

## Hearing God - A Practical Approach

**The importance of hearing God** - Imagine the advantage you'd have!

Advantages:

- You'd know what decisions to make
- You'd know what to expect in every situation
- You'd know what to embrace
- You'd know what to avoid
- You'd know how to handle difficult situations *\*\* (and people!)*
- You'd know 'things to come' - John 16:13

**Establish the central fact/reality that He does speak/wants to speak!**

- John 10:11-18, 25-30 \*(Read) - *"My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow Me*
- He's a Father....and He 'wants' to communicate with us!
- He created man in the first place to have someone He could interact with
- He delights in the possibility of the two of you interacting/communicating
- Establish - He wants to talk to you! *(not necessary someone else)*
- The importance of hearing His voice
  - Is it a priority?
  - Is it only important when you're desperate?
- How to listen

**Dallas Willard:** *"We can get by in life with a God who does not speak. Many at least think they do. But it is not much of a life; and it is certainly not the life God intends for us or the abundance of life that Jesus Christ came to make available"*  
*\*\*Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God"*

*Your life will only be as full and as successful \*(according to the Father's plan for you) to the extent you're willing to make hearing God a priority! AT*

### **Some of the ways in which God 'speaks'**

- Almost unlimited ways
  - Audibly
  - The written Word
  - Dreams and visions (*guidelines of interpretation*)
  - Signs and wonders
  - Prophecy, word of wisdom, knowledge
  - Tongues
  - Through the elements
  - Nature
  - Birds, animals, fish *\*\* (The dove!)*
  - Sounds
  - Colors
  - Numbers
  - Through life events
  - Still small voice *\*(my personal favorite)*
  - Through other people

### **You're on a 'need to know' basis with the Lord *\*(Blog on last page)***

- Whatever you need to know, in precise timing
- You are special to Him
- He wants to communicate with you more than you think you need it!
- Everything He says will ultimately bring 'life'!

### **God doesn't speak to everyone the same**

- You'll find that He speaks to you in 'unique' ways
- You'll become familiar with the ways He speaks to you
- He does this so you'll begin to recognize His voice
- Begin to watch for patterns of how He 'speaks' to you
- ...but don't be surprised if He goes completely off the map!

### **Consistent 'prayers' hear the Lord better than those who aren't**

- Prayer is communication
- All healthy communication is two-sided

- A healthy mix of talking and listening
- You'll often hear the Lord about things you haven't even asked Him about!
- There is a special bond between 'prayers' and the Father
- The people who are the very best at hearing the Lord are the ones who have made it a priority!
- *"We've become way too familiar with a God we barely know"* Bobby Conner

### **How do I know if it's the Lord talking to me?**

- Does it have life/bring life?
- Does it require faith?
- Can you feel love?
- Does it have a tone of familiarity?
- God is a master of precise timing!
- Try to look at it from God's standpoint! (*Father*)

### **Why doesn't God just speak audibly to all of us?**

- Ours' is a life of faith
- He wants us to experience the adventure of learning to walk by faith
- ....and He has written a letter that should lead us to Him, and also tells us 'how' to do it!
- The simplest element *\*(boil it down!)*

### **Do you believe that you're supposed to hear the Lord?**

Have you bought into the mindset:

- God doesn't speak anymore
- God only speaks to a select few
- Do you think He talks to other people but not you?
- You're not spiritually adept enough
- Religion has taught people not to hear
- A lot of people believe that God's mad at them
- \*Legalistic religion has done a number on people! That has to be hurtful to the Lord.
- \*If you don't believe you're supposed to hear Him, you probably won't!

- The lack of consistent relationship/fellowship with the Lord. \*As compared to going to Him 'only' when you need something.
- He won't say anything to us that is inconsistent with the written Word!
  - Do you know what the Word says??
- What are you going to do with what you hear?
- Have you become dull of hearing?

### **Pulling you into faith**

Every word that God speaks draws you deeper

- Grace, intimacy, revelation, relationship, love
- Reveals a greater expression
- Is seasoned with agape! Unconditional Love on steroids!

### **"This is what I believe the Lord is saying"**

- I may never know if I don't act on it
- Usually takes faith even if it's just to 'receive' it

### **What have you done with other things you think He might have said?**

- Have you just '*entertained*' it?
- Have you argued yourself out of it?
- Have you rejected it?
- That can't be God.
- Is it still within your thought patterns?
- Has He reminded you of it more than once?
- Being a faithful steward to what the the Lord has told you
- Faithful in a little, blessed with a lot
- The people who are the very best at hearing the Lord are the ones who have made it a priority!
- Whatever the level of priority you've put on hearing the Lord will very much dictate how much you actually hear Him!
- Do you want Him to give what He wants for you to someone else?
- Speak it out = Give it Life!!
- Ignites your faith
- "*Say it - pray it*"

## **Declaring what you believe God has said**

- A common misconception:
- *“What if I declare something that I believe God has said and it doesn’t come to pass? Does that make me a false prophet?” NO!*
- In the Bible, false prophets prophesied in the name of false Gods!
- If leaders are going to be a ‘voice’ for the Lord we need to start stepping out by faith and declaring what He is saying...without fear.
- *“For you all may prophesy”* - Embrace that truth/reality
- *“On the Border”* - Edmond
- Begin to walk in it
- Don’t expect perfection right off

