



*Hearing The  
Voice of God*

Presented By Rev.  
**John Marinelli**

# Introduction

Is God speaking to mankind today? Is anybody listening? If God were speaking to you, what do you think He'd be saying? Is it too way out to say, "I am hearing from God"? After all, He is the creator of all things. He is the "Supreme Ruler" of the universe. Why would He want to talk to me? How do you know, for sure, that the voice talking to me is Gods'?

We are left here on planet earth, seemingly, all alone to fend for ourselves. It's a make it or break it existence with a future in serious doubt of fruition. Is that how you feel? I used to think and feel like that...like... Why do I exist? Why am I here at this place and this time? Do I have a purpose in life? or am I just drifting with the masses towards an unknown destiny?

Well... I do not think or feel that way anymore. I was a teenager back then with very little knowledge or wisdom. It's been over 60 years since I felt lost and alone and without hope.

Things changed when I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. He led me to the Bible and I, not only discovered my existence and purpose, but also my destiny. I realized that I didn't have to walk alone through a world that is less than perfect. *I found myself in God.*

As I search, prayed and sought after truth, I began to hear from God. He started speaking directly to my spirit in ways I never knew were even possible. This divine fellowship, between God and me, proved to me that it was all real and that I was really a "Child of God."

## The Witness of The Spirit

Romans 8:16, helped me a lot because it said that God would show Himself to me so I would know that I know that I am in

### I Find Myself In God

I find myself in God.  
He is my, "Everything."  
I know that He is Lord,  
My Life, my Hope, and King.

I find myself in God,  
Not the ways of sin.  
Nor do I look to others,  
To know who I really am.

I find myself in God,  
To whom I bow on bended knee.  
He alone is my joy and strength  
And where I want to be.

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His loving care. *“The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are children of God.” Romans 8:16 KJV*

*Here it is in the World English Bible... “The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God;”*

I am sure you are wondering how the Spirit of God testifies or bears witness. It's kind of hard to explain. There are so many little things at so many different times. I guess the most significant would be answered prayer. When you are praying about a thing, asking for a specific results and He brings it into reality, you can't help but acknowledge that it was His doing.

I have seen the hand of the Lord in my life, moving on my behalf; to deliver me from harm and bless me in ways that were so clearly His work of grace.

Then there's the Bible. You haven't lived until you read the scriptures and certain promises seem to leap off the page into your heart. You just know that the Holy Spirit is speaking to you and often it is concerning a specific problem or request. God's counsel and guidance becomes alive as you read.

## **Channels of Communication**

God speaks to us in many different ways. If we are aware of them, we will be more ready to listen. Here are the three most important ways to consider:

1. ***The Bible***...1<sup>st</sup> and foremost is the Holy Scriptures. This is where you discover God. His story, actions, character, and love are all clearly revealed. It is a great source of counsel and wisdom.
2. ***Divine Unction***... The Holy Spirit will drop a thought or even an answer to a situation directly into your heart. You will have a peace about it and you will just know that you know it is from God. This is, for sure, a non-verbal communication.
3. ***God's Messenger***... God will often send a messenger with a “Word” of truth. The messenger could be the pastor of a church in a sermon, a Bible Study Teacher, a Godly friend, an angel in a dream, a vision, and so on. However, be sure that the message lines up with the

knowledge of God. It cannot contradict the truths set forth in the Bible. If it does, it is not from God.

If we desire to hear the voice of God, we must open our hearts. We do not hear with our ears. It is the heart that listens. As “Children of God”, our hearts cry out for the living God. He is our Father and friend. It is His hand that guides us, helps us, and delivers us. He is the source of our blessings and very existence.

Many folks do not hear from God because they do not want to know. God, for them, is at arm’s length and sought after only in a crisis. Day-to-day involvement with God is not on their agenda. Jesus as Lord is, to them, a slogan, not a lifestyle. This has been true for centuries. Here’s what Jesus said back in His earthy days...

