

Spoken Words: Voice of God

By Brett Hilliard , July 23, 2023

Hearing God's voice...

- Proves you are a child of God

...His sheep follow Him because they know His voice.

John 10:4 NIV

Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God. John 8:47 NIV

- Protects you from mistakes

Why do you complain to Him that He responds to no one's words? For God does speak – now one way, now another – though no one perceives it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on people as they slumber in their beds, ... to preserve them from the pit, their lives from perishing by the sword. Job 33:13-15, 18 NIV

- Key to a meaningful life

This is what the Lord says – your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.” Isaiah 48:17 NIV

So, how do I hear from God?

1. I must come to God with an attitude of surrender ✓ .

Then the Lord said to him, “What is that in your hand?” “A staff,” he replied. Exodus 4:2 NIV

2. I must believe that God cares about the details of my ✓ .

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. Matthew 10:29 NIV

3. I must believe that God wants to answer my questions ✓ .

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. James 1:5-6 NIV

6 ways to test an impression:

1. Will it make me more like Christ ☒ ?

It is God's will that you should be sanctified. 1 Thessalonians 4:3 NIV

2. Is it consistent ☒ with the Bible?

Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good. 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 NIV

3. Does the church ☒ family confirm it?

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known... Ephesians 3:10 NIV

From the mouth of the righteous comes the fruit of wisdom. Proverbs 10:31 NIV

But Jehoshaphat asked, "Is there no longer a prophet of the Lord here whom we can inquire of?" The king of Israel answered Jehoshaphat, "There is still one prophet through whom we can inquire of the Lord, but I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad." 1 Kings 22:7-8 NIV

4. Is it consistent ☒ with how God has made me?

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
Ephesians 2:10 NIV

5. Is it comforting ☒ , convicting ☒ or condemning ☒ ?

6. Do I sense God's calm ☒ about it?

Let the peace of Christ, to which you were indeed called in one body, rule in your hearts. Colossians 3:15 NASB

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. When was the last time you were confident you had heard from God? What made you so sure about it?

2. What are a couple of areas in which you would like to hear from God? What plan can you make to make room for His voice in your life?