

Frequency

I'm a Sheep

What is the difference between a believer and nonbeliever?

- A believer has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. A nonbeliever doesn't.
- It's not possible for personal relationship to exist without communication; however, there are entire persuasions and theologies that believe God no longer speaks to His people. It's Crazy!
- We have account of Him speaking for 4000 years from person to person and then to think He just went silent.
- All personal relationships include regular communication.

A personal relationship with God always includes hearing His voice.

Example: Choosing the right Job:

- o Nonbeliever thinks about it, gathers facts, and makes what they think is the best decision
 - o Believer thinks about it, gathers facts, and asks God through prayer, believing that the best decision is God's will.
- Wouldn't you rather make decisions based on God's knowledge rather than yours?
 - He is omniscient- All knowing. Things don't occur to him and catch Him off guard. He has never uttered, "I wasn't expecting that" or "oops."

Isaiah 55:8:11 (Message)

"I don't think the way you think. The way you work isn't the way I work." "For as the sky soars high above earth, so the way I work surpasses the way you work, and the way I think is beyond the way you think. Just as rain and snow descend from the skies and don't go back until they've watered the earth, doing their work of making things grow and blossom, producing seed for farmers and food for the hungry, so will the words that come out of my mouth not come back empty-handed. They'll do the work I sent them to do, they'll complete the assignment I gave them.

Hearing God's voice isn't something you do, it's someone you are.

"I'm a Sheep"

John 10:1-4 (NKJV)

10 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls

his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

Verse 11

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

Verse 16

¹⁶ And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

Verse 27

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

- Is Jesus the Shepherd? Are you following Him? This means you are a sheep. And what do sheep do? Hear His voice! This is written in red, it's Jesus and He makes it very clear.

3 Things about hearing the voice of God

It's INATE

- Instinct, natural, born with it, hardwired.
- We were born with the ability to hear His voice. When we are born again, our ability to hear God is restored
- We are created in the image of God and our God is a communicative God. Your ability to hear and speak is because you were made in the image of a hearing and speaking God
- Having the ability to communicate Himself and then creating us with the ability to communicate, why would He then not communicate?
- This is one of the things that separate us from the animal kingdom.
- My sheep hear My voice

It's LEARNED

- Though we are born with the ability to hear God, hearing God isn't solely based on innate knowledge or wisdom; learning to hear helps increase our ability to hear Him.
- Ex. Children are born with the ability but must be taught sounds, words, and pronunciation, what to say and when to say it.
- It's simply dependent upon being taught. We all must learn to hear God.
- The disciples asked Jesus. "Teach us to pray" Hearing God is the second half of Prayer. God never intended prayer to only be off loading our "to do" list every day. Prayer is communication between Father and children.
- Just like we learn how to study the Bible, we can learn how to hear God.

Try It:

1. Start with Prayer/Worship
2. Read a portion of Scripture
3. Write down what you think God is saying through His Word.

- Think in steps not miles. Some of us are waiting on God to tell us to part the Red sea when He might be telling us to spend more time with our kids or think differently. Be willing to hear His voice in the small things.

It's MATURED

- It's supposed to get better over time. Hearing His voice is also something we grow up into.
- Not everything you think you hear is God. We need to mature to the place where we can discern God's voice and make the right decision based on His Word.
- We can just sense or feel our way through life...Maturity will always ask what is the book, chapter, and verse?
- This doesn't mean we have to be theologians. It simply means we pursue a growing relationship with the Spirit of God through the Word of God.
- I know His will because I know His ways.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NASB)

"All Scripture is inspired by God."

- One sure way to know if you're hearing God's voice is to line up what you hear against the Word of God. God will never tell you to do, think or say anything contrary to His Word. If you have a thought and you don't know if it's God or not, you can look it up in the Bible and settle it right away
- He isn't going to tell you to refuse to forgive someone or spend money frivolously, or anything else that doesn't match His Word.

God always agrees with His written Word, and His Word always agrees with Him.

Philosophies that need maturing:

1. "Message a Minute" (Dallas Willard *Hearing God*)
 - They tell you that they hear God 300x's a day. "God told me..."
 - God wants to communicate with us on a regular basis for fellowship, not just instruction alone.
 - Parents: as your kids mature, you shouldn't have to tell them everything.
2. "Bible Roulette"
 - Open the Bible and point at a verse. It's possible for God to speak this way but it's not the way to maturely make life decisions.
 - Joke: a businessman, needing direction from God for his business opened his Bible and pointed at Chapter 13.... not good!
 - Dallas Willard heard someone teach that everyone has a life verse and the way to find it is to take the year you were born for the chapter and verses. So, he went to Genesis 19:35 ("So they got him drunk and slept with him.") Not a good life verse.
3. "Oue Sera Sera"

- Whatever will be, will be.
- Whatever I choose, will be God's will for my life. This just isn't true.
- Not faith, its wishing.

Hearing God's voice can be a lifestyle instead of an occasional event.

Jeremiah 33:3, (NASB)

"Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know"

RESPONSE

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to me through this message?
- Join a Frequency Group this week and dig deeper.