

HOW TO HEAR FROM GOD



BY: PASTOR ISAAC T. ADEOLA

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By

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Presented by

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No. 24 Olaoluwa Street, Araromi,

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July 2025

INTRODUCTION

A Christian should develop and grow to a level where he or she can recognise the voice of God.

Recognising God's voice begins with our daily ability to detect and hear Him when He is speaking. This is very important because it enables us to grow into maturity and to be able to differentiate satanic voices, human imagination, and ordinary thoughts from the voice that comes from God.

Bible Text:

Romans 8:14; Ezekiel 1:3; 2:2; Job 33:14–18

OUTLINE:

1. Pre-requisite for Hearing from God
2. Ways Through Which God Speaks
3. Test All Voices
4. Hindrances to God's Communication to Man

1. PRE-REQUISITE FOR HEARING FROM GOD

- Must be genuinely born again and Spirit-filled – John 3:1–3; 1:12; 1 Corinthians 2:10–12,14.
- Get restored if you are a backslider – 2 Chronicles 7:14; Jeremiah 3:22; Joel 2:11–13.
- Maintain holiness and surrender absolutely – Romans 12:2.
- Must be obedient – Isaiah 1:18.
- Believe that God can speak to you – Psalm 37:3.
- Remove vendetta and self-interest from your mind – Ezekiel 14:4.
- Trust and be eager to hear from God – Hebrews 2:1; Psalm 37:4.

2. WAYS THROUGH WHICH GOD SPEAKS

THE PRIMARY WAY THROUGH WHICH GOD SPEAKS:

The only primary way that God speaks is through the Holy Bible.

It is the only infallible way that God speaks to man.

It serves as the standard and the surest way of confirming any spiritual message received – Psalm 119:130.

The Holy Bible is the authentic primary way through which God speaks to believers for the following reasons:

- It serves as the final authority – Matthew 5:17–18; John 10:35.

- It is completely reliable and has an answer to basic life questions – 2 Timothy 3:16.
- It is supreme; it excels all other books ever written. The Bible is written on earth, inspired by the Holy Spirit, settled in Heaven, and it is eternal – Psalm 119:89; John 6:63–69.
- God cannot speak against what has already been written in the Holy Bible – Psalm 138:2; Isaiah 8:20.
- It has been and will remain the only book that men turn to in times of need – John 5:39.

SECONDARY WAYS THROUGH WHICH GOD SPEAKS:

There are other ways through which we can hear from God in connection with the written Word (the Holy Bible), and these include:

- Inner witness of the Holy Spirit – Romans 8:16; Proverbs 20:27; 1 Corinthians 2:9–11.
- Still small voice – Isaiah 30:21.
This is a means of hearing from God which takes place in the realm of thought.
Though not audible to human ears, it is a thought placed

by God in one's mind or a voice that speaks gently and quietly in the heart.

- Conviction of the heart – This happens when God impresses something deeply upon one's heart. It may occur when one is to take a step or refrain from taking it.

Audible God's Voice:

This is hearing God's audible voice in one's ear. Though not common, it has not been limited to old Bible days alone. God still speaks audibly to men today, e.g. Moses, Apostle Paul, Peter, Samuel, Isaiah, and even our Lord Jesus Christ.

(1 Samuel 3:1–10, Matthew 3:16–17, Exodus 3:1–4)

Revelation & Dreams:

Revelations can be of various types and categories, which include open vision, trance, etc. (Joel 2:28, Acts 10:9–17). A dream is one of the easiest and most common ways by which God speaks to man. This is because man is usually too much occupied to have special time of listening to God. In this way, a message is easily conveyed in the sleep state.

Note here also that a dream has been and is still one of the easiest ways by which the devil speaks and misleads people, aside from false prophets.

(Job 33:15, Matthew 2:12–13, Genesis 37:5–6, Joel 2:28)

Divine/Special Circumstances or Arrangements:

This usually takes place mysteriously and coincidentally, beyond one's imagination and schedule. It could be through a stranger, a child, animals (Balaam & the ass), an angel, etc.

(Genesis 31:11, Numbers 22:16, Luke 1:13)

Through God's Anointed Servant:

If God can speak through Balaam's ass, He can also speak through His servants. This can be a sort of counsel received. It can also be in a message being preached on the pulpit or through tapes, books, tracts, etc. (II Samuel 12:1–5)

3.

TEST ALL VOICES

(1 John 4:1)

The devil can sometimes speak like God in a secondary way and can try to misinterpret the Scripture. This is why watchfulness is essential. The validity of any message received in any form should be proved and tested. This can be done by:

Setting Hypothesis:

Accept the message if it does not contradict what has been written in the Holy Bible, and also when you are sure that the source is divine. Do not act on a message immediately when there is confusion, for God is not the author of confusion.

Testing the Message with Time, Patience and Peace:

This is done by giving a period of time to test and seek God's face on the message received, especially on vital issues of life like marriage. The voice of God will grow clearer. (Isaiah 52:12, Psalm 85:8, Psalm 23:2, Philippians 4:6–7). God's voice will always bring peace of mind. Then you should pray for more clarification.

NOTE: Avoid all forms of negligence, slackness, delays, and questioning of God's message. These are not the same as patience. Act when God asks you to, especially on witnessing, for life may be lost as a result of slackness—and blessings also.

Involving Other Matured Christians:

But be careful of an old prophet that the devil may place along your path. (1 Kings 13:11–31)

4.

HINDRANCES TO GOD'S COMMUNICATION TO MAN

(1 Samuel 28:5–10)

- Sin, transgression, iniquity, unrighteousness – (Psalm 66:18, Isaiah 59:1–4)
- Disobedience – (1 Chronicles 10:13)
- Idols in the heart – (Ezekiel 14:4)
- Doubt and fear – (James 1:5–8)
- Worldliness and carnality – (James 4:4)
- Presence or link with evil spirit or being possessed
- Prayerlessness and laziness in the Word of God – (Colossians 3:16)
- Too much religious activities and distractions
- No time or unreadiness to hear from God

- Inferiority complex – thinking you are not spiritually strong or cannot hear from God

CONCLUSION


It takes time, a learning process, and patience to be able to recognise God's voice, as God expects you to hear Him always. You need to develop yourself now to be able to hear His voice so that you will not go astray.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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