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July 29, 2025

Hearing God

Learning to Recognize His Voice

Recognizing God's voice is a big part of growing in our christian faith. We can learn to recognize God's voice just as we do our moms, our best friend and our favorite teacher. The Bible teaches us that God talks to us in a variety of ways—through Scripture, through Holy Spirit, through people and even through nature. When we start to figure out how God communicates, our relationship with Him grows stronger and our faith deepens. So let's break down some of the ways we can focus on in order to start hearing God more clearly. This will enable us to say "Yes" to Jesus and maintain our covenant with Him.

The Bible: The Word of God

One of the clearest ways God speaks to us is through the Bible. It's not just full of stories or rules—it's alive and has a lot to say about real life. In John 10:27, Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice..." If we are following Him, we ought to be able to recognize His voice. However, how would we know what it sounds like if we never read what He says?

Psalms 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." This means Scripture helps to clarify things that are confusing at times. The more we meditate on His Word, the easier it becomes to discern what God says to us in any given situation. Think of scripture as food for the soul—it keeps our faith healthy and strong, just as food for our physicality keeps our bodies healthy and strong.

The Holy Spirit: Our Inner Guide

Aside from the Bible, the Holy Spirit plays a huge role in helping us hear from God. Jesus told His followers that the Holy Spirit would help guide them into truth (John 16:13). The Holy Spirit not only helps us understand God better, but also directs us in times of uncertainty, leading us to make wise decisions.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 explains how Scripture is useful for all kinds of things—teaching, correcting and training us to live righteously. The Holy Spirit works with Scripture to speak to our hearts. Sometimes we'll feel a peace in times of unrest, sometimes we'll feel a prompting in times of need and sometimes we'll feel a passion stir when our conviction arises. These times indicate the Spirit is at work.

Romans 8:16 says the Spirit confirms that we're children of God. God desires to care for our needs and to provide an inner sense of security when we sometimes feel unsure. The Holy Spirit comes to comfort, nurture and to remind us who He created us to be. He encourages us to strive beyond our perceived limitations as a parent would to His children.

God Uses Other People

Sometimes God talks to us through other people. You might hear a friend say exactly what you needed to hear, or a pastor's message hits you like it was written just for you. That's not just coincidence—God often uses people to speak into our lives.

James 1:22–25 reminds us not just to hear the Word, but to actually live it out. And sometimes, we need others to help us figure out what living it out looks like. Being part of a Christian community gives you people who can encourage you, pray with you, and help you sort out what God might be saying.

Creation: God's Voice in the World Around Us

God also speaks to us through nature. Romans 1:20 talks about how God's power and presence can be seen and felt in creation. Whether it's a sunset, the ocean, or even a quiet moment outside, nature has a way of reminding us of who God is. There is power in the simplicity of reconnecting with God in nature.

Sometimes when we're overwhelmed or stuck, being in nature can help us slow down and tune into what God is saying. Spending time in nature can help silence the sounds of the world in order to listen to the Spirit, allowing us to posture our hearts to receive instruction, encouragement and communication from God.

Spending Time with God: The Key to Hearing Him

If we want to improve hearing God's voice, spending regular time with Him is of utmost importance. This could look like reading the Bible, praying, journaling, or practicing silence and reflection. Over time, those small daily disciplines start to add up by increasing our ability to hear God more clearly and accurately.

Jeremiah 29:13 says, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." So it's not about doing it perfectly—it's about pursuing Him wholeheartedly. The more time we spend with God, the easier it is to recognize His voice.

In conclusion

Hearing from God isn't always a big dramatic moment. Most of the time, it's about tuning into His voice through Scripture, the Holy Spirit, the people around us, and even nature. As we make space for God in our daily lives—whether by

reading, praying, or pausing to listen - we'll start to hear Him more clearly. He's always speaking... and we can always improve our abilities to listen.

Discussion Question for Small Groups

1. How do you most often hear from God—through Scripture, the Holy Spirit, people, or nature—and why do you think that is?
2. What does it look like to “recognize God’s voice” in a practical, everyday sense? How do you know it’s really Him speaking?
3. How has the Holy Spirit guided or comforted you in a situation where you felt uncertain or insecure?
4. Can you share a time when someone else spoke into your life and you knew God was using them to reach you? What did this individual say to you?
5. What are some daily habits or practices that help you stay in tune with God’s voice? Which of these could you strengthen or begin this week?
6. Is there a specific passage of scripture that God uses to correct, discipline or encourage you? In what ways has He spoken to you about this?
7. Is there a specific place outdoors that you regularly go to in order to meet with God when needing to decide on something? What kind of convos have you had?