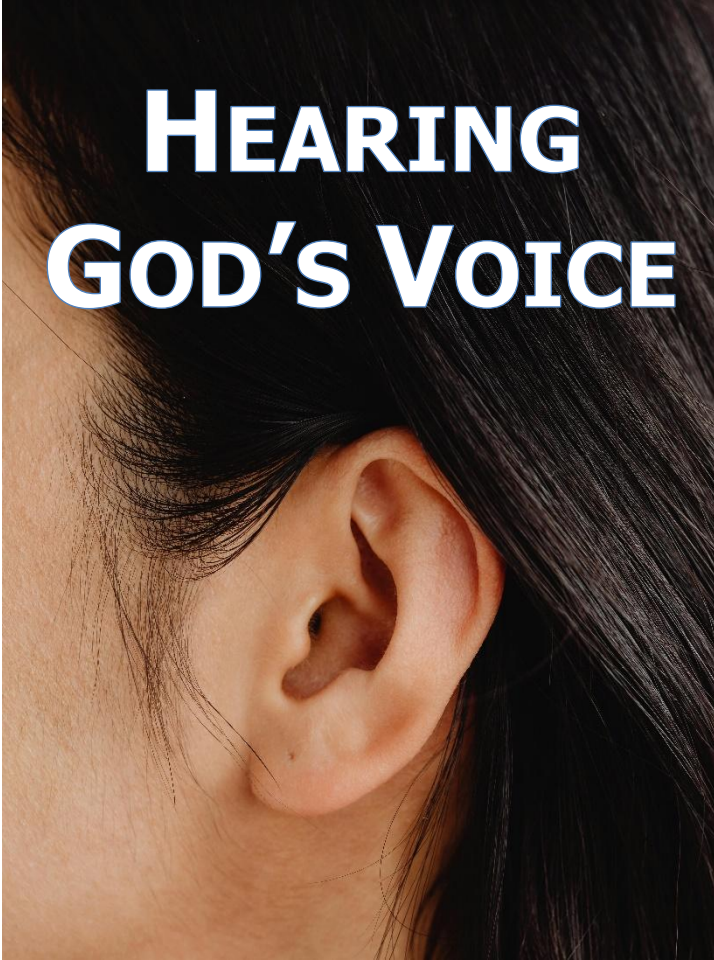


HEARING GOD'S VOICE



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LifeinJesus.net

‘Hearing God’s Voice’
by
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HEARING GOD'S VOICE

We know that the main way God speaks to us is through His Word, but in this booklet I'm focusing on hearing God's voice when He speaks to us directly through His Holy Spirit.

Have You Got Ears to Hear?

When Jesus was teaching people He often said – *“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”* One example is in Matthew 13:9 after He had told the Parable of the Sower. Presumably everyone who was there had an ear on each side of their head and the vast majority would be able to hear His voice physically. So Jesus wasn't talking about physical ears – He was talking about spiritual ears.

The people could hear the words Jesus spoke and think about them in their minds and even discuss them amongst themselves, but not everyone could register them in their heart and understand them at a spiritual level. 1 Corinthians 2:14-15 says – *‘the natural man doesn’t receive the things of God’s Spirit, for they are foolishness to him; and he can’t know them, because they are spiritually discerned.’*¹⁵ *But he who is spiritual discerns all things.’* We need to have spiritual ears to hear God speak to us and they need to be open.

So what about us? Do you have spiritual ears and do you use them – are they open? Can you discern what God says to you? If you are born-again (that is you’ve accepted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour) then you do have spiritual ears and they are able to hear God’s voice speaking to you.

(To read more about being born-again, go to the end of this booklet)

Relationship

When we're born-again, we become a member of God's family. He becomes our loving Father and we become His beloved child. This is what being a Christian is ultimately all about – being in a love relationship with God and with Jesus. In John 17:3 Jesus explains that this is what eternal life means – *“This is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and him whom you sent, Jesus Christ.”* It is when we are in relationship with God that we can know Him and hear His voice.

In John 10:27 Jesus says – *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”* This is a beautiful picture of our

relationship with Jesus. He pictures Himself as our Shepherd and us as His sheep. He tells us that He knows us and speaks to us personally and that we can hear Him and choose to follow what He says and where He leads.

