

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

INTRODUCTION: Jesus said, *“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”* (John 10:27). One of Satan’s greatest deceptions is convincing believers that they *cannot* hear from God. However, God does desire intimacy with us and that can only happen when we discipline ourselves to not only talk to God but also take the necessary time to listen to Him. Growing in this discipline is one sure way of maturing in Christ and becoming more effective in our Christian life.

OBJECTIVES FOR THIS LESSON:

1. Learn from examples in scripture how people heard from God
2. Learn practical ways how we can hear from God
3. Learn how to develop a sensitivity to hear from God
4. Learn what hinders us from hearing from God
5. Learn positive results of hearing from God
6. Apply many of these principles in class exercises

A. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF PERSONS HEARING FROM GOD

“I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.”
(Psalms 16:7)

1. I Samuel 3:1-14
2. I Kings 19:11-18
3. Acts 9:1-9
4. Isaiah 6:1-13

B. HOW DO WE HEAR FROM GOD?

1. God’s Word
 - a. *“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”* (Hebrews 4:12)
 - b. Isaiah 55:11
 - c. Psalms 119:105

- d. John 10:1-21; Acts 5:1-11; Romans 8:31-39; Ephesians 4:17-24; 2 Cor. 2:12-17
2. Being quiet and allowing God to speak
 - a. Journaling
 - Scripture
 - Something on your heart
 - Prayer
 - Write: “I say...” “My Father says...”
 - b. Simply listening without writing
 - Sit and wait on God to speak
3. Other believers
4. A sermon or Bible study
5. Prophetic message
6. Nature
7. Fasting
8. Christian music
9. Dreams and visions

C. HOW DOES ONE DEVELOP A SENSITIVITY TO HEAR GOD?

Matthew 13:11-23

1. Ask God for it.
2. Develop a habit of being God conscious.
3. Beware of distractions.
4. Repent of sin regularly
5. Spend time in God’s Word.

- Know what God's Word says.
6. You may need a quiet place

D. WHAT HINDERS US FROM HEARING FROM GOD?

1. Sin - I John 3:4-9-10
2. Not taking the time – Ecclesiastes 3:1, 7
3. Fear - People are afraid of what God might say.
4. Busyness
 - Ecclesiastes 3:1
 - Hosea 10:12
 - II Corinthians 6:2
5. Noise - Psalms 46:10
6. Lack of discipline
 - Proverbs 1:7b
 - Proverbs 13:18
 - Proverbs 15:32

E. POSITIVE RESULTS OF HEARING FROM GOD

1. Spiritual direction for our lives.
2. Comfort
3. Insight
4. Wisdom in facing situations.
5. Blessing others.
 - Could be words of prophecy
 - Could be a note you send with a Scripture verse or a word that you felt the Lord had for them.

- Could be a telephone call or E-mail giving the person a word that God gave you or a verse of Scripture.
6. Order for our lives.
- Exposing sin, jealousy, fear.....
 - Doing what God wants.
 - Getting clarity how to sort out clutter in our lives.
 - Helping us to set priorities.

CONCLUSION: In developing the discipline of hearing from God, we will take a big step in growing in our intimacy with God. We will discover many practical ways to apply this to our everyday life that will result in many blessings. Remember, Jesus, the Good Shepherd, does speak to us and we can hear His voice! Let's not rob ourselves of this precious privilege!

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