## **When God is Silent:**

- There are times that He is silent
- Not trying to withhold information from you
- Maybe drawing you to a deeper place (*Jerry Chrisman*)
- Don’t get into the guilt thing!
- Introspection won’t hurt but guilt is not an option!
- Rest in the silence
- Might even be that He wants you to make the decision by faith

*“There won’t be any real, deep or consistent, intimacy with the Father without us hearing His voice!” AT*

*“Andy, I’m going to bring people in here from all over to catch what I’m doing here; some are going to stay; some are going to come and go back home and start fires, kingdom fires”*

- *“What’s the Lord saying to you?”*
- Their first big disappointment with me.
- But it’s now the reason the love me!
- Developing a culture of people who ‘hear’ the Lord

*“I love to hear what others tell me that the Lord has told them, but I only have passion for the things He’s said to me.” \*(thus, many passionless believers!) AT (\*So if you want to have passion for life, passion for the Lord, this is a must!!)*

### **Hearing God from the Bible:**

- Scripture is a communication that establishes communion and opens the way to union, all in a way that is perfectly understandable once we begin to have experience of it.
- We will be spiritually safe in our use of the Bible if we follow a simple rule: Read with a submissive attitude. Read with a readiness to surrender all you are—all your plans, opinions, possessions, positions. Study as intelligently as possible, with all available means, but never study merely to find the truth and especially not just to prove something. Subordinate your desire to find the truth to your desire to do it, to act it out!

### **Lectio Divino (Addendum Attachment)**

- Don’t try to read a great deal at once
- Think of the passage you’ve chosen as a place where you will have a holy meeting with God
- Be doers of the word, and not hearers only

### **“The Illogical Voice of God”**

Faith is often illogical = not logical

The “*Great Ones*” have heard/responded to the illogical voice of God

- Abraham
  - Get out of your country, .....
  - Put your son on the altar!
- Jehoshaphat - “Send the praisers out”!

- Joshua - Jericho - *“March around the city, once a day for 7 days; on the 7th day, 7 times around, blow the trumpets, the walls fell”*
- Gideon - Judges 6 - Army reduced from 30K to 300!
- Elijah - *“Soak the sacrifice”* - Fire fell from heaven consuming it all!
- Mary - *“Don’t be afraid, you’ve found favor with God; you will conceive and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus”*
  - *\*\*Initially she was troubled (Lk 1:29)*
  - *“But she kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart”*
  - **Ponder - sumballo** NT:4820), *“to throw together, confer,” etc., has the meaning “to ponder,” i. e., “to put one thing with another in considering circumstances,” in Luke 2:19. See CONFER.*
  - *“Let it be unto me according to your word”*
- Jesus
  - *“Cast your net on the other side”*
  - *“Speak to the mountain”*
  - Spit in the dirt for the blind man
- Peter - Walk on the water
- Philip - *“Go down to the Gaza desert”* - Ethiopian Eunuch
- Paul - Acts 16:6-10
- Faith is very often illogical
- It all serves to *“pull”* you into faith! (*nurturing!*)

***“In every congregation we need a group of people who, in front of everyone, are explicitly learning and teaching about life in dialogue with God” - Dallas Willard***

*“If you’ll be obedient to Me, I’m going to ask you to do things that nobody else will do! .....and as a result you’ll see things that nobody else will see! \*...and you’ll experience results that nobody else will experience!”*

Can you be a “go-to” person for the Lord???

**End:**

**How To:**

- Settle it for yourself that He wants to talk to you
- Make it a priority
- Ask the Holy Spirit for help
- Write it down

### **We're on a 'Need to Know' Basis with the Lord**

Think about it this way; Let's just say you have a child and that child is experiencing some kind of life dilemma. As a parent there's no way you'd withhold information or advice on how to handle the situation. That doesn't even make sense. No, much to the contrary, ***you'd do whatever was in your power to help them through the problem. Easy decision!***

Well, God...our Father, (*He could be anything He wanted to be: His choice is to be our Father!*) is so much better at this kind of stuff than we could possibly be. ***He cares about every little decision that we are faced with.*** We're His own children and He wants very much to interact with us and to be involved in our lives. ***Our problem is that oftentimes we agonize over the situation without even asking the Lord what we should do.*** Part of our 'growing up' in the Lord is learning to relinquish these problems we encounter to Him rather than carrying them around and trying to figure out what to do on our own. Trust me....you're going to like this a whole lot better than trying to carry the load yourself. This is how we learn to put our trust in the Lord. It takes faith, and ***the good news is that you already have adequate faith to get started.***

***A little disclaimer:*** some might argue that the Lord doesn't move quickly enough. I can totally relate to that; I've thought it myself many a time. Someone said it this way, "God's never late". I agree with that but I'd add, "*He's never early either*"!! Reality is, that He's always on time! ***He's always going to do what's best for you, EVERY TIME!***

Oh, and ***you don't necessarily have to be going through a trial in life to get this kind of attention from the Father.*** If we'd learn to go to Him with every single thing in our lives, then the problem times wouldn't be so stressful...and maybe not last so long.