*“He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.” Matthew 11:15* He said this because they were not listening. They didn’t have their ears attached to their hearts.

You have to have ears in order to hear but your ears need to be attached to your heart...meaning, this is a serious matter and it needs your full attention. You must be willing to take it to heart and act upon it.

There are a few things you can do to make it easier to hear the voice of God. Consider these;

1. ***Establish a Quiet Time***...In today’s self-driven world where everything is fast paced and rushed; it can be hard to hear from God. Although, your ultimate goal is to hear His voice in any circumstance. However, you have to start somewhere and a quiet time is a good place to meditate on the Word and listen.
2. ***Stop The Mental Traffic Flow***... The devil tries to keep our minds flowing with needless noise. As long as we are thinking about lots of meaningless things, we will not have the time to listen for the, “Still Small Voice” of God. Stop the mind chatter and listen.
3. ***Focus on God***...Seek Him while He may be found. Don’t wait for Him to come to you. Engage in prayer and ask Him to share Himself with you. This will shut out everything else and clear the channel

between you and God. This action is Biblical.

Here the words of Jesus...

*“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks, it shall be opened.” Matthew 7:7-8*

4. **Accept God’s Will...** If we do not want to accept God’s will, He most likely will not tell us His will. It is clearly revealed in the Bible. However, He wants to share that with you personally from His heart. Obedience is the key to hearing God’s voice.
5. **Call Upon The Holy Spirit...** We were given the Holy Spirit at our New Birth (When we accepted Jesus) It’s ok to call upon the Holy Spirit to interpret our prayers, heal our wounds, and help us to hear from God. He was given to us for that purpose.
6. **Learn To Recognize God’s Voice...** You can recognize His voice among all the other voices coming and going through your mind. It just takes practice. Here’s what John, the apostle said...

*“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” I John 4:1*

God wants you to examine every thought because all thoughts are not yours. They also enter your mind from Satan, The Flesh, Other’s Expectations and of course, God. The one to act upon is the one that brings you the most peace. If you feel fear, anxiety, confusion or guilt, reject it and cast it out immediately. Do not entertain it.

7. **Be Filled With The Spirit...** God wants us to be continually filled with His Holy Spirit. This is a daily if not moment-by-moment process. We need to walk in His Spirit, Live in His Spirit, and apply all that He reveals to us. Listen to what Paul said to the Ephesians. There’s a new song in your future.

*“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always*

*for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;” Ephesians 5:18-20*

Being filled is a “Be, Being” action verb... meaning allow God to continually fill you. In other words, one time is not enough. It has to be a steady flow of Holy Ghost power to keep you filled and ready to face the world.

## **When You Don’t Hear His Voice**

What happens when you just cannot discern which voice is God’s? Sometimes, God wants us to use our minds and search for an answer. He will give us indicators and expect us to draw our own conclusion based upon the knowledge of God already revealed. Here are a few indicators that will help you to know if the voice you are hearing is from God:

- Is what’s being said contrary to Biblical truth? If so, it is not God talking to you.
- Is what’s being said causing confusion, doubt or anxiety? If so, it’s not from God. God’s voice always brings peace and has a tone of love and care.
- Is what’s being said putting you under false expectations or oppressing you in any way? If so, it’s not from God.
- Do you feel good about doing what is being said? If you are afraid and feel a sense of guilt if you participate in whatever is being asked of you, it’s not of God.

Remember, the devil will always lie to you and suggest that you participate in some sort of immorality. It could be anything from telling a lie to stealing to even sex or murder. His goal is to tear down what God has built up in you.

God’s voice, on the other hand, always encourages, builds up, strengthens, and is always in an attitude of peace.

## **Missing Out Is Not An Option**

You should never feel sad about missing the Voice of God. **Here what the scriptures say:** *“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” Isaiah 55:11*

God knows who you are, where you are and what you are doing. If He wants to talk to you, you will not miss His Word because He says it will not come back to Him void but will accomplish that to which He sends it.

Jesus put it this way, *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”* John 10:27 If you are His, you will hear Him when He calls.

