

Hearing God #1

“³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.” John 10:3–4

“¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.” Romans 8:14-17

Who can hear from God? Every follower of Jesus.

“All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.” Romans 8:14

“The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.” Jn. 10:3

How does God speak? God speaks by His Spirit.

“The Spirit himself bears witness.” Romans 8:16

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit speaks to the churches.” Revelation 2:7

“Sword of the Spirit which is the word of God.” Eph. 6:17

How do we hear from God? We hear God’s voice in our spirit.

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit.” Romans 8:16

The Bible teaches us that we are body, soul (mind, will, and emotions), and spirit. *“May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* 1 Thessalonians 5:23

When you trust and follow Jesus, your spirit is made alive and fully redeemed immediately.

“Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God... What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.” John 3:3, 6

“For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.” Romans 8:6

In order to hear from God’s Spirit, it is most helpful to pray, confess, read the Bible, sit in silence, cast your burden on God, and then wait for what God’s Spirit wants to say.

What does God say? God tells us that we are his children.

“For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.” Romans 8:15-16

Too often we only want to hear from God on *what to do* or *where to go* when making a decision. More often, God wants to speak identity, love, affection, affirmation, promise, and endurance in you.

I am accepted. (John 15:15, Rom. 5:1, Eph. 1:1, Col. 2:10)

I am safe. (Rom. 8:35-38, 2 Cor. 1:21-22, Col. 3:3, Phil. 3:20)

I am significant. (Matt. 5:13-14, Jn. 15:16, 1 Cor. 3:16, Eph. 2:10)

God wants to pour out His love every day (1 Jn. 3:1). When we live out of our identity as heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, we can walk in love, joy, peace, and kindness no matter what suffering or chaos is around us.

What is the response to hearing from God?

Test the word. Trust the word.

¹⁹*Do not quench the Spirit.* ²⁰*Do not despise prophecies,* ²¹*but test everything; hold fast what is good.* 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21

Stranger's Voice	Shepherd's Voice
Contrary to Bible	Affirmed in Bible
Rejection	Belonging
Loneliness	Community
Ugly	Created
Fear	Safety
Insignificant	Significant

Good questions to ask

- *Is it true to Scripture?*
- *Is it true to God's character?*
- *Does it make me contrite and humble?*
- *Does it exalt Jesus or me?*
- *Does it induce fear or faith?*

Guidelines

- No dates.
- No mates.
- No correction.
- No direction.

Ways God Speaks

- 1) The Bible (John 1:1,14; 2 Timothy 3:16)
- 2) *"The Spirit speaks with our spirit."* Then our spirit speaks to our soul. (Acts 13:2; Romans 8:16)
 - a) Supernatural Thoughts
 - i) Words

- ii) Pictures
 - iii) Vision/movie
- b) Supernatural Feelings
- 3) Other people (Exodus 19:3-4; Isaiah 59:21)
- 4) Songs (Ephesians 5:19)
- 5) Dreams (Genesis 20:3)
- 6) Angels (Luke 1:26-38; Hebrews 2:2)
- 7) Audible Voice (Matthew 17:5; Acts 9:4-7)

What to do with word?

- 1) Test the word - *"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God."*
1 John 4:1
- 2) Consider these three elements.
 - a) Revelation - The word that God gives. Ask God if this is all he intended to reveal or if there is more to the word. Seek God for his complete and accurate word. Ask God if it was indeed from Him.
 - b) Interpretation - Ask God, "What does this word, picture, or dream mean? Why did you give me this word?"
 - c) Application - Ask God, "What do you want me to do with this word? Is this for me to take action on? Am I to submit this word with others?"
 - d) Confirmation - Look for confirmation. If the word is for someone else, submit the word humbly to someone, saying, "I sense that God may be saying.... Does this resonate with you?" Or if the word is for you personally, submit it to a trusted mentor and see if it resonates with them? If it is a word from God, it will bear fruit and give God glory. It will be useful for "encouraging and building others up." (1 Corinthians 14:3)
- 3) Always make sure words are good for building others up. *"³ But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. "*
1 Corinthians 14:3

God will entrust more words as we follow and obey Him in His Word.