

Hearing God



Part 5

Hearing God

1. God's communication comes in many forms.
2. We often have the wrong motives to hear from God.
3. In practice, we really don't exhibit a desire to hear from God. Often, only when we are in trouble or need to make a big decision to do we earnestly seek God.
4. Our desperation to hear from God often drives us to extreme measures, but when we don't get a quick response, we often give up on hearing from God altogether.



Hearing God

5. God is conversational, and speaks to individuals as it is appropriate, which is to be expected among friends who truly know one another.

6. We should ask if we are prepared to hear from God:
 - ◆ Is there some obstacle in our life to hearing from God?
 - ◆ To what use would I put a word from God?
 - ◆ What am I doing in my life that God would speak to me?
 - ◆ Am I ready to respond to (obey) God, and not merely to invite God into my own plans, beliefs and projects?



Hearing God

7. God speaks in many ways:

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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8. By consensus, the majority of people here believe that God does speak to us conversationally, and many reported having that experience personally.



Hearing God

HOW DO I DIFFERENTIATE
BETWEEN GOD'S VOICE
FROM THE OTHER VOICES
IN MY HEAD?



Hearing God

Is There A Priority?

1. God speaks to us through the Scriptures, by means of the Holy Spirit, which inspired the text, now illuminating it for us.
2. God speaks to us through the voice of other believers, in whom His Spirit also dwells.
3. God speaks to us in our thoughts and impressions.



Hearing God

“Beyond this, however, the only answer to the question, ‘How do we know whether this is from God?’ is by *experience*. Even a word-for-word quotation from the Bible can be put to a use that makes it only a message from the dear self or from Satan. . . . That is why *only the Bible as a whole* can be treated as the written Word of God.”

- Dallas Willard, *Hearing God*



Hearing God

The Three "Lights" (Testing)

1. Impressions
2. Passages from the Scriptures
3. Circumstances



Hearing God

Characteristics of God's Voice

1. Quality (Weight)
2. Spirit
3. Content



Hearing God

Characteristics of God's Voice

1. Quality (Weight)
2. Spirit

"The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."

- James 3:17



Hearing God

Characteristics of God's Voice

1. Quality (Weight)
2. Spirit
3. Content



Hearing God

Hearing God in Practice

1. Is it possible to hear incorrectly?
2. How can we devote ourselves to hearing from God?
3. How can we learn to distinguish between *hearing from God* and *decision making*? The two might intersect, but not very often.

“It is God’s will that we ourselves should have a great part in determining our path through life.” – Dallas Willard



Hearing God

Where Do We Go From Here?



The Mystery of God's Will



Questions About Prayer



Hearing God



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.

[Read more](#)

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.

[Read more](#)

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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