

# GO: Pathway to Purpose: Eyes That See, Ears That Hear

The Pathway to Purpose is one in which we are led by the voice of God. But How do we hear His voice, or even know it's Him?

## Zechariah's Path Prophecy

Luke 1:76-79

New Living Translation

76 "And you, my little son,  
will be called the prophet of the Most High,  
because you will prepare the way for the Lord.

77 **You will tell his people** how to find salvation  
through forgiveness of their sins.

78 Because of God's tender mercy,  
the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us,[a]

79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide us to the path of peace."

- In the process of becoming His people many struggle with a heart condition. The indwelling sin nature hardens hearts against God.

## Hard Hearts, Closed Eyes and Ears

Mark 8:14-21

New Living Translation

Yeast of the Pharisees and Herod

14 But **the disciples** had forgotten to bring any food. They had only one loaf of bread with them in the boat. 15 As they were crossing the lake, Jesus warned them, "Watch out! Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod."

16 At this they began to argue with each other because they hadn't brought any bread. 17 Jesus knew what they were saying, so he said, "Why are you arguing about having no bread? Don't you know or understand even yet? **Are your hearts too hard to take it in? 18 'You have eyes—can't you see? You have ears—can't you hear?'**[a] **Don't you remember anything at all?** 19 When I fed the 5,000 with five loaves of bread, how many baskets of leftovers did you pick up afterward?"

"Twelve," they said.

20 "And when I fed the 4,000 with seven loaves, how many large baskets of leftovers did you pick up?"

"Seven," they said.

21 "Don't you understand yet?" he asked them

- There's no godly triumph without a godly strategy, and no godly empowerment, without a godly revelation.
- There's no life without God, and we will starve without His voice.

Matthew 4:4 New Living Translation

4 But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say,

'People do not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

Matthew 16:11-12

New Living Translation

11 **Why can't you understand** that I'm not talking about bread? So again I say, 'Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.'"

12 Then at last they understood that he wasn't speaking about the yeast in bread, but about the deceptive teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Matthew 13:10-17

New Living Translation

10 His disciples came and asked him, “Why do you use parables when you talk to the people?”

11 He replied, “**You are permitted to understand** the secrets[a] of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not. 12 **To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.** 13 That is why I use these parables,

For they look, but they don’t really see.

They hear, but they don’t really listen or understand.

14 This fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah that says,

‘When you hear what I say,  
you will not understand.

When you see what I do,  
you will not comprehend.

15 For the hearts of these people are hardened,  
and their ears cannot hear,  
and they have closed their eyes—  
so their eyes cannot see,  
and their ears cannot hear,  
and their hearts cannot understand,  
and they cannot turn to me  
and let me heal them.’[b]

16 “But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. 17 I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but they didn’t see it. And they longed to hear what you hear, but they didn’t hear it.

## The Hard Heart

Jeremiah 18:11-12

New Living Translation

11 “Therefore, Jeremiah, go and warn all Judah and Jerusalem. Say to them, ‘This is what the Lord says: I am planning disaster for you instead of good. So turn from your evil ways, each of you, and do what is right.’”

12 But the people replied, “Don’t waste your breath. We will continue to live as we want to, stubbornly following our own evil desires.”

- It’s not that the rebellious can’t hear God, it’s that they won’t.

## The Closed Eye

Judges 17:6

New Living Translation

6 In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

Proverbs 14:12

New Living Translation

12 There is a path before each person that seems right,  
but it ends in death.

## Turning to God for Healing

Matthew 13:15

New Living Translation

15 For the hearts of these people are hardened,  
and their ears cannot hear,  
and they have closed their eyes—  
so their eyes cannot see,  
and their ears cannot hear,  
and their hearts cannot understand,  
and they cannot turn to me

and let me heal them.’[a]

Hebrews 3:7-11

New Living Translation

7 **That is why the Holy Spirit says,**

“Today when you hear his voice,

8 don’t harden your hearts

as Israel did when they rebelled,

when they tested me in the wilderness.

