

## Hearing God speak

**John 10:27** *"<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."*

### Introduction

Today, I have the privilege to talk to you about the voice of God and to introduce you to Him and show you the ways that He speaks to us, TODAY!

The one question, I hear the most from Pastors or other Christians is, "how do I hear the voice of God? And how do I know it is the voice of God?"

So this afternoon I want to ask you some questions, and please feel free to raise your hand, these questions have NO WRONG answers! Please also be honest, with yourself and us all here when I ask these questions:

- Who here has heard the voice of God? Stand up!
  - Of those who are standing who has heard God speak audibly to you? You have heard His voice loud like mine? Sit down
  - Who has heard His voice in other ways? Sit down
- Who here believes God speaks to us today? Raise your hands!
- Who has never heard God speak to them, whether audibly or in other methods? Raise your hands
- Last question who wants to hear the voice of God in their life? Raise your hand

The fact is John 10:27 says, "My sheep hear My voice" – Are you God's child? Really are you God's child – if you are jump up and high five someone next to you and say AMEN!

### Something is wrong?

Many people believe that there must be something wrong because they do not hear the voice of God audibly. They believe their sin is keeping them from hearing God.

People believe that God talks audibly and therefore, because they have not heard His voice, audibly, they believe that they have not or cannot hear His voice. And so they believe there must be something wrong:

- With their Christianity – Maybe they believe in the wrong god, or maybe they are not really born again.
- There is too much sin in their life - Now habitual, unconfessed sin does stop us hearing God speak but if you are His child and you are living according to His Word, you have the right to not only hear God but to Speak to Him also.
- They are not Spiritual enough – People believe because they do not fast, go to church, read their bible or something they are not spiritual enough to hear God's voice – this is a lie from Satan. Remember our focus is never on yourself and what we have done – it is all about Jesus Christ and all that He has done that gives us access to God.

It really, does not matter what you believe about God speaking to you or not! It does not matter if you feel you do not shape up – you are not a good enough Christian, the **FACT IS, IF YOU ARE HIS SHEEP / HIS CHILD – HE IS SPEAKING TO YOU!**

In fact He is speaking to every one of us, here right now, we just need to learn to tune into Him.

### **God is speaking – we need to tune in to Him**

I believe if you are sincere and believe that God not only wants to speak to you but is already speaking to you, you are just not hearing or are not tuned in to Him.

#### **Explain: about a Radio or TV**

We need to make time for God – you cannot sit and watch TV all day and then expect to hear God's voice. No to hear God's voice you will need to spend time with him.

You have to put up your heavenly antenna and tune into God's station to hear Him speak to you.

### **How does God Speak?**

God is not limited to how or what He can use to speak to you, in the Bible you used many ways to speak to people and we will examine a few of the ways God can and will speak to you.

God is not only limited to only speak to you in an audible way, but He can use many different methods of communication so let's look at some of them.

#### **Audibly**

God still speak audibly to people. This is where you actually hear words spoken to you, like Abraham, Moses and Adam.

I know of many people who have heard God speak to them in an audible voice although I have never heard God speak to me personally in such an audible voice.

#### **The Word**

The area where many of us hear the Word of God to us is through His Word. The Bible says in Hebrews 4:12, "that the Word of God is powerful than a two edge sword and able to divide the Spirit and the Soul"

How does this work, you are busy in your daily bible reading and all of a sudden a scripture "pop's out". Has anyone heard God in this way?

God speaks to me in this way, many, many times.

#### **Tell of the Isaiah scriptures**

#### **Through Nature**

In **Romans 1:20** 1, Paul tell us that everyone has seen and heard God through nature. The Bible says in **Psalm 19:1**, "the Heavens declare the Glory of God"

God is speaking to everyone on this earth, Christian and non-Christian so that no one is without an excuse, and how is He doing this – through Nature. Through a beautiful sunset, the wonder of the stars, the beauty of a flower and much more.

This is another area where God speaks to me

### **Tell of the promise of Financial provision and the stars**

#### **Circumstances**

This is an area where many of us miss God speaking to us, often God uses circumstances in our life to speak to us. Maybe a death in a family, He uses to speak to us about eternity or Salvation.

I believe this is the most common area God speaks to many of us. In fact it is so common that Suzette and I when we pray for somebody, especially someone who is not saved.

