

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING

Week 1 — Does God Still Speak Today?

Primary Text: Hebrews 1:1–3; John 10:27

Theme: Hearing God's Voice in a Noisy World

INTRODUCTION — LIVING IN A NOISY WORLD

We live in a noisy world.

There is noise everywhere.

Our phones are constantly notifying us.

Social media is constantly giving us someone's opinion.

The news is constantly telling us what we should think.

People are constantly telling us what we should believe.

And sometimes the greatest problem isn't that God isn't speaking.

The problem is that there is so much noise that we have forgotten how to listen.

We can hear thousands of voices in a single day and still struggle to recognize the voice of God.

But Jesus made an incredible statement in John 10:27:

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." —

John 10:27 NIV

Notice what Jesus doesn't say.

He doesn't say, "My sheep occasionally hear my voice."

He says:

"My sheep listen to my voice."

There is something about belonging to Jesus that means learning to recognize His voice.

God is still speaking.

The question is:

Are we listening?

1. GOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SPEAKING GOD

Let's go all the way back to the beginning.

Genesis 1 repeatedly says:

"And God said..."

God said, "Let there be light."

And there was light. God spoke creation into existence. The universe responded to the voice of God.

Think about that. God didn't need a hammer. He didn't need a blueprint. He didn't need machinery. **He spoke.** And creation responded.

Psalms 33:6 says:

"By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth."

God is a speaking God.

Throughout Scripture we find God communicating with humanity.

God spoke to:

- Adam and Eve.
- Noah.
- Abraham.
- Moses.
- Samuel.
- David.
- Elijah.
- Isaiah.
- Jeremiah.
- Ezekiel.
- Daniel.
- The apostles.

God has always desired communication with His people.

God didn't create humanity simply to exist.

He created us for relationship. And relationship requires communication.

God speaks because God desires relationship.

2. GOD HAS SPOKEN TO US THROUGH JESUS

Hebrews 1:1–2 says:

"In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son..."

Notice those words:

"He has spoken to us by his Son."

God's greatest revelation wasn't a book.

It was a Person.

His name is Jesus.

John 1:14 says:

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

Jesus is the Word of God made flesh.

If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus.

If you want to know how God responds to sinners, look at Jesus.

If you want to know how God treats the broken, look at Jesus.

If you want to know God's attitude toward the lost, look at Jesus.

If you want to know what holiness looks like in human flesh, look at Jesus.

Jesus is the clearest revelation of God we have.

Hebrews 1:3 says:

"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being..."

Jesus didn't simply come to tell us about God.

Jesus came to reveal God.

3. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD

If we want to hear God, we must begin with Scripture.

This is foundational. There are many voices in the world. But there is one voice that we can trust completely:

The Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 says:

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

The Bible isn't simply an inspirational book. It isn't merely a collection of ancient stories. It is God's revealed Word.

Psalms 119:105 says:

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

Sometimes we come to God and say:

"God, show me the next five years."

And God says:

"Take the next step."

We want the entire map. God often gives us enough light for the next step.

4. GOD'S VOICE WILL NEVER CONTRADICT GOD'S WORD

This is one of the most important principles in this entire series.

Not every voice we hear is God's voice.

Not every feeling is God's voice.

Not every dream is God's voice.

Not every circumstance is God's voice.

Not every opportunity is God's voice.

Not every person who says, "God told me..." is necessarily speaking for God.

So how do we test what we hear?

We compare it with Scripture.

God will never tell you something that contradicts what He has already revealed.

God will never say:

"Go ahead and sin."

God will never say:

"Treat that person with hatred."

God will never say:

"Ignore holiness."

God will never lead you away from Christ.

God does not contradict Himself.

Isaiah 8:20 says:

"Look to God's instructions and teachings! People who contradict his word are completely in the dark."

The Bible becomes our measuring stick.

If what you think God is saying contradicts Scripture, it isn't God speaking.

We don't adjust Scripture to fit our feelings.

We adjust our feelings to fit Scripture.

5. JESUS SAYS HIS SHEEP KNOW HIS VOICE

Let's return to John 10.

Jesus says:

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

Jesus uses the picture of a shepherd and sheep.

The shepherd doesn't simply know the sheep.

The sheep know the shepherd.

There is familiarity.

There is relationship.

There is trust.

Imagine several shepherds standing outside a sheep pen.

The sheep are all mixed together.

One shepherd begins calling.

And his sheep begin moving toward him.

Why?

Because they recognize his voice. They have heard him before.

They know him.

You don't learn God's voice primarily by studying voices.

You learn God's voice by knowing God.

This is why spiritual intimacy matters.

The closer you walk with Christ, the more familiar His voice becomes.

6. GOD'S VOICE CALLS US TO FOLLOW

John 10:27 doesn't stop with listening.

Jesus says:

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

There are three movements:

Listen.

Know.

Follow.

Hearing God's voice isn't the end. Obedience is the goal.

Illustration: The lucky 8 ball

Sometimes we say:

"God, speak to me."

But God may already be saying:

"You know what I have asked you to do."

