

“Hearing God’s Voice’

Introduction

- Stand alone

Tension:

- Telling you for weeks that God desires to speak to his children
- We all want to hear from God
- How does he speak and How can we hear?

John 16:12-15

The Lord speaks in many ways throughout the Bible. It’s important to be aware of these ways, and then to ask ourselves if we are truly listening to Him. Let me give you a short rundown of the ways God speaks as shown in the Bible. In order for us to listen, it’s vital that we see not only that God speaks but also how He speaks. (Robert Morris)

1. God can speak through circumstances.
 - Jonah= 1st voice, then circumstances= fish, tree/shade= Story found in the book of Jonah
 - Ask yourself two questions: 1. What’s happening in my life right now? 2. What is the Lord telling me through these circumstances?
2. God can speak through peace.
 - Colossians 3:15
 - God’s peace can rule in our hearts. The word rule doesn’t simply mean to merely exist. It means to reign or to be a deciding factor. If we don’t have peace about a decision, then it isn’t from the Lord. Don’t move forward unless you have peace.
 - Leaving teaching
3. God can speak through people. This pattern is shown all throughout the Bible. God brings wise and godly people into the lives of others and speaks through them.
 - Courtney and Mason
4. God can speak through dreams and visions.
 - 2 weeks ago in the story of Saul and the Damascus Road, he had a vision and so did Annaias
 - This method is available to us today too (see Acts 2:17 where Peter quotes Joel 2:28).
 - Acts 2:17
5. God can speak through our thoughts.
 - Amos 4:13
 - We need to be careful here because not every thought in our minds comes from the Lord. Thoughts can also be placed in our minds from the Devil. And we can simply think up things on our own.
 - So every time we get a thought, we need to judge if it is from God. Does it align with Scripture? Does it in any way contradict the character of God?
6. God can speak through nature.

- **Romans 1:19-20**
 - God can make Himself known by nature. The voice of God can be revealed through mountains, water, trees, meadows, landscapes, and more.
 - In John 12:27–30, God spoke from heaven to Jesus, but when God spoke in this incident, some people who stood nearby thought they were hearing thunder.
7. God can speak through supernatural manifestations.
- God spoke to Moses through a burning bush (Ex. 3:1–4).
 - He spoke to Gideon through a fleece (Judg. 6:37–40).
 - He spoke to Saul on the Damascus road through a bright light (Acts 9:1–5).
 - He even spoke to Balaam through a donkey (Num. 22:1–35).
8. God can speak through the Bible.
- Scripture is always The Word
 - in the general sense that God inspired the words of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16).
 - **2 Timothy 3:16**
 - the Word of God is living and active (Heb. 4:12).
9. God can speak through a whisper. We discussed in an earlier chapter how God can speak through a still small voice. He spoke this way to Elijah (1 Kings 19:12).
- **1 Kings 19:12**
- These are the ways God Speaks, but how do we listen
 - If we are going to hear God’s voice, then we need to listen to Him. We need to tune in to the frequency of heaven and hear the voice of God.
 - Ask, Seek and Find
 - **Matthew 7:7 (NRSV)**
“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.
 - 1 Corinthians 14:1 **earnestly desire** the spiritual gifts
 - God will speak if we will just listen and be passionate about listening
 - **Be still/quiet**
 - Two ears, one mouth for a reason
 - Still small voice that Elijah heard in 1 Kings 19
 - In prayer give God time to talk
 - **Barrier to hearing God’s voice= sin**, Note the warning held out in **Jeremiah 7:13**: “While you have been sinning, I have been trying to talk to you, but you refuse to listen” (CEV).
 - God is saying to the Israelites that they did any number of wicked things, and He was speaking and speaking to them repeatedly about it, but they did not listen to Him.
 - **Faith**
 - **Romans 10:17**
 - I love this promise. If you’ve ever met a person of great faith, then you’ve met a person of great hearing who knows how to listen to the Word of God.

Closing

- God is trying to speak to his children in a myriad of ways
- Are you listening?. . . . Do you really want to listen?. . . . Do you really think this is possible?