

Hear!

Hearing the Voice of God, Following the Word of God, Experiencing the Will of God

What does it mean to hear God? We read of Him speaking to several people in Scripture. Does He still speak today? What does it mean to know He has spoken? Hearing God is not about weird voices and strange statements. It is not about telling people what to do—God told me to tell you so and so. It is about having a heart that knows God, that hears Him and obeys what He says, that recognizes Him and worships Him for Who He is—as God.

At the beginning of his reign as king, God spoke to Solomon in a dream and said, “Ask what you wish me to give you” (1 Kings 3:5). He admitted his inexperience and need for wisdom, “I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in” (1 Kings 3:7). Then, he asked for “an understanding heart” (1 Kings 3:9). Literally, the Hebrew phrase is “a hearing heart,” a heart that hears God and hears people.

What did God think of this request? Solomon’s request for “discernment to understand justice” or literally, “hearing” to make just decisions was indeed very “pleasing in His sight,” so much so that God gave Solomon “a wise and discerning heart” (1 Kings 3:10, 12)

To hear God, we need a cleansed heart and an available, obedient heart, not an obstinate heart as we read of in Romans 10:21.

- 1) First, one’s Desire (assuming one is surrendered to God and His Will).
- 2) Second, one’s Opportunity (what is available to do or not do, where to go or not go, etc.).
- 3) Third, the element of ‘No Red Flags’ (Are there any “red flags” giving warning signals, a “Balaam’s donkey” stopping, blocking progress, even speaking (Numbers 22:23-35)?

Stop, don’t go that way if there is any check of the Spirit, any lack of peace from the Spirit as the Divine Referee in life—Colossians 3:15).

Hearing God is about acknowledging God for who He is as God and worshiping Him. It is about activating faith, actions that reveal a right relationship seen in obeying Him, not about strange revelations.

Some make rash statements about “God told me...” but what they say does not line up with the clear revelation of the Word of God. Others declare God never speaks; we must simply do the best we can and hope for the best.

Hindrances and Helps to Hearing God—Many speak of the “promptings” of God or the urges of His Spirit, working in the mind, active in “the spirit,” the inner man or inner self often noted in Scripture. Is this valid? What can we learn of these truths?

What is a prompting from God? What does it communicate? How do we know it is from God? How do we know it is not from our own deceived hearts or from a thought dart of the Evil One?

- We must know the Word of God and the Ways of God to clearly discern the Will of God

HINDRANCES TO HEARING GOD

1. Not believing God speaks—If a person does not believe God speaks, then he or she will ignore what God could be clearly speaking.
2. Not knowing How God speaks—How does God speak? First, God speaks by His Word and by His Spirit, Second, God speaks in line with His nature. Psalm 85:8 states, “I will hear what God the LORD will say; For He will speak peace to His people, to His godly ones...” James 3:17 states that the “wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable...” The fruit of the Holy Spirit is “peace” (Galatians 5:22). God speaks in a peaceful way, not rashly nor harshly nor in a confusing way. He is never the author of confusion. (I Corinthians 14:33).
3. Not knowing how Willing the Lord is to speak—Jesus said to the “weary,” “Come to Me... take My yoke... learn from Me... for I am gentle and humble of heart” (Matthew 11:28-30). He is open to speak, to lead anyone who will listen with a learner’s heart, ready to obey.
4. Lack of Surrender to the Lord.
5. Not aware of counterfeit guidance—There are many supernatural beings around. The “thief,” the devil and demons seek to “steal, and kill, and destroy” as Jesus warned (John 10:10).

6. Deafness to God's Voice because of disobedience to God's Word and God's will
7. Greed, stinginess, unwillingness to give, also known by the Hebraism an "evil eye," results in spiritual darkness, the inability to see or understand spiritual reality. Jesus noted this as the problem in Matthew 6:22-23
8. Pride—Pride says 'I can handle life myself, I do not need help or guidance.'
- James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5
9. Undealt-with sin
10. Un-crucified self-agendas

HELPS TO HEARING GOD...

What can help us walk the right way? What can help us hear God? Here are some specific Helps to Hearing God...

1. Spend Time in the Word of God
2. Spend Time in Prayer—This includes speaking to God *and* listening to Him.
3. Sometimes we need to spend time in Fasting with Prayer along with Time in the Word.
4. One help in hearing God is praying with others, especially "with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart" (2 Timothy 2:22).
5. Reading the Biographies of those who have walked with God helps us hear.

Methods for discerning the Will of God is practical and marked by the heartbeat of one who walked with God.

1. I seek at the beginning to get my heart into such a state that it has not will of its own in regard to a given matter.
2. Having done this, I do not leave the result to feeling or simple impressions.
3. I seek the will of the Spirit of God through or in connection with the Word of God.

4. Next I take into account providential circumstances.
5. I ask God in prayer to reveal His will to me aright.
6. Through prayer to God, the study of the Word and reflection

On Meditation and Prayer

Using the Scriptures to strengthen and guide us in prayer, discovering that in meditating on the Word of God, God speaks, encourages, rebukes, leads and guides in prayer.

How Does God Speak?

Here are some ways we read of in Scripture. (HOW GOD SPEAKS AND HOW COUNTERFEITS CONTRADICT)

1. God speaks through the Word of God—We have mentioned this, specifically these actions: Read, Meditate, Memorize, Sing, Speak, Write the Word of God.
- What is the *counterfeit* to this? (Read Matthew 4:6)
2. God Can Speak Audibly
3. Dreams/Visions—In Scripture, God spoke from time to time in dreams and visions, communicating His will for that person (or people)
4. Impressions/Promptings—While some speak of ‘promptings’ from the Lord, we must ever maintain caution in this area.
5. God speaks through Others
6. God speaks through those speaking the Word of God, including sermons, teachings, testimonies, and songs.
7. Husband/Wife/Parents in family decisions.
8. Consistency is the Key in Learning to Hear God.
9. God speaks peace. Psalm 85:8 makes note of this fact.

10. Unanimity. God speaks with unanimity of the involved, assigned parties in decision making.

11. God speaks through natural phenomena—God speaks in a variety of ways through natural phenomena. Psalm 19:1-6

12. God speaks through supernatural timing in natural phenomena—As we encounter various weather phenomena, weather related events, and other planet earth situations, it is important to note the timing of these matters.

Disregarding and/or blind to the supernatural timing of natural phenomena— Several connections may exist between certain natural phenomena, but many either do not see or willfully ignore or disregard any possible connections. There is no room in their 'theology' for such a God or such occurrences.