



Hearing God's Voice



HEARING GOD'S VOICE

INTRODUCTION

This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Deuteronomy 30:19-20

To walk with God 3 things are essential

1. To love Him
2. To hear His voice
3. To obey Him

Hearing God's voice is not an optional extra for the 'elite' Christians, but bread and butter for every believer. The goal of hearing His voice is:

- Intimacy
- Obedience - you cannot have one without the other

I. HEARING THE LORD'S VOICE

A. Redefining Normality

Model of Jesus

A constant stream of revelation.

I only speak what I hear the Father saying, I only do what I see the Father doing."

John 5:19

Specific Revelation

Model of Jesus

100% success in ministry.

He discerned specifically what was taking place, especially where things were natural and where things were demonic.

B. In Christ we can all hear God's voice through the enabling presence of the Spirit

The watchman opens the gate for him and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. John 10:3-4

I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

John 16:12-13

C. How we hear God's voice

1. In the imagination

- Dreams e.g. Matthew 1:20
- Visions / open visions
- Pictures/ 'inner' visions e.g. Amos 8:1

2. In the mind

- God planted thoughts

3. In the intuitive / heart

- *Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, 'Why are you thinking these things?'* Mark 2:8

4. In the Body

- Physical sensations





5. With the eyes

- Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, 'Look at us!'
- Open visions e.g.

Acts 3:4
Acts 7:5-6

6. With the ears

- The audible voice of God e.g. Jesus' Baptism.

7. Angelic Revelation

- The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the waterway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground

Genesis 19:1

8. Through Scripture

- God takes us to a specific verse

D. Understanding the process of discernment

1. There are 3 key stages

a) Revelation

- What you see, hear, receive

b) Interpretation

- What does it mean?
- What is God saying?
- At this point beware assumptions or moving into the natural mind.

c) Application

- How to put the word into practice
- Beware
 - Pride: 'I need to know all three levels.'
 - Rushing: stay waiting on the Lord for clarity.
 - Independence: God likes using people to discern together.

Note: For Further Reading:

Andy Jacobs: Hearing the Voice of God
Jack Deere: Surprised by the Voice of God
Mike Riches: Hearing the Voice of God

2. There are 2 Key Principles

a) In line with Scripture

There are many things of God which are not in the scriptures but it must not be against the scriptures.

b) The principle of Resonance

When a bell or instrument resonates at a certain frequency, other bells/ instruments with the same frequency resonate with it.

E. God wants to speak specifically

- *I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what He will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint. Then the Lord replied: 'Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.'* Habakkuk 2:1-3
- *But David learned of Saul's plan and told Abiathar the priest to bring the ephod and ask the Lord what he should do. And David prayed, "O Lord, God of Israel, I have heard that Saul is planning to come and destroy Keilah because I am here. Will the men of Keilah surrender me to him? And will Saul actually come as I have heard? O Lord, God of Israel, please tell me." And the Lord said, "He will come." Again David asked, "Will these men of Keilah really betray me and my men to Saul?" And the Lord replied, "Yes, they will betray you."* 1 Samuel 23: 9-12
- *Then David asked the Lord, "Should I chase them? Will I catch them?" And the Lord told him, "Yes, go after them. You will surely recover everything that was taken from you!"* 1 Samuel 30:8





- *After this, David asked the Lord, “Should I move back to Judah?” And the Lord replied, “Yes”. Then David asked, “Which town should I go to?” And the Lord replied, “Hebron.”* 2 Samuel 2:1
- *So David asked the Lord, “Should I go out to fight the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?” The Lord replied, “Yes, go ahead. I will certainly give you the victory.” And once again David asked the Lord what to do. “Do not attack them straight on,” the Lord replied. “Instead, circle around behind them and attack them near the balsam trees. When you hear a sound like marching feet in the tops of the balsam trees, attack! That will be the signal that the Lord is moving ahead of you to strike down the Philistines.” So David did what the Lord commanded, and he struck down the Philistines all the way from Gibeon to Gezer.* 2 Samuel 5:19, 23-25
- Acts 10: 3-8
- Acts 13: 2-3
- Acts 16: 9-10
- 1 Samuel 10:22
- 1 Samuel 23:1-6
- Acts 8:26
- Acts 9:10-12

God’s will is established, most of the time, in collaboration with the will and agreement of his people. How can we be obedient or intimate if we do not seek for and believe for his specific revelation and direction?