“My Sheep Hear My Voice and Know My Voice”

In John 10:1-5 Jesus says – *“Most certainly, I tell you, one who doesn’t enter by the door into the sheep fold, but climbs up some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²But one who enters in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and **the sheep listen to his voice**. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴Whenever he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow*

him, for they know his voice. ⁵*They will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him; for they don't know the voice of strangers."* It's His own sheep who He calls and leads, not those who follow other religions or philosophies or the way the world thinks or the devil leads. And His own sheep know His voice. And Jesus says that they do hear it and recognise it and follow it.

At this point you might be thinking, "Well I'm born-again, but I don't hear His voice." You may be convinced that you can't or you may have doubts about it. Or maybe you do know that you can hear God's voice. Remember, Jesus says in John 10:27 – "***My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.***" He doesn't say, "My sheep might be able to hear my voice," or "Some of my sheep can hear my voice," or "My sheep can hear my voice sometimes." No, He says, "***My***

sheep hear my voice.” Jesus never said anything that wasn't true, so if you are one of His sheep, that is if you are born-again, you can hear His voice – He does speak to you and you can hear Him.

So the question isn't whether you can hear God's voice or not, it's do you register it above all the noise of the world and your own thoughts? Decide right now, before you read any further, that you're going to take Jesus at His word and choose to believe that you can hear God's voice whatever your past and present experience tells you.

How Do We Hear His Voice?

There were times in the Bible when God spoke audibly to someone, such as to Moses at the burning bush. He spoke audibly to Jesus but the people around often just heard

a sound like thunder. An example is in John 12:28-29 when Jesus said to God – *“Father, glorify your name!”* Then a voice came out of the sky, saying, *“I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.”* ²⁹Therefore the multitude who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, *“An angel has spoken to him.”* Sometime after Jesus had ascended to heaven, He spoke audibly to Saul on the road to Damascus and his companions heard too. Acts 9:7 says – *‘The men who travelled with him stood speechless, hearing the sound, but seeing no one.’*

God still speaks audibly today, but He speaks much more to us in an inner voice in our heart. In 1 Kings 19:11-12 God says to Elijah who was hiding in a cave – *“Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD.”* *Behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and*

strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹²After the earthquake a fire passed; but the LORD was not in the fire. After the fire, there was a still small voice.' It is that same still small voice that God so often uses when He talks to us too.

This explains why so many Christians don't feel that God speaks to them. They are capable of hearing His still, small voice, but their ears are so full of other sounds that they don't register it. It may be that they always have music playing or the radio or TV on or they are constantly on social media and never just enjoy silence where they can register God speaking to them. Or it may be that they are always busy. In Psalm

46:10 God says – *“Be still, and know that I am God.”* Or maybe their thoughts are always focused on other things. In Mark 4:18-19 Jesus talks about people – *“who have heard the word, ¹⁹and the cares of this age, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”* If you want to register what God is saying to you, then it’s important to have times when you are still.

God speaks to us in that still small voice through His Holy Spirit. It can come as a thought or impression which we know has not come from our own minds. He can use His Word, reminding us of a Bible verse which speaks into our situation or comforts or encourages or guides us.

Test the Spirits

The Bible tells us that we are to test what we hear. It says in 1 John 4:1 – *‘Beloved, don’t believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.’* This doesn't mean that we become paranoid about whether it’s God speaking to us or not. It’s simply warning us that Satan may be whispering in our ears as well or maybe what we are hearing is just our own thoughts.

In John 10:10 Jesus says – *“The thief (the devil) only comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.”* Is what you're hearing something positive to build you up or is it negative knocking you down? God will correct you when necessary, but He will

never condemn you. Everything He says flows from His love for you.

God will always be true to His Word. This is the test we use. Check if what you're hearing lines up with what God says in His Word. If it doesn't, reject it; if it does, then take it on board.

What Will the Holy Spirit Say to Us?

In John 16:8-11 Jesus explains three parts of the role of the Holy Spirit – *“When he has come, he will convict the world about sin, about righteousness, and about judgement;⁹ about sin, because they don't believe in me;¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to my Father, and you won't see me any more;¹¹ about judgement,*

because the prince of this world has been judged.” He uses the word ‘convict’ to describe how the Holy Spirit speaks. We tend to think of conviction as being negative, but as I've already said, that isn't how God speaks to us. Let's look at these three ways the Holy Spirit convicts us positively.

