

## Hearing the Voice of God

The purpose of this lesson is to create faith that you, as a believer, can hear the voice of God and to help you to discern His voice and to act on what you are clearly hearing from the Lord.

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” John 10:27, KJV.

The promise here is to followers of Jesus.

### YOU CAN HEAR THE VOICE OF THE LORD

Adam and Eve heard the voice of the Lord walking in the garden, but because of sin, they hid from God Gen. 3:1-8

Jesus, through His death, burial and resurrection, became the door back into the presence of God and the Good Shepherd to lead us into the abundant life. Jn. 10:1-18

Hearing God's voice is foundational to successful ministry. Jesus continually operated in this. John 5:19-20

The Holy Spirit will lead and guide us, and show us things to come. Jn. 16:13

Our attitude should be, “speak for your servant is listening.” 1 Sam 3:10

### YOU MUST DISCERN THE VOICE OF THE LORD

Maturity is a major key in discerning God's voice. You must have your senses exercised to discern good and evil. Heb. 5:14

Tom's testimony of hearing from God, and later being deceived. Calf 357, impressions can come from many sources.

Mental institutions are filled with people who think that they are hearing God's voice. Listening to false voices can get you into a world of hurt. Fortune tellers, Ouija Boards, etc. operate by evil spirits.

I once met a woman who got into confusion by listening to voices. Then she threw the baby out with the bath water and refused to listen to anything. Entire denominations have done the same thing. But if you took divine guidance and people hearing the voice of God out of the Bible, you would have no Bible, no Abrahamic covenant, no Israel, no Moses or his ministry, no prophets, no Jesus, no apostles, no Church. The entire thing is built on supernatural divine revelation. And God intended that supernatural revelation and guidance would continue up to today and until Jesus returns. The phrase “Voice of the Lord” is found 48 times in Scripture.

Despise not prophesying. 1 Thes. 5:20

NOTES

Sources of other voices:

- Flesh
- Emotions
- Society (Advertising & Media)
- Family and friends
- Strongholds 2 Cor. 10:3-5, Is. 54:17
- Satan and demons

The devil can quote scripture and sound religious. (Luke 4:10-11 quoting Ps 91:11)

You are called to test the spirits. 1 John 4:1-3

“Is there iniquity in my tongue? cannot my taste discern perverse things?” Job 6:30, KJV.

If you like the supernatural, but you are not pure in heart, you can easily be deceived.

**GOD’S WORD WILL HELP YOU TO HEAR HIS VOICE CLEARLY**

The Word of God is alive and permeated by His presence. Heb. 4:12, Jn. 6:63

The Word of God will produce stability. Following feelings will cause instability. Mt. 7:24-27, Romans 10:17

Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice. John 18:37

We need to sit at Jesus’ feet and listen to what He has to say. Luke 10:40-42

- Reading the Word. 1 Tim. 4:13
- Studying the Word. 2 Tim. 2:15
- Meditating the Word. 1 Tim 4:15
- Doing the Word. James 1:22

Intimacy with the Lord. “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Rev. 19:10

Tune your ears to the Word of God. A healthy devotional life is a great aid to hearing God’s voice and staying in balance. The same goes for a healthy dose of God’s Word in church and in Bible studies. Establish a relationship with God’s Word and you will begin to hear His voice. God will never guide you contrary to His Word, because His Word is His will.

Terry Law tells the story about how when he was ministering in the former Soviet Union years ago, he and his group would travel for hours on trains and buses. He would spend those hours meditating on the truths of God’s Word. It was then, he said, that the supernatural “word of knowledge” according to 1 Cor. 12:7-10 began to operate in his ministry. He received amazing revelations about people’s lives. One time he received a revelation

about a fist fight which had occurred in a Bible School earlier that same day. The students had been fighting over. . . guess what. . . the gifts of the Spirit. After Terry described the events of day, everyone quickly repented and became believers that 1 Cor. 12 is for today.

#### RELATIONSHIP AND ASSOCIATION WITH THOSE WHO HEAR FROM GOD CAN HELP YOU HEAR FROM GOD

Tom flows in word of knowledge after spending time with Bob Buess.

As many as are led by the Spirit (not led by prophets), they are the mature sons of God. We need our own guidance system, but others may confirm. Rom. 8:15

But confirmation from prophetic believers can help you discern God's voice. 1 Cor. 14:29

"In the mouth of two or three witnesses." 2 Corinthians 13:1, KJV. Balance.

#### PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT WILL HELP YOU TO HEAR HIS VOICE

Speaking in tongues is the gateway gift to the other gifts of the Spirit. Dave Roberson begins to have words of knowledge after praying in tongues for hours. Kenneth Hagin receives revelation about the healing revival coming after WWII after praying in tongues for hours. He "hit a gusher."

Praying with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit. Eph. 6:18

Building yourself up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. Jude 20

Receiving revelation from God by praying in tongues. When you edify yourself, you can edify others. 1 Cor. 14:2-4

When you speak in tongues, pray that you may interpret. 1 Cor. 14: 13

#### SOME OF THE WAYS THAT GOD COMMUNICATES

Visions while in a trance. Acts 10:9-16

Dreams. Acts 16:9

Mini-visions or inward pictures. Jn. 5:19, Eph. 6:18

Inward Witness (stop and go light) You just know. You are led by His Spirit. Col 3:15

Still small voice. 1 Kings 19:12

Authoritative voice of the Holy Spirit. Acts 10:19-20

Alignment of circumstance. Acts 10:21

Share some of the ways that God has spoken to you:

Beware of following circumstances alone or following fleeces. Wait on the Lord for confirmation before acting on major decisions. Satan can counterfeit. You are safer to start with general revelation. It is more or less a confirmation or inspiration concerning what is already in the Word. But when it comes to special revelation as guidance, such as you should go to such-and-such a place and minister, you need to be more careful. Look for 2 or 3 witnesses. The witness may be the vision or word that you receive, the inward witness, the Word of God, and the agreement of another mature believers. Proceed with caution, use wisdom, but do not fear. Trust God to speak to you, just as He said He would. There is nothing wrong with waiting on the Lord until you are sure you are hearing from God.

Testimony: Jackie Pullinger buys a one-way ticket to China after receiving guidance from the Lord. Many people told her not to go and circumstances were against her. No one would take her into their missionary organization. She had no support. But a pastor who she respected told her that she must go if God was truly leading her. She worked in the Walled City in Hong Kong where she was instrumental in seeing a multitude of gang members, drug addicts, and prostitutes find Jesus and find deliverance.

#### YOU MUST ACT UPON THE VOICE OF THE LORD

If you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. Heb. 3:15

Be not only hearers, but doers of the Word. James 1:22

Isaiah hears His voice and obeys. Is. 6:1-8

Peter hears His voice and obeys. Acts 10:9-20

The Church at Antioch hears God's voice and sends out Saul and Barnabas. Acts 13:1-3

Paul and his team led by God into Europe. Acts 16:6-9

All of these are extremely significant instances of God's guidance which resulted in tremendous advance for the church. Likewise, if you will listen to God, you will see tremendous results for the Kingdom of God.

#### PRACTICAL EXERCISE

Pray for another person with a need in their life. Take time to pray in the Spirit and wait upon God. Share what you receive with humility and ask the person if what you have shared relates to their situation.

#### HOMEWORK

Look up the scriptures in this lesson and meditate on them. Pray in the Spirit and wait upon God as you read, and write down what the Lord shows you from the Word of God, especially how to apply the Word to your life and ministry.

## Hearing the Voice of God Quiz

## NOTES

1. True or False. Every voice that you hear is from God.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ separated mankind from God and kept us from knowing Him and hearing His voice.
3. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ back into the presence of God.
4. A major key to discerning God's voice is \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Some of the other voices that we can hear in our minds are:
  - a. Our flesh.
  - b. Our friends.
  - c. TV commercials.
  - d. Demons.
  - e. All of the above.
6. True or False. Studying God's Word is not necessary for hearing God's voice.
7. True or False. Don't ever listen to input from others about what God is saying.
8. Speaking in tongues is the \_\_\_\_\_ gift to the other gifts of the Spirit.
9. Which of the following is not a good way to hear from God.
  - a. Voice of the Holy Spirit.
  - b. A vision.
  - c. Spin the bottle.
  - d. The inward witness.
10. True or false. Hearing from God is optional for a successful ministry.
11. True or false. Holiness will help you to hear from God.
12. Jesus said that His followers would hear His voice and the voice of a \_\_\_\_\_ they would not follow.