F. Protect the time

1. Confess and repent of any known sin

And ask the Lord to examine your heart so that you can come into his presence cleansed and forgiven.

‘Forgive us our sins’

Matthew 6:12

2. Bind Satan’s minions

‘I bind every demonic spirit that would oppose our time in any way and I rebuke and send you away from this place.’

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.

1 John 4:1

We are open to deception:

Jesus turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.’

Matthew 16:23

3. Bind your flesh

‘We bind our flesh, all fleshly thinking and imagination.’

I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on this earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

Matthew 18:18-20

4. Invite the Holy Spirit

‘I invite you Holy Spirit to come and I thank you for speaking clearly and specifically to us in Jesus’ name. Amen.’

Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.

Luke 11:12-13

Example Prayer

“I bind every demonic spirit that would oppose our time in any way and I rebuke and send you away from this place. We bind our flesh, all fleshly thinking and imagination. I invite you Holy Spirit to come and I thank you for speaking clearly and specifically to us in Jesus’ name. Amen.”





G. Ask good questions

1. What do you want to accomplish Lord?
2. What is the enemy's assignment against us Lord?
3. What territory do you want to take Lord?
4. What is your strategy Lord?
5. What are you asking of me Lord?
6. Do you want us to go away on that weekend?
7. Should we have dinner with x?
8. How much money should I give Lord?
9. Who should we invite to dinner Lord?
10. What would really bless x...?
11. Why is John resisting the Gospel Lord?
12. What is the enemy energising?
13. Is this sickness natural or supernatural?
14. Are there any open doors to the enemy today?
15. What sin is there in my heart?
16. Why does the enemy have access / jurisdiction in this situation?
17. How many strongholds do you want to address now Lord?
18. Lord will you show us where you want us to go on holiday?
19. Should I say anything Lord? How do I say it?
20. Why am I angry / envious / passive...?

Exercise: Think of a situation in your life today. What is the strategic question you need to ask God?

H. Strongholds that resist God's voice

1. **Fear**
 - Of failure – Inadequacy / Insignificance / Unbelief / Pride
 - Of hurting others – Fear of Man / False responsibility / Unbelief
 - Other
2. **Insignificance**
 - He won't speak to me
 - I won't hear
 - I never get it right
 - My revelation won't impact them
 - Other....
3. **Control**
 - I don't want to be wrong
 - It scares me being so on the edge
 - I don't like being so vulnerable and dependent
4. **Unbelief**
 - Will anything happen?
 - Does God speak so specifically?
 - This is too big a problem
 - I just don't feel like I have faith
5. **Rebellion**
 - I don't want to hear because I like my plan





II. THE CENTRALITY OF OBEDIENCE

Obedience: To submit to the will of one who is superior

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Ezekiel 36:25-27

‘Why do you ask me about what is good?’ Jesus replied. ‘There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments.’

Matthew 18:22

...Your Kingdom come, Your Will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Matthew 6:10

Jesus replied, ‘If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.’

John 14:23-24

We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.

Acts 5:32

Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered

Hebrews 5:8

This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God’s commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.

Revelation 14:12

Exercise: What attitudes in our culture influence us to resist obedience to God?

A. God is looking for obedience that is

1. **Immediate:** *At once they left their nets and followed him.* Mark 1:18
2. **Complete:** *‘My food,’ said Jesus, ‘is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work .* John 4:34
3. **Willing:** *I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.* 1 Corinthians 7:35
4. **Joyful:** *If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.* John 15:10-11

Obedience is not in vogue today! Individual choice, rights, freedom are exalted to a ridiculous degree. The charismatic wing of the church has pursued emotional intimacy as the end goal of the Christian walk. Obedience is rarely at the centre of modern teaching.

B. Obedience is the litmus test to prove

1. **Faith:** *You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.* James 2:22
2. **Intimacy:** *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.* John 15:9-11

Anything less than immediate, complete, willing and joyful obedience reveals our sin and rebellion!