1. *“He will convict the world about sin ... because they don't believe in me;”* All our individual sins were forgiven as Jesus took our punishment on the Cross, so God is not going to convict us of them today. If He did, it wouldn't be fair on Jesus or on us, because Jesus has already served the sentence for us. If you are tempted to feel the guilt and shame of sins, it is not God speaking to you. It is Satan trying to weaken you. Start praising God out loud and thank Him for your forgiveness and Satan will eventually give up. What the

Holy Spirit does is convict us of just one sin – that of not believing in Jesus. When we sin, He doesn't make us feel guilty. He will say something like, “Remember Jesus and your belief in Him, then you won't do wrong things.” When we sin, the Holy Spirit doesn't condemn us, but turns us back to Jesus.

2. *“He will convict about **righteousness** ... because I am going to my Father, and you won't see me any more;”* Notice, the Holy Spirit doesn't convict us of 'unrighteousness', but 'righteousness'. When we do ourselves down, thinking we are rubbish, He doesn't agree with us – He reminds us that we are the righteousness of God because we've accepted Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. Romans 3:22 says that we are – *‘the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on*

all those who believe. He always wants to build up us, not knock us down.

3. *“He will convict about judgement because the prince of this world (the devil) has been judged.”* When things are difficult, the Holy Spirit doesn’t judge us – He reminds us that the devil has been judged and condemned. Jesus has defeated his schemes so we can have victory over them too. When the devil is trying to make life hard, the Holy Spirit reminds us of His defeat in order to help us and strengthen us.

Some Other Ways the Holy Spirit Speaks to Us

The Holy Spirit helps us to understand the Word. He teaches us God’s truth in it and

reminds us of it whenever we need it. Jesus says in John 14:26 – *“the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things, and will remind you of all that I said to you.”* When you ask God to help you in a particular situation and a verse comes into mind, that is God’s voice speaking to you through His Holy Spirit. And in John 16:13 Jesus says – *“when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth.”*

He then goes on to say in John 16:13 – *“He will declare to you things that are coming.”* The Holy Spirit will warn you of danger. He will also show you the step ahead as you follow His leading.

Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Comforter. Listen for His words of comfort in your heart when you need them, as well as for His

guidance and wisdom when you don't know what to do and for His encouragement when things are difficult.

Every time God speaks to you, it is always to build you up and help you, never to knock you down or make you feel unworthy.

Decide You're Going to Register God's Voice

It's hard to know how to describe what hearing God speaking to you is like. The best I can come up with is 'a certain knowing inside'. Turn off the sounds of the world and choose to focus on God. Thank Him for speaking to you in His still small voice and thank Him that You can hear Him. Ask Him to help you to register His voice more and more and He will. Jesus says in John 10:27 –

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them,”
Thank You Jesus.

Being Born-Again

When you acknowledge Jesus as God and decide to follow Him, you make Him your Lord. When you accept His sacrifice on the Cross for you personally, you make Him your Saviour. You are then born-again. God becomes your Father and you His child, and you can start to enjoy your personal relationship with Him.

Romans 10:9 says – *‘If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.’* Say this prayer out loud and believe it in your heart – “Jesus, I declare that You are Lord and that God raised You from the dead to live

forevermore. Thank You for dying for me personally. I receive my forgiveness and my salvation now. Thank You Jesus, my Lord and Saviour.”

You are now born-again and Jesus has come to live in you. All your sins are forgiven, past, present and future, and you have a new perfect spirit. And after this life is over, you'll live in love, peace and joy with your Father God for ever.

As a child of God, you now have a whole new family of brothers and sisters. Tell a trusted Christian that you are now born-again so they can help you in your new life in Jesus. And you have the Bible to help you understand and experience more of God's love for you and all Jesus has done and won for you. It will help you to live your life in the best possible way – His way.

Life in Jesus

To read more about Jesus
and all He has done and won for us
go to –
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There are many more booklets on the website

You can read them online
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can print out for your own use or to give away

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Can you hear God speaking to you?

Or do you think that you can't?

Well, Jesus says you can!

God does speak to us personally

but we need to register His still small voice
above all the noise around us and in our heads.

Discover how to do so

and enjoy this special intimacy with Him.



Katherine Hilditch has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then has written many more. She created her website to make all the

booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to –

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