9 There your ancestors tested and tried my patience,

even though they saw my miracles for forty years.

10 So I was angry with them, and I said,

‘Their hearts always turn away from me.

They refuse to do what I tell them.’

11 So in my anger I took an oath:

‘They will never enter my place of rest.’”[a]

- When we hear His voice we must turn to, and not away from.
- When we obey His voice it gives us access to His places.

## Places to Find God

Exodus 33:8-15

New Living Translation

8 Whenever Moses went out to the Tent of Meeting, all the people would get up and stand in the entrances of their own tents. They would all watch Moses until he disappeared inside. 9 As he went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and hover at its entrance while the Lord spoke with Moses. 10 When the people saw the cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, they would stand and bow down in front of their own tents. 11 Inside the Tent of Meeting, the Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Afterward Moses would return to the camp, but the young man who assisted him, Joshua son of Nun, would remain behind in the Tent of Meeting.

Moses Sees the Lord’s Glory

12 One day Moses said to the Lord, “You have been telling me, ‘Take these people up to the Promised Land.’ But you haven’t told me whom you will send with me. You have told me, ‘I know you by name, and I look favorably on you.’”<sup>13</sup> If it is true that you look favorably on me, let me know your ways so I may understand you more fully and continue to enjoy your favor. And remember that this nation is your very own people.”

14 The Lord replied, “I will personally go with you, Moses, and I will give you rest—everything will be fine for you.”

15 Then Moses said, “If you don’t personally go with us, don’t make us

- We will find God in His rest, dwelling in His promises, He is the Keeper of His word! We will find God when we are living by faith.

Psalm 91:1-2

New King James Version

91 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High  
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress;  
My God, in Him I will trust.”

- We will find God in His secret place, the high and heavenly places.

Ephesians 2:5-7

New King James Version

5 even **when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved), 6 **and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

- When you are dead in trespasses in sin you cannot reach the secret places.
- But when you are made alive with Christ, you will be raised up, and sat in Christ!
- How high are we when we dwell in Christ?

Ephesians 1:15-23

New Living Translation

15 Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere,[a] 16 I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, 17 asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom[b] and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. 18 I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.[c]

19 I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power 20 that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. 21 Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. 22 God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. 23 And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

## Finding the Secret Place

Psalms 32:1-8

New Living Translation

A psalm[a] of David.

- 1 Oh, what joy for those  
whose disobedience is forgiven,  
whose sin is put out of sight!
- 2 Yes, what joy for those  
whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt,[b]  
whose lives are lived in complete honesty!
- 3 When I refused to confess my sin,  
my body wasted away,  
and I groaned all day long.
- 4 Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me.

My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Interlude

5 Finally, I confessed all my sins to you  
and stopped trying to hide my guilt.  
I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord."  
And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone. Interlude

6 Therefore, let all the godly pray to you while there is still time,  
that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment.

7 For you are my hiding place;  
you protect me from trouble.  
You surround me with songs of victory. Interlude

8 The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life.  
I will advise you and watch over you.

### **Things we must do to hear God's voice on the pathway:**

- ***Repent - Turn from sin***
- ***Relocate - Draw near to Him. The High Table.***
- ***Read - Meditate on His word, learn his mind and you'll know His voice.***
- ***Respond - Don' harden your heart by disobeying His word/voice.***
- ***Relationship - Two-sided conversations, time spent together in prayer. Early in the morning is a great time but dwelling on Him all day.***
- ***Revelation- Dreams, visions, prophecy, angels, messengers, His voice, Holy Spirit.***
- ***Reposition - Take the necessary steps to stay in fellowship***
- ***Repeat - Be consistent***



## Knowing His Voice -

John 10:1-5

New Living Translation

The Good Shepherd and His Sheep

10 “I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! 2 But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. 5 They won’t follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don’t know his voice.”

John 10:14-16

New Living Translation

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.

- The question that must be asked as it relates to seeing and hearing the Lord is, are you a part of His flock?