

Series: Good, Better, Best

My Heart and Spiritual Condition Moving From Good, To Better, To Best!

Session #4 Learning To Hear The “Voice” of God!

How Will I Know What God is Saying to Me?

Introductory Statement

Christians learn to hear God by **cultivating spiritual habits and building a deep relationship with Him** over time, rather than waiting for an audible voice. God primarily communicates through the **Holy Spirit, Scripture, and the faith community (church)**, learning to "hear" is treated like learning a new language that requires practice, testing, and patience.

1 Kings 19:11–13 (NLT) ¹¹ “Go out and stand before me on the mountain,” the LORD told him. And as Elijah stood there, the LORD passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹² And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. **And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper.** (NKJV - a still small voice) ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And a voice said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

Holy Spirit – Verses – 1.) Promised, 2.) Jesus Said Wait, & 3.) Peter Said What Was Promised Is Now Here!

Joel 2:28–29 (NLT) *The LORD’s Promise of His Spirit* ²⁸ “Then, after doing all those things, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. ²⁹ In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on servants—men and women alike.

Acts 1:4–5 (NLT) ⁴ Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, **“Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before.** ⁵ **John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”**

Acts 2:14–18 (NLT) *Peter Preaches to the Crowd* ¹⁴ Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, “Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o’clock in the morning is much too early for that. ¹⁶ No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ ‘In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike— and they will prophesy.

What Does The Holy Spirit Do For Believers Now?

John 16:13–15 (NLT) ¹³ **When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.** ¹⁴ **He will bring me glory by telling**

you whatever he receives from me. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.'

John 14:16–17 (NLT) ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. ¹⁷ He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

Romans 8:14 (NLT) ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

1 Corinthians 2:10–14 (NLT) ¹⁰ But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. ¹¹ No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. ¹² And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us. ¹³ When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths. ¹⁴ But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.

Jesus Said We Will Hear His Voice

John 10:14–16 (NLT) ¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, ¹⁵ just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.

John 10:26–27 (NLT) ²⁶ But you don't believe me because you are not my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

Revelation 3:20 (NLT) ²⁰ "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

Luke 10:16 (NASB95) "The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me."

(When people speak, if they speak Jesus' words and truth, they are speaking for Jesus. So, it is His voice they are hearing!)

How Do We Actually Literally "Hear" God:

1. We "Hear" God in our Heart and Mind (through realizations, understanding, scriptures, strong impressions, strong realizations, maybe dreams, and maybe visions)

- a. The Holy Spirit lives inside every believer and guides them from within.
- b. We can hear God when we pray-(talk to and take time to listen), study His word, worship, journal, build a relationship with God, know His character, and as we go through our normal day.
- c. He speaks in many ways including a still small voice, through inner conviction, and spontaneous thoughts.

2. We “Hear” God Through The Word (The Bible)

- a. God speaks a direct scripture into our mind or we read it. That scripture is the guidance, direction, or answer we need.
- b. God’s Word (the Bible, scripture) is a test for what we think God made us realize. In other words, what we think God is saying must align with the Word or it is not God’s guidance to you!
- c. Through learning God’s Word, we learn His character and perspective. As we learn the Word, we can be guided by our memory or understanding of it to be guided supernaturally into action.

3. We Can Know What-We-Believe-We-“Hear” Is Really God Speaking, By Confirmation

Confirmation means hearing same repeating message about what we think we heard from different sources.

- a. We “hear” what we think God is saying to us, and we can know it is God when we get confirmation by repeated messages. It is in God’s nature to confirm in different ways. Examples are repeated prophetic words, repeated messages from multiple sources (men’s ss class, worship leaders, sermons, teachings, radios, testimonies, Christian programing, answers to questions/thoughts by other people)
- b. Hear, act immediately, and get confirmation that your action was divine and made a difference.
- c. Hear by circumstances or get confirmation of the message by circumstances – Open or Closed Doors

Acts 16:6–10 (NLT) *A Call from Macedonia* ⁶Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time. ⁷Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go there. ⁸So instead, they went on through Mysia to the seaport of Troas. ⁹That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us!” ¹⁰So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there.

4. We Know What We “Hear” Is God Speaking, Through Peace

- a. Deep peace or unrest: A profound internal feeling of peace often validates a correct decision, while a persistent sense of unrest might serve as a warning.
- b. This peace may not be a peace of easiness or selfishness, but a peace of direction.

5. We Know What We “Hear” is God Speaking, Through Taking Steps He Gives & Seeing It Was God (Acting on small instructions)

Hearing God is closely tied to **obedience**.

- a. Trust is built incrementally. When a Christian feels a small prompting—like checking on a neighbor—and obeys, they witness the outcome.
- b. Seeing these small steps make a positive impact builds the confidence needed to recognize and trust God's voice in major life decisions.

6. We “Hear” God Through Gifts of The Holy Spirit

- a. The Holy Spirit wants to lead you by His Power

Romans 8:14 (NLT) ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

1 Corinthians 12:4–11 (NLT) ⁴ There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. ⁶ God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. ⁷ A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. ⁸ To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. ⁹ The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. ¹⁰ He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. ¹¹ It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

Summary #1-#6a.

Christians cultivate the ability to hear God primarily through regular **scripture reading**, intentional **silence and stillness**, and practicing **two-way prayer**. These disciplines are designed to quiet daily distractions, align the believer's heart with God's character, and create space to recognize the gentle promptings of the Holy Spirit

- b. From People (who are led by the Holy Spirit, who operate in the gifts of the Spirit – listed in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 above)

7. We “Hear” God Through People God

speaks through others:

Luke 10:16 (NASB95) “The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me.”

- a. Peers – Fellow Christians
- b. Christian Speakers, Leaders, Teachers
- c. Mature Christian Mentors
- d. Shepherds & Authority

Wise Counsel: God often provides direction and confirmation through the advice, wisdom, and fellowship of mature believers

Summary:

We Hear God by the power of the Holy Spirit in our mind, and through the Word, and through people.

We test what may be a message from God by continuing to: *(this is restating the seven points above)*

1. Listen to God in our heart and mind
2. Weigh the message against the Word (Bible)
3. Listen for confirmation
4. Evaluate our peace
5. Consider our experience in hearing and being obedient

6. Consider what is the Holy Spirit showing you
7. Weigh the message with what are other Believers feel too

You can learn to “Hear” God and you can Know it really is His message for you!

Prayer Thoughts for the Week:

- A. Do I expect to learn to “Hear” God for myself? (You should!)
- B. Do I expect to learn to be sure I am “Hearing” all that God has for me continually? (You should!)
- C. Am I open to using all of the 7 ways and other that God confirms His message to me so I can learn to know I “Hear”? In other words, are you open to these 7 links that work together to prove God’s message to you?
- D. Talk to the Lord about your heart and feelings in this area, then listen!