

What Does God's Voice Sound Like? Part 1

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I. Introduction

God wants to speak to us, in fact, He does all the time. But not many of us hear Him because we don't know what His voice sounds like. There's another voice we hear constantly, loudly and clearly. It's the voice of God's enemy. How can we learn to hear God's voice as clear, or even clearer, than Satan's?

II. God's Still Small Voice in the Midst of the Devastating Noise of Our Lives

God still speaks today, the Bible begins with God speaking and ends with God speaking, Genesis 1:2; Revelation 22:20. God is a God who speaks and He told us to expect His voice, John 10:27; James 4:8a.

The different ways God speaks, First, God never contradicts His Word, so if what you hear doesn't agree with what He said in His Word, it's not God, even if it comes from an angel, Galatians 1:8. Second, He speaks in many ways: *through an audible voice*, Genesis 12:1-4. *Through the Bible*, and His Voice is still alive, Hebrews 4:12. *Through Jesus*, John 14:10. *Through thoughts*, Romans 12:2. *Through others*, Acts 9:10-17. *Through events/circumstances*, Jonah 1—sometimes coincidences are not. *Through visions*, Acts 18:9-10. *Through Angels*, Matthew 28:5-7. *Through dreams*, Genesis 20:3. *Through your conscience*, Romans 2:14-15. *Through creation*, Romans 1:19-20.

When does God speak? Always, as any loving parent would. God wants to be there when we laugh, cry, celebrate, fight, need guidance, etc., etc. He never wants Satan to defeat us, Ephesians 6:10-18. He always wants us to live the new identity He's given us, Colossians 3:1-17. He will encourage, strengthen, and correct us, 2 Timothy 3:16, and it's always to draw us closer to Him, Luke 22:31-34; John 21:15-17.

The Dangers of hearing God's voice, there are two dangers: thinking that it's always His voice and thinking that He only speaks through the Bible. Not everything we hear will be His voice, which is why God tells us to check, 1 John 4:1. But He also speaks through other means besides the Bible. But how can we trust our wicked hearts, Mark 7:21-23? The Holy Spirit, who dwells in us, has the power to overcome our sinful hearts and thus we trust the Spirit to redeem our hearts, Galatians 4:6; 5:16-24.

We always give our circumstances—good and bad—a voice, when something good or bad happens—especially when it's bad—the voice in our head begins to speak. And by the time it's done interpreting the situation for us, we're left with fear, doubt, and hopelessness.

The voice says things like, "What have I done, I've ruined my life." "I wish I was dead." "I'll never get out of this." "I wish I had a husband like him." "Everybody hates me, I'm such a dork." "I'm so bad at this." "She's so pretty, why can't I look like her." "He gets all the girls, I wish I was popular like him." "I don't get this, I'm so dumb." "I'm gonna end up just like my father." Even when that voice is so loud that we can't hear anything else, God still speaks, but we must learn to hear Him.

The twelves spies, Numbers 13-14, ten of the spies believe they are grasshoppers compared to the people of Canaan, therefore they think they will be slaughtered and their wives and children made slaves. And since God led them here, He wants to kill them. But Caleb and Joshua believe the exact opposite. Why? Why do Caleb and Joshua see a land of milk and honey waiting to be eaten while the rest see only death and destruction? Which voice do the 10 spies hear and which do Caleb and Joshua?

A man thinks he's cursed but God shows him the truth, he grew up believing he was cursed. His mother would tell him that he had his father's DNA; therefore, he would end up just like his dad and uncles, a loser. Since addiction, depression and mental and emotional issues were in his family history, these would always follow him. Because of his father's irresponsibility he grew up with a terrible fear of abandonment and constant anxiety about money. His father would berate him but then praise him to the point of instilling arrogance. There was constant emotional abuse from both his mom and dad. All this made him deeply insecure and needy. Instead of seeing a woman as a wife; he saw her as a mother figure that would give him the love and affection his mother never did. He ended up arrogant, difficult-to-live-with, insecure, and always depressed. Every terrible thing that befell him, every bad decision he made only confirmed what he already believed, "I'm a giant loser and this is the kind of life losers have."

At one point, he became a Christian. He dove into it, studied the Bible, read theology books. He knew he was a child of God, but God was distant. In fact, not only was God indifferent to his circumstances he believed God caused it all. The more things went wrong, the more he hated and cursed God for allowing it to happen. How could he let him be born into such a horrible family? Why didn't He protect Him?!! Every time things went wrong with his kids, at work, in his marriage he cursed God.

As I spoke with him during his latest struggle, the Lord showed him that He was always there and every time his family responded to His voice, there was love and transformation (his cousin became a new man). But the Lord also showed him what was really happening with his mom and dad. Though his mom and dad were horrible, they really loved him. The Lord reminded him of two incidents in his life, one when his father was so comforting and loving and the other when his mother was so encouraging and supportive. There were other moments like these, but the enemy only reminded him of the bad stuff. And the Lord also showed him why his parents were so bad: his dad was on his own at 13 and learned to survive from the streets. His mom was sexually abused and constantly battled depression and anxiety.

III. Conclusion

"And the LORD, He is the one who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed."