

Hearing from God

God is speaking to us all the time – this is a fact. We simply often don't *hear* Him. Jesus talked to His Father all the time. So should we.

John 10:27 *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*

The enemy will likewise consistently try to communicate with us to confuse us.

If we major on the *difficulty* of all this, and not the *ease* of it it may well become hard! It's more about our relationship with God than about a technical exercise.

This should be more *life-style* than *method* but it does no harm to imitate, try, practice, and develop good habits in our own walk of faith.

First, three general steps –

1. Submit to God

2 Corinthians 10:5 *We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

- a. If He is our Lord and we want to hear from Him we must accept His total authority over us. As He speaks we must be prepared to act on His words.
- b. Confession is good - Approach God with a clean heart and a clear conscience – starting with a **distance** between you is not a good start! (Although God may use the process of **desiring to hear from Him** to draw you closer)
- c. We must learn to quieten our minds. They are busy places, filled with our own desires, random thoughts, age-old opinions, prejudices, etc.

2. We need to understand that God's thoughts are not like our thoughts

Isaiah 55:6-9 *"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

3. Resist and silence the enemy

James 4:7 *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

- a. He will try to deceive you.
- b. Only precious things are counterfeited!
- c. A half-truth is more dangerous than a lie

4. Wait, expect

Psalm 38:15 *But for you, O LORD, do I wait; it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.*

- a. He is your Father and He loves you
- b. He wants to guide you
- c. He is in no rush – are you? Why?
- d. How serious are we about hearing from Him?

The way God speaks will be various – but it must always line up with the Bible. God does not contradict himself:-

1. Through the Bible – His Word

Psalm 119:105 *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*

2. Audible voice

Exodus 3:4 *When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am."*

3. Dreams
Matthew 2:19-20 *After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."*
4. Visions (and pictures) (*Isaiah 6, and John's "revelation" to mention only two*)
5. Inner voice
Isaiah 30:21 *Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left.*
1 Kings 19:11-14 *Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"*

When God speaks to you don't talk too much about it unless or until He releases you to do so. This will avoid several pitfalls of guidance:-

1. **Pride** – "Guess what, God spoke to *me!*"
2. **Presumption** – "I know **exactly** what God wants me to do!" God's word has a way of unfolding and changing *us*, our *direction* etc. We *cannot* know exactly what God is doing until all the thing has worked itself out. We may have some guidance but the journey is far from over!
3. **Timing** – We may get some guidance for "*what*" but the "*when*" of it may be linked to *something* else, or *someone* else. Wait!
4. In connection with the above - if you announce too soon you may bring **confusion** to others who are not yet on the same page as you. Wait!

The more we hear God's voice the more easily we will be able to recognize it again.
(1 Samuel 3: 1-11)

God will speak to you – YOU! If someone comes along and tells you what God has to say to you that's all well and good, and it MAY be God. And it may NOT be God. Sometimes we're just not up for hearing what God has to say, and God will pursue us. But ultimately *don't act on what others say* until God confirms it to **you**.

If you have known God's guiding voice, and this seems to have gone quiet ask yourself "*Did I obey what He last asked me to do last time He spoke?*"

You may think you're waiting on Him whilst He may be waiting on You!

Always remember that God is sovereign and may also speak to you right out of the blue in many different ways.

But also remember this – God's ways are not our ways – this means that He **has** ways!

God was very, very specific in His instructions to the Israelites about building the tabernacle. Both the "why" and the "how".

He wanted to meet with, and talk to, and have ongoing relationship with His people. To see Him and hear Him they had to be obedient to the letter.

But **amazingly** God also spoke face to face with Moses with any paraphernalia or fuss! Food for thought My guess is that Moses was so right of heart before God (most of the time anyway) that he was fulfilling the rules without thinking about them.

After all our practice if our hearts stay right before God ... we will hear Him without effort whenever He speaks. What a joy!