

Discovering the Will of God

Essential # 2: Hearing the Voice of God

The second essential to knowing the will of God is Knowing the Voice of God. Why is hearing the voice of God so important to us? A look through scripture would quickly show you that when God required something from his people he would always speak to them. God spoke to Abraham, Moses, Joshua, and Paul, just to name a few. When God calls us to do His will, He speaks to us; therefore, we must learn to hear Him. When we pray do we not expect to hear from God? When we talk to Him don't we desire a conversation and not a monologue? When we are in a time of trouble, and the pressures of life are bearing down on us, is it not the voice of God that gives us the peace and assurance that everything will be all right? The question that usually arises is "can I really hear and know the voice of God?" Here is how Jesus answers that question. **"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."** **John 10:27 (KJV)** There are many reasons why it is important to hear God's voice. One reason is described in the scripture we just read, and that is it gives us an assurance that we are part of God's family. Another reason is that hearing the voice of God helps us to avoid the pit falls of sin. **"God speaks... causing them to change their minds, and keeping them from pride, and warning them of the penalties of sin, and keeping them from falling into some kind of trap."** **Job 33:17-18 (PH)** Hearing the voice of God is also the secret to a productive life. **"The person who shares my life and whose life I share will be fruitful. For apart from me you can do nothing."** **John 15:5 (LB)** These are but three reasons why we need to hear the voice of God, but why does God want to speak to us?

Let me give you three reasons why God wants to speak to us. First, God speaks to us so **that we may comprehend truth**. In 1 Corinthians we read the following:

⁹ But as it is written:

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

1 Cor. 2:9-13 (NKJ)

In verse 12 it states that we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might *know* the things that have been freely given to us by God. Greek word for “know” is *oido*, which means “fullness of knowledge.

The second reason God speaks to us is **for us to conform to the truth**. The book of Romans in the 8th chapter tells us to be conformed to the image of His Son. We are also told in the book of James to be doers of the Word and not just hearers. Finally, 2 Timothy states this:

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; . . . 2 Timothy 3:16 (NASB)

Conforming to the truth entails us conforming to His image, doing the word, and yielding ourselves to reproof, correction, and training in righteousness.

The third reason God speaks to us is that **we might communicate the truth**. Matthew 28:19-20 tells us to make disciples of all nations. 2 Corinthians tell us that we are ambassadors for Christ.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us . . . 2 Cor. 5:20 (NASB).

An ambassador’s job is to relay policies and decisions of their superiors, to the people of the countries they are assigned to. In like manner we are to communicate the truth of God to the world around us. There are other reasons why God speaks to us but these three provide an umbrella under which the others would fall.

We will now look at the most common ways God speaks to us. While there may be other ways in which God speaks to us, one or all of the following will always be used by God to communicate His truth. While there is so much to learn on this subject, my prayer is that this simple lesson will inspire you to look further and dig deeper into this subject. The more we can learn about hearing God’s voice as well as the things that prevent us from hearing Him, the greater the joy we will receive from serving Him.

Five Ways God Speaks To Us

1. God Speaks To Us Through His Word

All scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching, for showing people what is wrong in their lives, for correcting faults, and for teaching how to live right. Using the scripture, the person who serves God will be capable, having all that is needed to do every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NCV)

2. God Speaks To Us Through His Spirit

The Holy Spirit... will be your teacher and will bring to mind all I have said to you.

John 14:26 (PH)

But we know these things because God has sent His Spirit to tell us, and His Spirit searches out and shows us all of God's deepest secrets.

1Corinthians 2:10 (LB)

Often the spirit will use impressions, hunches, and intuition to speak to us and guide us.

3. God Speaks To Us Through Other People

We do not speak in word taught by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, as we explain spiritual truths...

1Corinthians 2:13 (GN)

But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwomen. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called."

Genesis 21:12 (NKJ)

Some of the ways God uses people include:

1. Gifted Teachers
2. Prophets / Prophets proclaimed the Word of the Lord through direction and correction.
3. Strangers / Angels from God often appeared as strangers
4. Friends & Family / often used by God without their knowing

4. God Speaks To Us Through Painful Circumstances

Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.
Proverbs 20:30 (GN)

Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word. You are good and do good; teach me Your statutes. . . . It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes. The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver *pieces*.

Psalm 119:67-68,71-72 (NASB)

5. God Speaks To Us Through Silence

Be still and know that I am God;...

Psalm 46:10 (NKJ)

Attitudes That Help Us Hear God

Expectantly	Carefully
Quietly	Dependently
Patiently	Attentively
Actively	Submissively
Confidently	Gratefully
Openly	Reverently

Obstacles That Keep Us From Hearing God

We Don't Know God	A Poor Self Image
A False Sense Of Guilt/Shame	Business/Busyness
Unbelief	God - Directed Anger
Harboring Sin	Rebellious Spirit
Rejecting God's Messengers	Untrained To Listen