastor/Teacher - Have you ever felt like the pastor on Sunday morning was speaking directly to you?

Radio - Have you ever been searching, and suddenly you hear your answer through the radio?

Through other's witness/friends - Have you ever been encouraged through troubled times from a friend or stranger? (Through their actions or words.)

Dreams and visions - Have you ever received an answer (or a revelation) from a dream or vision? I.e.; Daniel and Joseph were both dreamers. Exekiel and Peter, Paul and Jacob had visions. The Bible shows us how history was changed with one dream or vision.

Acts 2:17

" 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

Audible voice - Have you ever heard God's voice audibly?

Exodus 19:19-20

and the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder. Then Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him. The LORD descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up

Acts 7:31-32

When he saw this, he was amazed at the sight. As he went over to look more closely, he heard the Lord's voice: 32 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.' Moses trembled with fear and did not dare to look.

A Knowing in your heart - Have you ever felt like something was just not right in a given circumstance?

1 Corinthians 2:10-11 (*In this example, the Holy Spirit reveals all things to you.*)

¹⁰ but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

¹¹ For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

Worship - Have you ever felt closer to God or found an answer through worshipping?

Something to Consider;

When God speaks to us, its not always the most convenient time. Part of this is a testing of God—"Will you listen to me right now"? True empathy is vulnerable. It means to put down all your defenses. It means you are open to being wrong. The Greek word for "empathy" means, "in suffering."

5 Levels of Listening or Hearing God

Consider this; How you listen to other people is how you listen to God.

1) Ignoring

2) Pretending we didn't hear

3) Selective hearing (*An example would be the story of Jonah and the whale.*)

4) Not attentive

5) Spiritual empathy, or our intentions to understand

Something to Consider;

Hardness of heart can keep us away from the Lord. The Greek word suka or psychic - seeking soulish or fleshly knowledge. Or being ruled by your soul. To the degree that your soul is in command in your life, is the degree where you can hear God.

Soul = Mind, Will and Emotions

Spirit = Conscience, Wisdom and Communion

1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural, non spiritual man does not accept or welcome or admit into his heart the gifts and teachings and revelations of the Spirit of God, for they are folly (meaningless nonsense) to him; and he is incapable of knowing them [of progressively recognizing, understanding, and becoming better acquainted with them] because they are spiritually discerned and estimated and appreciated.

God can speak to our Soul. But the Soul can be covered by the hardness of our hearts. The more our hearts are healed, our Spirit will pierce through the Soul and the Holy Spirit will reign to Spirit instead of Soul-reign. We have a choice to operate in the soul or spirit. Be careful of belief systems set in place through the generations.

Example; Like father like son. Anger can get passed down through the father. The son is justified in continuing to use anger as a method of coping.

Who's Voice do We Hear?

How do we discern?

God's voice - is a still small voice.

God's voice is filled with love. There are 697 references in the Bible to "Love". When God speaks to you, His words will be positive, affirming, will line up with scripture and will be filled with compassion and understanding. God will always meet you where your heart is in understanding. Later - Does it produce fruit in your life or the lives of others?

Satan's voice - is accusing, finger pointing and louder. Hence, we hear this voice first.

Examples; "You won't amount to anything. You a failure. Your fat. Your ugly. You don't have any friends. Your unlovable, no one really loves you. I can't.

Our own voice - We have to decide who we are going to agree with. Test the Spirit.

1 John 4:1

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Understanding Communication

10% Spoken words

30% Inflection

60% Body language

Something to Consider;

Posture is important in communication to God as well as to others.

Outside Exercises

These exercises with strengthen your muscles in hearing God's voice

1) Identify how God communicates to you.

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)

2) Identify what inhibits God from speaking to you.

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)

3) Go to a public place and find a place to sit. As people walk by, ask God what he has for each person. Be open to what you hear. Be aware of judgment - Satan's voice is louder.

4) Sit in a restaurant with a friend. When someone sits behind you, ask God what he has for that person. Keep in mind that you will not know if this person is young, old, man or woman. This way you cannot judge through your eyes.

Hint;

Most of what God gives you for people will be the gifts and the fruits of the Spirit.

Galatians 5: 22-25

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12: 4-13

⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

¹² The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.