And we're waiting for another word because we don't want to obey the first one.

God says: Forgive.

And we say, "Speak again."

God says:

Give. "Speak again."

God says:

Serve. "Speak again."

God says:

Repent. "Speak again."

God says:

Surrender. "Speak again."

We don't need another word.

We need obedience to the word we've already received.

7. THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US HEAR GOD

Jesus didn't leave His followers alone.
He promised the Holy Spirit.

John 14:26 says:

"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

The Holy Spirit teaches.
The Holy Spirit reminds.
The Holy Spirit convicts.
The Holy Spirit guides.
The Holy Spirit leads us into truth.

John 16:13 says:

"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth."

This is where our holiness theology becomes incredibly important.
The Christian life isn't simply about receiving forgiveness and then trying to live the rest of our lives in our own strength.

The Holy Spirit transforms us.

The Spirit brings conviction.
The Spirit exposes sin.
The Spirit calls us deeper.
The Spirit leads us toward Christlikeness.

And as we surrender ourselves completely to God, the Spirit works within us to make us holy.

Romans 12:1 says:

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."

God isn't simply interested in getting our attention.
He wants our surrender.

8. SOMETIMES GOD SPEAKS IN A WHISPER

One of the great stories about hearing God is found in 1 Kings 19.

Elijah was discouraged. He was afraid. He was exhausted.
And God told him to stand on the mountain.

Then came a powerful wind. But God wasn't in the wind.
Then an earthquake. But God wasn't in the earthquake.
Then fire. But God wasn't in the fire.

Then came:
"a gentle whisper."

Sometimes we expect God to shout.
We expect the heavens to open.
We expect something dramatic.
But sometimes God speaks quietly.

Sometimes His voice comes while you're reading Scripture.
Sometimes during prayer. Sometimes through a sermon.
Sometimes through a conversation with another believer.
Sometimes through conviction in your heart.
Sometimes God simply brings a Scripture to your mind at exactly the moment you need it.

The problem isn't always that God isn't speaking.
Sometimes: **We're too busy to hear.**

9. WE MUST LEARN TO TURN DOWN THE NOISE

If you want to hear God's voice, you have to create space to listen.

Psalms 46:10 says:
"Be still, and know that I am God."

We live in a culture that hates silence. We immediately grab our phones.
We turn on the television. We listen to music. We scroll. We consume.
We respond. And eventually we become uncomfortable with silence.

But sometimes you need to put the phone down. Turn the television off.
Close the laptop.

Get alone with God. Open your Bible. Pray. Be still. Listen.

Not because we're trying to receive some new revelation that adds to Scripture. But because we need to become attentive to what God is already saying through His Word and His Spirit.

10. THE QUESTION ISN'T "IS GOD SPEAKING?"

The question is:

"Am I listening?"

God spoke to Samuel.

Samuel initially didn't recognize His voice.

1 Samuel 3:10 says:

"The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Then Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'"

What a prayer.

"Speak, for your servant is listening."

Imagine beginning every morning with that prayer.

Before you check your phone:

"Speak, Lord."

Before you check social media:

"Speak, Lord."

Before you begin your day:

"Speak, Lord."

Before you make that decision:

"Speak, Lord."

Before you respond in anger:

"Speak, Lord."

Before you make that purchase:

"Speak, Lord."

Before you walk into that meeting:

"Speak, Lord."

Before you step into ministry:

"Speak, Lord."

"Your servant is listening."

THE HOLINESS QUESTION

Here's where this sermon ultimately leads us.
God doesn't speak simply to give us information.

God speaks to transform us.

When God reveals something in our lives that doesn't look like Jesus, what do we do? We surrender it.

When the Holy Spirit reveals bitterness:
We surrender it.

When He reveals unforgiveness:
We surrender it.

When He reveals pride:
We surrender it.

When He reveals selfishness:
We surrender it.

When He reveals an area that isn't completely yielded to God:
We surrender it.

Holiness begins with a heart that says:
"God, whatever You reveal, I will surrender."

That's the heart of entire sanctification.

Not simply:
"God, forgive my sins."

But:
"God, take all of me."

"Every desire."
"Every ambition."
"Every attitude."
"Every relationship."
"Every habit."
"Every part of my life."

"Lord, I belong completely to You."

CONCLUSION — GOD IS STILL SPEAKING

The world says God is silent.
But Scripture says otherwise.

God spoke creation into existence.
God spoke through the prophets.
God spoke through Jesus.
God speaks through Scripture.
God speaks through the Holy Spirit.
God speaks through His Church.
God speaks through conviction.
God speaks through His providence.

God is still speaking.

But Jesus said:
"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

The question isn't whether God is speaking.
The question is:

Are we listening?

And perhaps even more importantly:

Are we willing to obey what He says?

Challenge for the Week:

Every morning this week, before beginning your normal routine, pray:

"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." — 1 Samuel 3:9 NIV

Then read a portion of Scripture and ask:

"Lord, what are You showing me about Yourself, about me, and about how You want me to live today?"

Don't merely listen for information.
Listen for transformation.