

ADVANCED BIBLICAL COURSE



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Hearing God's Voice

Hundreds of people in the Bible “heard” God speak to them. Since then, millions of others have heard Him speak to them, but many of us are not too sure how He speaks today.

I THE REQUIREMENTS FOR HEARING GOD SPEAK

- ◆ Christ must be Lord of your life.
 - Submission to His Lordship protects you from other powers.
 - You must be willing to do His will before you even know His will. Otherwise you will not hear His voice.
 - They had no intention of obeying unless it suited them. (Jeremiah 42:1-22)
- ◆ You must have a clean heart.
 - *“If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.”* (Psalm 66:18)
 - Confession cleanses. (1 John 1:9)
- ◆ You must be moving in obedience and faith. (1 John 1:7)
 - As you move in faith and obedience you will be guided.
 - If you have not obeyed the last thing God told you, you will not receive more light. Light rejected becomes darkness.
- ◆ You must be living a life of praise and worship.
 - God inhabits the praises of His people. (Psalm 22:3)
 - His presence is His guidance.
 - As you thank Him for what He has done in the past, He takes you further.
- ◆ You must engage in spiritual warfare against the powers of darkness.
 - Resist the powers of darkness in the name of Jesus.
 - *“The weapons of warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God.”* (2 Corinthians 10:4)
 - There are three voices: -
 - receive God's voice
 - resist Satan's voice
 - reckon yourself dead to man's voice (die to self)
- ◆ You must begin to practice.
 - Do not wait for perfect knowledge and understanding.

- Step out, learning through practice.
- ◆ You must be growing.
 - “My sheep hear my voice”, not “my lambs.”
- ◆ You sometimes need to fast. (Acts 13:1-3)
 - food
 - time
 - pleasures
- ◆ You must know the ways through which God speaks to us. (11 ways)
 - **Through the audible voice:** -
 - Old Testament example – Moses at the burning bush.
 - New Testament example – Christ’s baptism, Paul’s conversion.
 - **Through the inner voice (inaudible)**

This could be the nudging of God or your imagination: -

 - The devil cannot read your mind. (1 Kings 8:39)
 - Submit your imagination to God’s will, then ask Him to speak to you.
 - How to be sure it is not you or the devil – “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7)
 - Satan drives - God draws
 - Satan condemns - God convicts
 - Satan harasses - God harnesses
 - Satan hurries - God never hurries
 - **Through the Bible**
 - Sometimes He says, “Go and open your Bible.”
 - Sometimes He tells you a chapter and verse.
 - As you are reading the Bible, God quickens a portion – “Thy word is a lamp... light.” (Psalm 119:105)
 - Sometimes He quickens a verse memorised.
 - Sometimes He speaks through the Word preached from the pulpit.
 - **Through the gifts of the Spirit**
 - Old Testament example – Elisha and Gehazi. (2 Kings 5:26)
 - New Testament example – Ananias and Sapphira. (Acts 5)

(See teaching on The Gifts of the Spirit.)
 - **Through visions**
 - Old Testament example – Isaiah’s vision. (Isaiah 6)
 - New Testament example – Paul’s Macedonian call. (Acts 16:9)

- **Through dreams**
 - Old Testament example – Nebuchadnessar’s dream.
 - New Testament example – Joseph’s call to a far country. (Matthew 1:20)
- **Through people**
 - God can tell us His will even through ordinary conversation.
- **Through angels** (Numbers 22:32 – Balaam)
 - Angels often appeared to men.
- **Through circumstances**
 - God arranges circumstances in order to tell us something. (Balaam could not get to where he wanted to go and was frustrated.
- **Through an animal** (Numbers 22:28)
- **Through songs and hymns**
- **Remember: -**
 - We cannot dictate which way God will speak.
 - He is King.
 - We are His servants.
- **Safeguards for direction: -**
 - The Word of God.
 - The peace of God.
 - Circumstances.

II THE REASONS FOR GOD SPEAKING TO US

◆ Relationships

- **Because He loves us**
It is His love that causes God to speak to us.
 - Most important: do not just seek answers, learn to commune with Him. As the relationship grows, communion grows and words are not even needed.
 - He speaks to us to confirm His personal relationship with us.
- **Because we are His bride**
 - He is the lover of our souls; surely He will speak to us.
 - He assures us of His love.
- **Because we are His children**
 - Children need to hear their father’s voice and reassurances.

- **Because He created us in His image**
 - We are not puppets, we have free choice. Part of being made in His image is that his image is restored.
 - This carries responsibility.
- **Because the veil has been torn through Christ's death**
 - This gave us access to God's immediate presence.
 - We are standing at His right hand in Christ. He can hardly ignore us!
 - If God did not speak to us, His Son's death would have almost been in vain because He would have a very immature and unholy people.
 - Because "*in Christ*" God sees the Son, not us, we are in the Godhead. We can even begin to hear what is said in the Godhead.
- ◆ Revelation
 - **Communication – Questions and Answers**
 - Situations arise that demand decisions. We need to know the right decision.
 - God wants to commune with us, a two-way system.
 - **God wants us to know His will**
 - He is our Commander, and He will give us our "marching orders."
 - There is the "broad" will of God.
 - There is the "specific" will of God for each person.
 - **God wants His purposes fulfilled on earth, as in heaven**
 - God is building a habitation for Himself. Jesus is the cornerstone.
 - Therefore we need "building instructions" (equipping).
 - He wants us to understand how He works.
 - He wants us to see Satan crushed beneath our feet, experientially. This enables us to live a victorious life.
 - **Because God has something to say**
 - **To us: -**
 - warnings (discipline)
 - comfort
 - commands (correction)
 - direction

This enables us to be more effective in counselling. If we do not know His will, we will flounder and mess things up.

- **Through us:** -
 - to the people
 - to edify the Body
 - to make us effective witnesses

Summary: He wants to guide us, teach us, encourage us, challenge us, chastise us, reveal Himself to and through us and share the mysteries of the Kingdom with us.

- **This protects us.**
- **This sets us free.**

◆ Rejoicing

Because He rejoices in our joy of answered prayer. *“The golden vials of odours, which are the prayers of the saints.”* (Revelation 5:8) An ongoing circle. (John 15:11)

III THE RESULTS OF GOD SPEAKING TO US

◆ What we get?

- **We get security – we know He cares**
 - Our security and trust deepen.
- **We grow in faith**
 - As we receive from Him, it encourages us to expect far more.
 - We begin to move into a larger realm of faith.
- **We are encouraged to share with others**
 - As we receive God’s voice, we become enthusiastic and want to share with others.
- **It creates an eagerness to communicate with Him**
 - We want to pour out love at His feet.
- **It creates desire for His Word and a realisation of its truth**
- **We gain a knowledge of His perfections and also see how perfect His ways are**

◆ What we give (our response)

- **Demands obedience**
 - If we are of the truth, we will hear. *“Everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice.”* (John 18:37)
 - If we love Him, we will obey Him. (John 14:15 & 23-24; 15:14)
 - Our attitude should be that of Psalm 40:8, *“I delight to do thy will, O Lord.”*

- **Demands whole-hearted commitment**
 - We enjoy his will (Romans 12:1-2) and experience His blessing.
 - We open the way for Him to take us further to say more.
- **Carries responsibility**
 - Not to obey means disaster. (Hebrews 3:15-19)
- **God speaks to us to make us aware that we are a separated people**
- **Release us to respond positively in praise and worship**
 - Praise brings His presence.
 - His presence causes the enemy to leave.
 - His presence guarantees victory and blessing.
 - Praise releases power. (Acts 2)