

# HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD

**I Corinthians 14:10 – “There are, it maybe, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.”**

## **The story of the businessman:**

There once was a businessman that needed some direction in his business affairs. After exhausting every means possible, he finally just sat down one day and cried out to God, “please help me, I need a word of direction.” Frustrated, he took his old, dusty, family Bible and just flopped it open. When he looked down the first word he saw was “wheat.” He immediately grabbed the phone and called his stockbroker and invested in wheat. Sure enough, he began to profit from his business deal with wheat. But over a period of time, wheat began to fall. Frustrated again, he took the old, ragged, dusty Bible and flopped it open again crying, “I need another word of direction God...” When he opened his eyes he saw the word “oil.” Again, he grabbed his phone and told his stockbroker to sell all of the wheat and invest in oil. Sure enough, oil stock went through the roof. Over a period of time the stock began to decline. This time the man decided to ride the decline out. Not very long after this he was in deep financial trouble, for he had lost everything that he had! He went to an attorney, which advised him to file bankruptcy. The man cried, “Surely God does not want me to file bankruptcy.” He went home, sat on his couch and said, “God I need another word of direction.” He took his dusty Bible, closed his eyes and flopped it open. He plunged his finger to the page and opened his eyes; it read Chapter 11!

Many of us believe this is how we get direction from God. However, this is not how God normally speaks to us!

In this passage of scripture the Apostle Paul is giving us instruction on how God speaks to the corporate body through the manifestation of the Spirit. However, I think there is truth in this passage that every single person faces in life: *God, is that you speaking or someone else?*

**We live in a world of words.** Everyone has an opinion on everything. In a world of words it is hard to discern when God is speaking to us! We have all had times when it seems that God’s voice is unclear, so the real question is how do we know and hear the voice of God?

- **John 10:3-5, 27** – “my sheep know my voice and a stranger they will not follow... my sheep hear my voice...”
- **Psalm 68:32-33** – “Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth, Oh sing praises unto the Lord, selah: To him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens, which were of old: lo, he doth send out his voice, and that a mighty voice.”
- **Psalm 29:1-11** – “Give unto the Lord oh ye mighty, give unto the Lord Glory and strength. Gove unto the Lord Glory due his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. The voice of the Lord I upon the waters, the God of glory thunderith, the Lord is upon many waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. The voice of the Lord breaketh cedars, yes the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon. The voice of the Lord divide the flames of fire, the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness... the voice of the Lord makes the hinds to calve and discovereth the forest...”
- **John 3:29** – Our greatest joy is to know him.
- The alternative: **Jeremiah 7:23-24**
- **John 8:47**
- **John 16:13**
- **John 6:44-45**: Everyone in here who claims to be saved has heard the voice of God.
- Don't depend on Pastor!
- Why do you need to hear for yourself? **Deuteronomy 5:25-27 / Psalm 106:33**

Our problem today is not whether God is speaking or not; rather, our dilemma is our ability to hear Him when He speaks.

*NOT BY BREAD ALONE:*

**Matthew 4:4** – “... It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”

- “Word” is “rhema” – a spoken word in the now!
- We live by the proceeding word of God.

- We have all had God to speak to us in the past, but what we must have is a fresh word for right now. A word for the present. What is God saying to me today?

### **Abraham's example of God's proceeding word:**

In Genesis 22:2-13 we read the story of God asking Abraham to offer his only son Isaac for a burnt offering. Abraham carried Isaac and all of the utensils needs for sacrifice and headed for Moriah. Abraham built an altar, bound Isaac, and started to kill him. God spoke and Abraham stopped. As we see God provided another sacrifice....

- Many of us would have killed our Isaac because we did not hear the proceeding word from God.
- I wonder how many promises we have lost because we could not hear the voice of God.

### **Rhema words are warfare words:**

**Ephesians 6:17 – "...and take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the WORD OF GOD (Rhema)."**

A "right now" word is a "rhema" word. Rhema words from God are what we use to fight our life battles with. **We cannot encounter a right now situation with a yesterday word!**

- Many are trying to fight their battles in life with old "words."
- The reason many of us sit in a place of defeat in our personal lives is because we try to fight a right now word with last weeks word.
- The weapon of the Spirit is a right now rhema word from God.
  - Zechariah 4:6 – "... Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord of Hosts."
  - Isaiah 30:20 – "And thought the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction... Your ears shall hear a word behind thee saying, 'this is the way, walk ye in it when you turn to the right and to the left.'"

Faithism: from some Pentecostal and Charismatic circles that tend to teach people they are unable to hear God themselves.

Psalm 50 – He will not keep silent!

## ***What does God sound like?***

I Kings 19:9-12 – God was not in the wind nor the fire, but in a still small voice.

Many people expect God to be loud and demonstrative, but God speaks in a still small voice.

Psalm 46:8-10 – “Come behold the works of the Lord, what desolation he hath made in the earth. He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth, he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder, he burneth the chariot in the fire. Be still and know that I am God...”

Moses & children of Israel – Act vs. Ways

Psalm 4:4 – “Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed and be still...”

