

Hearing God



Part 3

Hearing God

God created us to enjoy intimate friendship with Him. Conversation is at the heart of every friendship. God is conversational and speaks to us.

Ways in Which God Communicates:

1. God Speaking Directly (Audible Voice)
2. The Written Word (Scripture)
3. Angelic Visitation / Message
4. Visions
5. Dreams
6. Prophecy
7. Other Believers Speaking to Us
8. Deliberation



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In addition to those ways, Dallas Willard believes that Christians can hear God in their hearts, by means of:

1. Impressions
2. Emotions
3. Thoughts
4. The Still Small Voice



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The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. . . . But we have the mind of Christ.

- 1 Corinthians 2:10b-16



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Philip Carey Presents Another Perspective:

The idea is that you are supposed to seek guidance from God (good idea!) and the key way to do that is by listening to how he's speaking in your heart (bad idea!).

Listening to your heart contributes to self-knowledge, not knowledge of God. For to know God you have to listen to God, not to yourself, and that means listening to a word that comes from outside yourself – the external word of Scripture.

It is good news that God does not speak in our hearts. On the one hand, this means it's okay that the voices of our hearts are our own. And on the other hand, it means that when God does speak, we can hear him the way we hear people we love, who are real and therefore exist outside of our own hearts.

Hearing God

Ways In Which God Converses with Us

1. Circumstances
2. Impressions
3. Thoughts
4. Emotions
5. The Still Small Voice

Your Responses:

- A. I would like that to be true.
- B. I know that to be true.
- C. I don't think that is true.





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INTERACTIVE



Participate, ask questions, talk back...

What if we listened to what everyone had to say — and discovered that God can speak through us all? After all, we all learn better when we talk things out, hear different points of view, and give room for the Spirit to speak through our deliberation.

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THOUGHTFUL



Test everything, hold on to what is good...

Many hours of research are dedicated to prepare each one of our series. We explore the scriptures, the breadth of Christian scholarship, contemporary authors, and consider a wide range of sources outside of our faith.

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FAITHFUL



Set apart Christ as Lord...

We all have questions. But we learn together in a way that tackles the deepest part of our doubts while making sure that our purpose is clear: to always know the reason for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ, and to be prepared to share that answer with everyone who asks us about that hope.

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