The shepherd trains the sheep to listen for His voice among many other voices. That is what the Holy Spirit does when He bears witness with our spirit. He is teaching us to discern the voice of God.

*“The steps of a man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the Lord upholds him with His hand.”* Psalm 37:23-24

God will order our steps, and even when we blow it, if we are truly trying to do His will, He will lift us up and give us a second chance.

## **Knowing Comes From Commitment**

*“Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.”* Proverbs 16:3

If our thoughts are established, we will know that we know what the will of the lord is and we will already be in close communication with God, our Father who loves us. Paul tells us in Romans how to commit...

*“I beseech (Beg) you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, **that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**”* Romans 12:1-2

It is so much easier to hear when we are submitted to God and His will for our lives. I can remember a story from the Old Testament about a disobedient prophet. God finally opened the mouth of an Ass and rebuked him. (Numbers 22:28-30) We don't want God to have to speak through an Ass before we will listen. It is better to hear and obey and keep the favor of God on us.

# The God Who Speaks

God is a speaking, whereas Idols do not speak because God is alive and Idols are not. God Himself is known as “The Word”, and His speech commanded nothing to be everything (John 1:1–3).

“The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty” (Psalm 29:4). When God wants the dead to come to life he says, “Live!” (Ezekiel 16:6), and when Jesus wanted his friend to walk out of the grave, he spoke, “Lazarus, come out” (John 11:43). Even now, Jesus is holding together your molecules with his words (Hebrews 1:3). If Jesus were to stop speaking, you would stop existing.

## A Still Small Voice

There is only one place in Scripture where God is said to have spoken in a “*Still Small Voice*,” It was to Elijah after his dramatic victory over the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:20-40;

God is not confined to a single manner of communicating. Elsewhere in Scripture, He is said to communicate through a whirlwind (Job 38:1), to announce His presence by an earthquake (Exodus 19:18), and to speak in a voice that sounds like thunder (1 Samuel 2:10; Job 37:2; Psalm 104:7; John 12:29). In Psalm 77:18 His voice is compared to both thunder and a whirlwind and in Revelation 4:5, we’re told that lightning and thunder proceed from the throne in heaven.

Nor is God limited to natural phenomena when He speaks. All through the Old Testament, He speaks through His prophets. The common thread in all the prophets is the phrase, “*Thus says the Lord.*” He speaks through the writers of Scripture. Most graciously, however, He speaks through His Son, the Lord Jesus. The writer to the Hebrews opens his letter with this truth:

*“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world” (Hebrews 1:1–2).*

Hebrews 1:1-2 tells us that the voice we are hearing is the voice of Jesus. Hebrews says this...

*“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? Hebrews 13:5-6 NIV*

It is less important to know how God speaks to us than it is to know what we should do with what He says. God speaks most clearly to us in our day through His Word. The more we learn it, the more ready we will be to recognize His voice when He speaks, and the more likely we are to obey what we hear.

## Conclusion

Let's summarize so we are all on the same page. Here's some of what we know so far:

1. God's Word will find you and accomplish everything He wanted. It will not return to Him empty.
2. We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit continually so as to benefit from His gifts and walk with Him through life's every trial.
3. A Quiet Time is a good place to start listening for God's voice.
4. God is not restricted to a "Still Small Voice." He can shout with the voice of thunder if He needs to.
5. We are encouraged to try or test the spirits (Thoughts) that enter our minds to be sure they are of God.
6. The Bible is the life-source of all revelation and knowledge of God. Every thought must align with its truth.
7. The more we are committed to doing God's Will, the easier it will be to hear His voice.
8. When we cannot discern the voice of God in a situation, we should look for indicators, Bible Knowledge, that we already know and use it to approve or reject the voice in our head.
9. The Spirit of God will bear witness with our spirit that we are His children.
10. Don't wait for something to happen. ***“Ask, Knock & Seek”*** the Lord until heaven opens and you hear His voice. This is His Will that you do so.