- John 4:24 says that “God is a Spirit”
- Many people treat God like a mind, He is a Spirit.
- When God speaks, he speaks to our spirit, we are spirit also...Our problem is that because we live in the flesh we are more in tune to the carnal instead of the spiritual.
- When God speaks it is not usually an audible voice (even though he can speak like this). It is in a still voice in our spirit-man!

## ***Obstructions to hearing God’s voice:***

### **1. Being lost or involved in sin:**

Isaiah 59:1-2 – *“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have separated between you and your God and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”*

God is not obligated to hear you or respond to you if you are not His child or involved in sin.

## **2. Not being Spirit-filled:**

It is possible to go to heaven without receiving the baptism in the Spirit, but it is not possible to operate or function in the gifts of the Spirit without the baptism in the Spirit!

The disciples were saved, but on the day of Pentecost they were given divine capability to function in the gifts of the Spirit.

The main purpose of the gifts is to allow God to speak to the church!

- I Corinthians 12-14

## **3. Pride:**

James 4:6 – *“But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble.”*

God will not fight with you with you to give you direction. You cannot have your way and his too. We must humble ourselves so that He can speak to us!

Psalm 25:9 – *“The meek will he guide in justice, the meek will he teach this way...”*

## **4. Self-deception:**

James 1:22-24 – James speaks of people who want to be led by God but can't be because they don't understand how God operates. They think that all they have to do is just hear God and not take action on what they hear. In this they deceive themselves.

## **5. Lack of integrity:**

Proverbs 11:3 – *“The integrity of the upright shall guide them...”*

INTEGRITY – rigid adherence to a code or standard of values (Webster’s).

Integrity is:

- Doing what is right and honest
- Paying your bills on time
- Being true to your word
- Faithfulness before the world in your jobs
- Being early and leaving late
- Setting a standard higher than the norm
- Going beyond what is expected

Our integrity gets us in tremendous trouble and we lose our direction because of it!

## **6. Refusing to live an examined life:**

Proverbs 18:1 – *“Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom...”*

The NIV says: “He who separates himself seeks his own desire, He quarrels against all sound wisdom.

People do not want accountability!

- Hebrews 12:59 – People hate to be corrected about anything. Our pride does not want us to admit our weakness.

We must be accountable to God and each other!

## **7. Ignorance of the Word:**

Psalms 119:105 – *“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”*

- Notice: the Word is described as a lamp or a light.
- His Word is Lamp: this lights the areas that I am fixing to step.
- His Word is a light: in the Hebrew this means illumination. God will give illumination to the path that you are headed toward.

## **ORDER: A key to God's guidance:**

Sometimes our lives are so out of order that it is hard to hear God! God is a God of **ORDER!**

Throughout the Word we see that God operates, speaks and moves within the constraints of order!

- The creation was ordered!
  - Certain things were done on each day!
- Deliverance from Egyptian bondage was ordered!
  - God had a plan with Moses and Aaron
  - It was so ordered that the people of God walked out of the land with not one sick and feeble among them and with all the gold and silver.
- The law and the Ten Commandments were ordered!
- The Sacrifices and offerings were ordered!
  - Each sacrifice was unique and must be offered in a very specific manner (no spots, no blemishes, blood drained a certain way, specific animals for specific sins).
- The daily affairs of the Tabernacle and Temple were ordered.
- The birth of Christ, his revelation of being the Son of God was ordered and planned.
- His death and resurrection was planned:
  - Luke 9:14 – Jesus made the five thousand sit down in groups of fifty before he miraculously fed them.
  - Luke 17:12-14 – Jesus tells the lepers to go show themselves to the priest. The Bible says they were healed as they went. He could have healed them right there...
- The ministries and gifts in the church have to be ordered.
  - I Corinthians 12-4
  - I and II Timothy – Leadership must be in order!
- Even the return of the son is ordered:
  - The Word says that no man knows the time nor the season...

In order for there to be revelation there must first be ORDER. The more ORDER the more revelation!

## ***Seven Principles of God's Guidance:***

### **1. Inner conviction:**

Romans 8:14 – “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God they are the sons of God.”

*I John 1:20, 26-27 – “But you have an unction (Charisma-annointing) and you know all things...but the anointing which you have received of him abideth in you and you need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, you shall abide in him.”*

God says that you have an anointing in you through the Holy Ghost that will give you a sense that something is not right, an inner conviction!

Romans 2:15 – “Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness.”

Romans 9:1 – “I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost.”

Many times the Spirit is trying to lead us, but we are incredibly tied to our flesh. So we must be careful with inner conviction. **THOSE DRIVEN BY FLESH WILL DEFILE INNER CONVICTION!**

- Three Hindering Motives: I John 2:15-16
  - The lust of the flesh – PLEASURE
  - The lust of the eyes – POSSESSION
  - The pride of life – POSITION

### **2. The Peace of God:**

Colossians 3:15 – “And let the peace of God rule (brabyoo – to umpire) in your heart.”



There are times that the Word does not specifically address an issue that you are facing. In this time you must see that you have the peace of God!

-Three Parameters of God's Peace:

1. The peace of God guides us: Romans 14:19
2. The peace of God governs us: Colossians 3:15, Hebrews 12:14
3. The peace of God guards us: Philippians 4:6-7

The Word of God

Integrity