

## HEARING AND RECOGNIZING GOD'S VOICE

God Speaks To Us From The Realm Of Eternity Into Our Finite Realm. The language God uses is intended to express and communicate His thoughts, His desires and His will. Jesus spoke to the churches in the book of Revelation exhorting them to listen; they needed "ears to hear" His messages; Revelation 2:7;11;17;29; 3:6;13;22. All throughout scripture we discover that God's chief desire is to reveal Himself to us, so that we may be drawn into personal relationship with Him; see Isaiah 28:23; Philippians 3:10-14.

### Important Facts Concerning Our Ability To Hear:

1. There is a spiritual war to keep Christians from seeing and hearing accurately. The enemy with his covert operations, desires to remain hidden, to keep people blinded, distracted and confused. God's people should not be ignorant or destroyed for a lack of knowledge; Hosea 4:6; 2 Corinthians 2:11.
2. The Holy Spirit is not human and His first language is not English. He is a Spirit, Who communicates with us in the language of the spirit. If it seems that He is silent, it is possible that we have not recognized the ways in which He communicates with us.
3. The Lord resists the prideful, and hides Himself from those who are "wise" in their own eyes. He reveals Himself to the humble, "childlike" ones; Luke 10:21; 1 Peter 5:5.
4. When the Lord introduces Himself, He brings an element of wonder and "awe", aimed at drawing us into relationship with Him. (On the contrary, "religion" introduces uniformity, pushes for performance, and insists upon an adherence to rituals).
5. The Lord gives us "basic guidelines", a general sense of direction in the beginning. This measure of uncertainty (concerning the details of His truth or plan for us), will keep us dependent upon Him, and will cause us to seek Him daily for guidance.
6. When I seek to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth, and my pursuit is to truly know Him, then the "seeing" and the "hearing" will follow; Job 42:5.
7. If I place other loyalties, priorities or relationships above the Lord Himself, I will not hear accurately. The condition of my heart is important; other "voices" and opinions coming from other influences, can affect my spiritual hearing; Luke 8:8-10, 17-18.

### How Does God Communicate With Us Or Reveal Himself To Us?

1. The Lord speaks truth to us through the Scriptures, the living Word of God, which contains the written language of God; John 17:17; 1 Peter 1:25.
2. He speaks to us through an inner voice, or "witness" of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The "still, small voice" is the language of the Spirit heard from within; John 10:3-5.
3. The Lord can speak to us through the audible voice of God, a language heard from the outside; Matthew 17:5; Acts 9:4-5.
4. The Lord speaks to us through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. His supernatural "Body Language" consists of "power" gifts, "inspirational" gifts, and "revelation" gifts; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.
5. The Lord can speak to us through our everyday conversations. We can hear Him when our own language is spoken; Luke 24:15-32.
6. The Lord can speak to us through Parables, Riddles or Dark Speech, which are examples of God's symbolic language; Numbers 12:8; Psalm 78:1-3; Matthew 13:13.

7. He can speak to us through Visions or Trances, which are the picture language of God; Acts 16:9-10; 22:17-21.
8. God can speak to us through Dreams, the sleep language of God; Genesis 37:5; Matthew 2:13; 27:19.
9. God can speak to us through Laughter or Weeping, which communicates His emotions to us; Genesis 18:12; 21:1-6; Psalm 2:4; John 11:35.
10. The Lord can speak to us through our Circumstances. He instructs us through the practical language of everyday life. He doesn't always "Wow" us; 1 Kings 17:7-9; 19:12-13; Luke 12:27.
11. God speaks to us through His Creation. His handiwork declares spiritual truth and Kingdom principles; Genesis 1:14; Numbers 22:28-34; Romans 1:20.
12. God can speak to us through Angels. From Genesis through Revelation, we see that God's heavenly messengers can communicate with us; Judges 6:12; 21; Luke 1:26-38; 2:8-15; Acts 10:3-7. (However, we are not instructed to initiate conversations with them).
13. God can speak to us through "Prophetic Acts". Certain behaviors or actions are like "signs", which point to coming events, or they may reveal what God is about to do; Jeremiah 43:8-10; Ezekiel 4:3-9; Acts 21:11.
14. The Lord speaks to us through Supernatural Peace, which is His "calling card". This is the language of confirmation, of inner rest; Philippians 4:7; Romans 14:17.

#### Other Examples Of How The Lord Has Spoken To People:

1. Mary did not recognize Jesus' physical appearance after His resurrection (in the flesh), but she did recognize His voice; John 20:15-16
2. Two of Jesus' disciples did not recognize Him walking beside them (in another form), but they recognized Him at the table of communion"; Luke 24:30-32
3. God has spoken through the plagues of Egypt; Exodus 1-14
4. God spoke to Moses out of the midst of a burning bush; Exodus 3:2
5. God spoke (of Aaron as His choice) by a rod that budded, bloomed and produced almonds overnight; Numb. 17:8
6. God spoke through a donkey that fell on his knees; Numb. 22:27-28
7. God spoke to Gideon through a fleece upon the ground; Judges 6:37-40
8. God's messengers discovered that knowing God's voice was the secret to surviving in the days of famine; 1 Kings 17:2-9; 1 Kings 18:4
9. Jesus did not quarrel with people. He did not utilize self-promotion, neither did He "broadcast" divine mysteries to the multitudes; Matthew 12:19; 13:10-17
10. The Lord is patient with His servants, and will call to us again and again. He will confirm His voice to us and will give us instructions; see 1 Samuel 3:2-11

When The Lord Speaks - as my Shepherd, He PROMPTS and LEADS me. There is a personal courtesy that He brings; it is His embrace which results in a union of free wills. He speaks in love, in a recurring, tugging of my heart. He expects obedience, but He is not a taskmaster. He is kind, but also severe; Matthew 11:28-30; Romans 11:22.

When The Enemy Speaks - he is like an intruder. He will attempt to FORCE HIS WAY in. He is invasive, accusing and deceptive. He will distort the true message of the cross. He seeks to control, to overpower me, PRESSURING me to move in haste without waiting upon God. He brings confusion, fear and intimidation; Matthew 4:3-10.

