

Lesson 1: Responding to the Voice of God

OBJECTIVE

For the believer to better practice hearing and listening to the voice of God, to grow spiritually, so that one fulfills their calling and makes better life decisions.

Introduction

Why would one need to hear the voice of God? What is the benefit to one's life to listen to God's voice:

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|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. For life decision making | 2. Control of Temper | 3. Direction in the Word of God |
| 4. _____ | 5. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 8. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 10. _____ | | |

Q: How do we listen to God?

Before we answer that let's be clear on who the Holy Spirit is, to help us know how to listen to God.

Defining the Holy Spirit:

The Holy Spirit is the indwelling presence of Christ in a believer's life:

Ephesians 3:14-19.

The Holy Spirit is a Person – John 14:16-17, 26.

Clear Picture of the Holy Spirit

God the Son does the work, the work of salvation, Jesus the Son accomplishes

- Imagine Jesus doing the work in the kitchen

God the Holy Spirit applies salvation to believers –

- Imagine the Holy Spirit the work in the oven

God the Holy Spirit applies salvation by granting us faith and uniting us to Christ, and sanctifies, preserves, and glorifies the follower of Christ

Explanation of Salvation

As a sinner, you confessed Jesus to be your Lord, which means

- You were justified = **justification**, you were made right
- You were delivered from sin's power = **sanctification**, you were set a part
- You were delivered from sin's presence = **glorification**, you were changed

The one person present and active during all of that was the Holy Spirit

The Doctrinal term for the Holy Spirit is pneumatology

Greek Word – pneuma meaning breath or spirit

Hearing and Responding to the Voice

Q: How do people learn to hear the voice of the Lord?

Before we answer that question, it is important to know that God still speaks to us. We are His chosen ones, while His spirit desires to speak to us, our Spirits long to engage and hear from Him, Read John 4:42.

Background Scripture: I Samuel 3:1-4

Samuel is the primary character. He is a young boy while ministering to the Lord, he hears the voice of the Lord. Samuel's life is a model of obedience, spiritual sensitivity, and leadership rooted in listening to God.

Samuel Had a Spiritual Model:

Who in your life modeled prayer for you? We know everyone cannot say that they had a person in their life that modeled prayer. However, in the life of Samuel, his mother Hannah was a great model for prayer.

Hannah as a Model for Prayer:

- Notice she is in an emotional state
- Despite her state, she prays to the Lord, vs. 10
- She makes a promise to the Lord, vs. 11
- She continues in prayer, vs. 12
- She is unconcerned about what others think, vs. 13
- She requests favor, vs. 18
- What happened in vs. 19 that is significant, vs. 19

- _____
An important element to Hannah's relationship with God is it was consistent:

- I Samuel 1:14 – 18 – Main a consistent worship

Two Ways to Hear from God:

The first way to hear from God, be consistent with the Word. The Holy Spirit is not going to lead you to any activity and or assignment that is inconsistent with the Word of God. The Word of God is an affirmer to the truth. When trying to determine whether it's the voice of God, ask it is true or is this the truth?

When you pray, you should not feel guilty and or condemned:

1. Psalm 38:4, 16-18 – Sins have a way of burdening your spirit
2. Psalm 32:1 – Confessed sins are forgiven, which is a blessing
3. Romans 8:1 – There is no condemnation for those in Christ.
So if you hear a voice that makes you feel guilty and or condemned that is the voice of the devil.

Read Hannah's prayer – I Samuel 2:1-10

Hearing God's Voice

Read I Samuel 3:4

Samuel heard God's voice and responded properly

Q: How was it that Samuel was able to hear God calling him?

Consider your mindset:

1. Is your mind closed? Matthew 4:4 – A mindset that is determined to hear what they want to hear and makes decisions based on what they want to do. If it requires something of him/her they choose not to give. This person listens with a passive voice.
These types of people are stubborn. They refuse to respond to the truth, even after hearing the truth. Many people attend church every Sunday and have closed mind because they are stubborn
Satan comes along and steals the truth, because they did not take the initiate to apply the truth to their lives.

2. A Committed Mind, Matthew 4:8 – This person has a teachable spirit. They believe with an open heart and passion for Jesus Christ. This person will evaluate their lives in the light of what they hear from God’s word.

How do we Discern/Distinguish God’s Voice?

First, as it relates to the call

When one is God-centered, one’s desires are curtailed by God to do the things that please God, because God takes the initiative in your life (Phil 2:3). We must allow God to reveal His thoughts to us. If you are a God-centered person, then you will find yourself aligned with God’s activity. When you begin to see God at work around you, your heart will leap with passion, and you will want to join God more in His work.

- A. **Every believer is called of God**, which means everyone has a calling on their lives, Ephesians 1:18.
- B. **How a Believer Is Called:**
 1. When you are called you are given spiritual senses, and they must be developed (Hebrews 5:13-14).
 2. You learn to hear His voice John 10:2-4, 27), we also learn to understand with our hearts and obey Him (John 14:26, 16:13-15).
- C. Believer’s Should Respond To the Call – Isaiah 6:8

Application:

Answer the following question: How do you need to hear from God in your life?

Maybe you are making a big decision, or a personal decision or a business decision. Your decision could be determining what God wants to do in your life.

- Write on sheet paper or index card, your personal preference of what you would like to do, and or the outcome you desire.
- Go to a quiet place where you will not be interrupted and get on your knees. Ask God to help you in the decision making. Make sure you are neutral in your heart. Not allowing your feelings to enter in.
- Pray until you are convinced your heart is open to God’s will and plan.
- Write down on the opposite side of the card, God’s answer