

How to Hear God's Voice



How can we put the brakes on and really learn to listen? There are certain basic things we must cultivate in our life that will help us to hear God's voice. Here are several ways that will help you to cultivate hearing God's voice. We read in Revelation 3:22, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

- **Know God's Word** - God's will is made known in His Word. It's our final judge in our decisions. Learn to read, meditate on, and pray God's Word. If we look intently at His Word, not forgetting it but doing it, we will be blessed in what we do (James 1:25).
- **Look at your circumstances** - God's guidance is often confirmed through circumstances. Bring your circumstances before the Lord in prayer.
- **Listen to your heart** - What is it saying? The Holy Spirit is living in you. Examine your heart before the Lord, and ask Him for revelation (John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 6:19).
- **Know God's peace** - Is there peace in your heart? Even if there is a storm in your life and you are going through a difficult experience, you can have God's peace (James 3:17).
- **Meet God's conditions** - God will guide us if we do what He says. Meeting His conditions will unlock His promises to us. Ask the Lord if you have any sin in your life that needs to be confessed.
- **Follow God's guidance even when it is difficult** - It does not always feel good when we have to bear our cross. God breaks us and does not want us to become too comfortable. Commit yourself to His ways even when it is hard (Isaiah 55:8-9).
- **Humbly seek God's guidance daily** - Humbly lay your daily and weekly schedule before the Lord. Stay humble and walk day by day with God (Psalm 25:9).
- **We must have listening ears** - God often speaks through a still, small voice. He may drop a thought into your mind. He is often guiding us when we don't realize it. We must listen to these quiet thoughts and ask, "Lord, are You speaking to me?"
- **Take action when you hear God** - We must do all that God tells us to do. The Bible says that we should not merely listen to the Word and deceive ourselves; we must do what it says (James 1:22). There are times when we wait and listen carefully to God, and there are times when we must take action.

We need to develop this skill of listening. We don't want to miss even a small nudging from the Lord in any circumstance of life. We don't have to know all the details. Many times, we will only see what is right in front of us. We need to carefully listen to God's promptings just as this young man listened carefully to instructions.

A young man applied for a job as a Morse code operator. He answered the ad in the newspaper and went to the address listed. He entered a large, noisy office with a telegraph clicking in the background. A sign at the counter instructed all job applicants to fill out the form and wait until they were called to enter the inner office. The young man completed his form and sat down where seven other applicants were waiting. After a few minutes, he got up, went to the door to the inner office and walked right in.

The other applicants were wondering what was happening. A few minutes later the young man came out from the inner office escorted by the interviewer. The interviewer said, "Gentlemen, the job has been filled by this young man." Grumbling, one of them spoke up, "Wait a minute - He was the last one to come in, and we never even got

a chance to be interviewed. Yet he got the job. That's not fair!" The employer responded, "I'm sorry, but all the time you've been sitting here, the telegraph has been ticking out the following message in Morse code: 'If you understand this message, then come right in. The job is yours.' None of you heard it or understood it. This young man did. So, the job is his."

We need to learn to listen like this young man did. He got the job because he was listening carefully. We need to learn to listen to God's voice carefully. He has a big job for those who know how to hear His voice and obey His Word. Hearing God takes a lifetime. It's a skill that grows as we develop our relationship with Him.

A Geiger counter is an instrument for detecting the presence and intensity of radiation. The closer you get to the radiation, the louder and faster the clicking noise becomes. In the same way, when you cultivate hearing God's voice in your life through His Word, your circumstances, His peace in your heart, etc., the pieces begin to come together. You have the inner witness of the Holy Spirit, and His divine guidance system helps you. He shows you when you are getting closer to His will. Like the Geiger counter clicker, you sense the power of His guidance as you begin to touch His perfect will for your life.

It is an awesome responsibility and privilege to hear God's voice.

"As you study your Bible, you may sense that God has something to say directly to you through the verses you are reading. Take a moment to consider the awesome reality that the God who spoke and created the universe is now speaking to you. If Jesus could speak and raise the dead, calm a storm, cast out demons, and cure the incurable, then what effect might a word from Him have upon your life?" Henry and Richard Blackaby

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