

Your Birthright and the God Who Moves First

A Teaching Summary on Hearing God's Voice

Primary Goal

The primary goal of this lesson is to begin a shift in the way believers view hearing God's voice. Many Christians long to hear God, wonder whether they are hearing Him, or ask what His voice sounds like. This teaching reframes hearing God not as a rare spiritual achievement, but as the birthright of every child of God.

Summary

This lesson focuses on the reality that God desires to communicate with His people personally, consistently, and relationally. The speaker begins by emphasizing the need for solitude and distraction-free time with God, referencing Vance Havner's observation that one of the greatest problems among pastors was that they no longer took "long walks in the woods." Hearing God requires space, stillness, and availability.

The teaching then moves into the idea that believers often settle for knowing God's "bio" rather than truly knowing Him. Bible study is essential, but Scripture is not merely a biography to be studied from a distance. It is an appointment with the living God. The speaker compares this to learning facts about his wife before actually knowing her personally. Knowing someone's information is not the same as knowing their voice.

The second major theme is that hearing God breaks the grip of religion and flips the script. Religion teaches people to climb toward God through effort, achievement, and self-proving. But the gospel teaches that God moves first. We are not climbing a mountain to reach God; we are positioning ourselves to receive from the God who has already come down to us in Christ.

Hearing God is not something believers earn. It is a birthright of belonging. Jesus said His sheep hear His voice, and He calls them by name. This means God's communication is personal. The speaker illustrates this through the story of his premature son in the neonatal intensive care unit. Before his son could understand words, he began to recognize the tone of his father's voice. In the same way, God teaches His children to recognize His tone, His nearness, and His communication.

The third major theme is expanding the believer's "bandwidth" for how God communicates. God does not only speak through verbal words. He communicates through Scripture, prayer,

worship, stillness, other believers, dreams, visions, circumstances, creation, silence, sermons, angels, and other means. The point is not to make hearing God mysterious or complicated, but to recognize that God is a communicating Father who wants His children to know His voice.

The lesson concludes with an invitation to approach time with God differently: not as religious duty, but as relationship. Believers are encouraged to sit with God, listen, obey, and trust that He is already pursuing them.

Main Points

1. Believers long for more than God's biography.

Many Christians know information about God but have not learned to personally recognize His voice. Bible study is vital, but Scripture should not become merely a textbook, history book, or religious duty. It is meant to become a meeting place with God. The deeper question is, "Am I meeting with God?"

***Application:** Approach Scripture as an appointment with God. Ask God to speak personally through His Word. Let your daily time with God become a place of listening.*

2. Hearing God breaks the grip of religion.

Religion is humanity's attempt to reach God through effort. It is the belief that God is distant and that we must climb our way toward Him. The gospel reveals the opposite. God moves first. God comes down to us. Hearing God is about positioning ourselves in the presence of the God who has already come near.

***Application:** Stop trying to earn God's voice. Position yourself through prayer, Scripture, worship, stillness, and obedience. Rest in grace.*

3. Hearing God flips the script.

Jesus said His sheep hear His voice and He calls them by name. This means hearing God is deeply personal and belongs to every believer. Like a premature baby learning its father's tone before understanding words, God begins by teaching us the tone of His voice.

***Application:** Believe that God wants you to know His voice. Start by recognizing His tone, character, and nearness. Remember that hearing God is your birthright.*

4. God communicates in more ways than words.

Many believers think hearing God only means receiving a specific verbal message. God communicates through many channels, including facial expressions, silence, actions, tone, timing, posture, and presence. God does not merely speak; God communicates.

***Application:** Pay attention to more than verbal impressions. Ask God to expand your awareness of how He communicates. Test what you sense by Scripture.*

5. Believers must position themselves to hear.

Postures do not force God to speak; they help position the believer to receive. These include prayer, Bible study, worship, stillness, community, and obedience. These are relational spaces where communication can deepen.

***Application:** Create daily space for God. Practice silence and solitude. Worship with an open heart. Obey the last thing God showed you.*

Key Quotes

"One of the greatest problems that pastors in America have is they no longer take the long walks in the woods."

"When you open your Bible, are you reading a biography or keeping an appointment?"

"Hearing God is not an achievement to attain, but a birthright of belonging."

"You're not climbing, you're positioning."

"The grip of religion must be broken for you to ever begin hearing the voice of God in all its multicolored paths."

"God does not merely speak. God communicates."

"He wants for you, after a few years, that you can just know, 'That's God.'"

Key Scriptures

- **John 10:27** - "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."
- **Ephesians 2:8-9** - Relationship with God is not achieved by religious effort. It is received by grace.
- **John 1:14** - "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."
- **Romans 10:17** - "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."
- **John 16:13** - The Holy Spirit guides believers into truth and helps them discern God's voice.

Important Definitions

- **Religion:** Humanity's attempt to reach God through personal effort, performance, and self-made approval.

- **Positioning:** Placing yourself before God so that you are available to hear Him.
- **Birthright:** Something that belongs to you because you are a child of God. Hearing God's voice belongs to His sheep.
- **Bandwidth:** The range of ways a believer recognizes God's communication.

Practical Takeaways

1. **Make space for God:** Turn down distractions and create space to listen.
2. **Treat Bible reading as an appointment:** Approach it as a meeting with the living God.
3. **Stop trying to earn God's voice:** God speaks because He is Father.
4. **Learn the tone of the Father:** Grow in recognizing the tone, character, and nature of God.
5. **Stay grounded in Scripture:** Every impression should be tested by the truth of Scripture.
6. **Obey what God has already said:** Respond faithfully to the last thing God showed you.

Reflection Questions

- When I open my Bible, do I approach it more like a biography or an appointment with God?
- Where do I still believe I have to earn God's approval before He will speak to me?
- Do I truly believe hearing God is my birthright as His child?
- What distractions are keeping me from recognizing the Father's voice?
- What is the last thing God clearly showed me, and have I obeyed it?

Closing Encouragement

God is a communicating Father. He is not avoiding His children. He is not waiting for them to become spiritual experts before He speaks. He calls His sheep by name, teaches them His tone, and invites them into relationship.

Do not settle for knowing about God. Know Him. Listen for Him. Follow Him.