We pray for them and then wait for the circumstances to kick in:

#### **Tell about Danie**

#### **Through other people**

God speaks to us using other people in our lives, especially our WIVES! I cannot tell you how much I have heard from God, through my wife so men I want to encourage you to listen to your wives they have a lot so Godly wisdom for you to discern.

Many of you are right now hearing God through my sermon. Not only during my sermons but during the sermons of any anointed man or woman of God, when they speak listen because you will hear God speak.

#### **A voice, though, great idea**

God often speaks to us in his way. He puts a great thought into our head and when we act on it He uses us. I have heard of many Pastors that God specifically led to people in need through a thought or good idea.

God has used this in my life so many times it is just amazing that when I act God does amazing things.

#### **Tell the story of the good idea and petrol**

#### **Understanding the Three voices**

Many of you are right now hearing God through my sermon. As I am speaking to you, right now there is a voice agreeing with what I am saying. When I spoke about listening to your voice something within you said that is true, you need to listen to your wife.

Then there was another voice but it said – hey what does this pastor know, my wife is not even saved, how can she give me Godly advice.

You just heard God and Satan speak to you, one was positive and the other was negative – which one do you think was God?

There are three voices that every one of us hears all day and when we can distinguish between these three voices and start to follow the leading of God's voice in our lives we will start to get victory in our life.

These three voices are not the Father, Son and Holy Spirit because they are all one and speak with ONE voice into your life, or else you will be totally confused!

As I said before God is speaking we just need to HEAR HIM and HIS VOICE. And Identifying these three voices will assist us in hearing God's voice.

**These three voices are: 1) God's, 2) Satan and 3) Self**

So whenever you hear a voice in your mind its source is only one of three areas and you and I need to identify where that thought is coming from and when we do we can act on only the Godly thought and be a blessing to ourselves, our family, friend and loved ones and even other people and reject the thoughts of self and from Satan.

So how do we differentiate between Godly thoughts, Satan's thoughts and our own selfish thoughts? TO do this I must explain what each is and then I am trusting God that the lights will come on.

### **Satan's thoughts**

The Bible tells us that Satan is a liar and the father of lies, so it is impossible for Satan to tell the truth. He will say something like, "you are not really a Christian, look at the way you act!" – when God's Word says Christ Jesus did everything and we are saved by His Grace!

Whenever you have a thought that is in direct contrast with God's Word or is a half truth about something, know for sure this is Satan because he cannot tell the truth and he is always trying to imitate God and pervert His Word.

So next time you have a satanic thought, ask yourself:

- Is this thought / idea the truth?
- Is this thought / idea, Godly advice?
- Does this thought / idea confirm to God's Word?
- Is this thought / idea building up?
- Is this thought / idea good?
- How do I feel in my spirit man about this thought / idea – am I happy about this?
- Does this thought / idea build up my faith?

If the answer to any of the above questions is NO! Then chances are this is a satanic thought.

## Self-centred thoughts / thoughts of the Flesh

These thoughts always have you are the main benefactor. They are my way, my plan, my idea they will always promote you and self – not God

So next time you have a selfish thought, ask yourself:

- Is this thought / idea hurt others?
- Is this thought / idea self-centred? All about me
- Does this thought / idea make me look good?
- Does this thought / idea have gain for me?

If your answer YES to any of these questions, chances are you this is a selfish thought.

## Godly thoughts

These thoughts always have others as the main benefactor. They usually confirm scripture or have a scriptural basis and confirm what God is already speaking to you about and have the welfare of others.

So next time you have a Godly thought, ask yourself:

- Does this thought / idea confirm scripture? Is there a biblical reference
- Does this thought / idea benefit others?
- Does this thought / idea Honour God?
- Would God be happy with this thought / idea?
- Does this thought / idea confirm something in your life / situation that you are praying about?
- Does this thought / idea help others / assist?

If your answer YES to any of these questions, chances are you this is a Godly thought.

## Closing

In closing I have thought you that:

- God is speaking to His sheep all the time.
- We all can and should hear God speaking to us.
- Habitual or unconfessed sin is a hindrance to hearing God's voice in our life.
- God does not speak audibly but speak sin many different ways like:
  - Audibly
  - Through the Word
  - Through nature
  - Circumstances
  - Other people
- We all have three voices speaking to us
  - Godly thought / ideas
  - Satanic thought / ideas
  - Selfish thought / ideas

**PRAYER:** Invite people who want to come forward to be prayed for to open their ears to hear God's voice.