

Lesson # 38 – 05/23/2011

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What Does the Bible Say About Hearing God's Voice?

## Can You Hear God's Voice?

### How to Recognize the Leading of the Holy Spirit

**My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: [John 10:27](#)**



As Christians, we all want to hear God's voice. We are His sheep, and we long to know which way our Sheppard is leading us.

But, so many of us feel as if we are in life all alone. Sheppard-less sheep, wandering aimlessly without any direction at all.

Though that is what Flesh would like for us all to believe, thankfully it is just not so!

God has given you a very special gift - The Holy Spirit. God Says that He sent His Spirit "to be in close fellowship with you" ([John 16:7](#)- *Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*). That means that God wants you to be able to hear His voice today just like Adam and Eve heard Him in the garden of Eden.

This short Bible study can help you begin to hear God's voice so that you can follow where His Holy Spirit is leading you.

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## God Speaks To Us In Different Ways

Many times we miss out on hearing God's voice because we don't know how He speaks. Here are just a few ways that God can speak to you.

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- **Through His Word.** I find that many Christians want God to speak to them, but they have not even taken the time to find out what He has already said! God has already spoken to you, and His heartfelt words are written down in the Bible.

When you go to God in prayer before you begin reading your Bible, He can make the words on the pages seem more alive than ever before. He can speak to you about the unique situation that you are facing today through something He said thousands of years ago. He is just that good!

- **Through other Christians.** Now, this is a tricky one. God can speak to us through other believers, but that does not mean that everything another Christian says to you is a word from God.

God confirms His Word by repetition. If you have only heard a message once, that does not mean it is a special word to you from the Lord. But, if you are receiving the same message over and over from various sources, then that may be the voice of God speaking to you through one of His chosen vessels.

You can always pray and ask God to confirm it again to ensure you are on the right path.

- **Through His still small voice.** In 1 Kings 19, we read about Elijah hearing the voice of God.

*<sup>11</sup>And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake:*

*<sup>12</sup>And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.-*  
[1Kings 19:11b-12](#)

I love the way this scripture starts off with these loud booming sounds. That is often what we expect when we are waiting to hear from God. But those loud sounds were not where God's voice was heard.

God does not yell when He speaks with us. And you usually will not hear it in your natural ear. When you really hear God's voice, it will be like a whisper deep within yourself. It will not force you to obey, and is all too easy to ignore.

God is a gentleman. If you are waiting for a loud clap of thunder, you may very well miss Him.

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- **Through a gently tug.** Sometimes you actually hear God's voice, but other times you may just sense a little tug. Something inside of you senses that a particular decision is the right way to go.

It's not necessarily logical, or what you would normally decide. But, for some reason, you sense a certain peace about it. This peace comes from the Holy Spirit. When you follow this peace, you can never go wrong!

But, you must be sure that it is really the peace of God, and not just your emotions. Just because you are happy about something does not mean it is God's will for your life. Pray and ask God to confirm that what you are sensing is really His will for you, and not just your own.

## The Top 3 Reasons Christian's Can't Hear God's Voice

I once heard a wise Christian man say, God is always broadcasting. It is just that, sometimes, we aren't tuned in to the right channel.

Here are the top 3 reasons why Christians don't hear God's voice, even though He is trying to speak. The final reason is definitely the biggest!

**#3. They think that prayer is a one sided conversation.** Many Christians talk to God, but they never stop to hear God's voice after they are done. They simply say what is on their mind, and then go on with the rest of their day without ever stopping to listen for a reply.

**TIP:** Whenever you pray, stop, close your eyes, and be silent for a few moments afterwards. Allow time for God to join in on your conversation 😊!

**#2. Their lives are too loud.** Often times the reason that we can not hear God's voice is because we have allowed our lives to become too hectic. We have picked up too many responsibilities that God has not called us to pick up, and we have crowded Him out.

We have to remember Martha and Mary. Martha was busy in the kitchen trying to prepare a nice meal for the Lord, doing what she thought was the right thing to do. But, Mary had decided to slow down and take a seat at the Lord's feet.

Jesus said that while Martha was "worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it" ([Luke 10:38-42](#))

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<sup>38</sup>*Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.*

<sup>39</sup>*And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.*

<sup>40</sup>*But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.*

<sup>41</sup>*And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:*

<sup>42</sup>*But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.).*

**TIP 1:** Take more time out to be like Mary. Designate a particular time each day as your time with the Lord.

It does not have to be long. Even 5 or 10 minutes of your lunch time spent praying in your car can quiet your life down enough to hear God's voice.

**Tip 2:** Begin praying over all of your obligations - Even the ones that feel "mandatory." Find out which ones God has no desire for you to do, and begin trading in a busy life for a productive life that allows time for the Lord.

After all, Jesus said your private life with Him is the only thing worth being concerned about anyway.

**#1. They doubt that what they are hearing is really the Lord, so they ignore it.** This is something that most Christians are guilty of, and they don't even realize it!

Just a few days ago, I had lost my driver's license. I prayed for God to show me where it was. He told me, but the place He said seemed so odd that I figured I had made it up myself!

Eventually, after looking in a few other places, I did a half-hearted scan where He told me to look, and missed it. When He told me to look again, I still thought it was just me making it up. But, there it was, folded up inside of a piece of paper, buried somewhere I would have never looked!

I had to laugh at myself. But, we all do these kinds of thing everyday. Then we say things like "Something told me to look there!" or "I felt like I was supposed to fill in the blank, but I didn't."

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Of course we all have more serious decisions to make than where to look for a driver's license. And, sometimes stepping out and following the still small voice of God can be frightening.

No one wants to make a mistake, especially when there is a lot at stake. But, having faith is never easy. And that is exactly what it takes to follow the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

**TIP:** Something that helped me to step out on faith and follow the voice of God was when I finally caught hold of an important fact.

-Hebrews 13:5-6

*<sup>5</sup>Let your conversation be without covetousness (not loving money); and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

*<sup>6</sup>So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

I finally realized that, since I was trying to be obedient, God was not going to loose His hold on me. No matter how big of a mistake that I make, if I do it because I am trying to follow Him, it is never too big for Him to fix.

God is looking at your heart (1 Samuel 16:7 - *But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.*). If it is turned towards Him, He will always protect you - Even from your mistakes.

Now, another issue that many Christians struggle with is being able to tell God's leading from their own personal desires and emotions. This is something that is very important because our goal is to be Spirit lead. So, we want to be sure we are not allowing our own feelings about a matter to color the Word from God that we are receiving.

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