

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Hearing God's voice is not for the select few. All believers can hear His voice.

John 10:3b, 4, 27 – The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ... My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

SIMPLE WAYS TO START

1. **Focus your mind and heart on Jesus** (Cf. Colossians 3:1, 2).

When someone speaks to us, we turn to look and listen. It is the same with God. God is frequently speaking, but often our busy and noisy inner lives hinder us from hearing Him. When we come to Him, we turn our hearts, thoughts and attention to Him and what He is saying.

2. **Surrender your mind, will and emotions** (Cf. Romans 12:1).

As we do this, we come with open hands to receive and ears to hear.

3. **Believe and expect** (Cf. Hebrews 11:1).

Radio waves are constantly playing even though we cannot see them. To hear, we must use a radio to tune in. In like manner, God is constantly speaking, and we must tune in by faith to hear His voice.

WAYS GOD SPEAKS

1. **Scripture** (Cf. Hebrews 4:12)

Scripture is the foundation for how we know God and hear His voice. At times, the Holy Spirit will cause a verse to stand out and bring new revelation and insight into a situation.

2. **A still small voice or whisper** (Cf. 1 Kings 19:10-13)

Often, God speaks to our redeemed thoughts, senses and imagination. Here are a few examples:

- Thoughts (Cf. 1 Corinthians 2:16) – We have the mind of Christ and God speaks through our thoughts. They often seem like our own thoughts and may come in simple words or phrases. Example: As you pray for your neighbors, you suddenly think to pray peace for their children.
- Mental images or pictures (Cf. John 5:19, 8:38) – God often speaks into our imagination through mental pictures, just as Jesus did what He saw the Father do. For instance, you are praying for America, and you see God lighting a fire in the Midwest in your mind's eye. This leads you to pray for God's presence to fall in the Midwest like a fire.
- A sense (Cf. Ephesians 1:13, 14) – God the Holy Spirit lives in us, and He will speak to our innermost being. For example, throughout the day you have an intuitive sense or feeling that you need to pray for a friend or encourage a certain person.

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3. **Through people** (Cf. 1 Corinthians 14:31)

4. **Dreams** (Cf. Acts 16:9)

Not all dreams are from God, but sometimes we wake up with a clear sense that God was speaking through our dreams.

5. **Other**

Be open to other ways God speaks—an audible voice (Cf. Matthew 3:17; Acts 9:4), an open vision you see with your eyes (Cf. Acts 10:9-11) and natural circumstances (Cf. Psalm 19:1, 2; Romans 1:20).

IS THAT GOD?

Does it line up with Scripture? God will not contradict His Word.

Does it bear the fruit of the Spirit (Cf. Galatians 5:22, 23)? Is what you are hearing filled with and caused by love, joy, peace, patience, etc.?

What does it produce? Does it produce liberty or bondage? Does it produce life or death? Does it draw you closer to God or push you away from God?