

What Does God's Voice Sound Like? Part 3

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I. Introduction

When you pray, you have to be completely honest with God about how you feel. Until you tell Him what's wrong, He can't help you. Not because He's unable to but because you haven't let Him in. As long as you're surrounded by Satan's lies about you, your life, and God, you won't be able to hear God's voice. You'll be surrounded by fear, guilt and shame with no way out.

II. To Hear God, We Need to Step out of Satan's Lies and into the Light of God's Truth

To hear God, you have to spend time with Him, you need to know your Father's voice:

The role of prayer, prayer is a conversation **with** God; it's not a monologue you do in front of an audience of One and then walk away. So don't say something (whether it takes 30 seconds or 30 minutes) and then walk away. It's a conversation: you say something, then He says something. So when you're done telling Him your concerns, listen for His response. If you don't hear Him then, keep your eyes and ears open in the days, weeks, and months to come. And don't add God to your "To Do" list; He's not a "to do" item you fit into your busy schedule. Instead, make it a habit to speak with Him every day and keep speaking with Him, i.e., take Him with you wherever you go. Don't just speak with Him during emergencies or on Sunday mornings.

The role of the Spirit, God the Father placed His Son's Spirit deep in your heart (Galatians 4:6) so that you could hear everything Jesus wants to say to you (John 16:12-15).

The role of Daily Devotionals / Bible Reading, the Bible is God's voice; the more time you spend with it, the more you will know what His voice sounds like. So read the Bible regularly (but don't turn it into a chore you hate). If a devotional helps you get into God's Word, use it, but make sure it uses God's Word and is not simply full of sweet, nice-sounding sayings. God's Word is not there to make you feel something; it's there to make **you** [into] something (2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 2:20).

To hear God, you have to confess (the lies) **and repent** (ask God for the Truth), you have to tell God the truth about how you really feel **and why** (and He wants you to express your anger and frustration: Psalm 13). True confession is confessing the lies you believe. If you're furious with Him, tell Him. If you wish you were dead, tell Him. If you hate your miserable life, husband, boss, family, friends, etc., tell Him. If you don't believe in Him, tell Him. But don't forget to tell him why you're angry, frustrated, depressed, etc., etc. The reason why you believe something is the lie. Once you're done confessing, ask Him to show you the truth; this is repentance. The truth God shows you will help you turn and go the other way, i.e., repent. His truth opens your eyes to see exactly how the lies led you to anger and hopelessness and how His truth sets you free (John 8:32). It's asking God to remove the anxious lies that are embedded in your heart and replace them with His everlasting truth (Psalm 139:23-24). Why do I need to tell Him; isn't He all-knowing? A father can't help his child until the child tells him what's wrong. The difference with God is that He already knows your troubles. So confession is not for His benefit but yours. Confession is the door you open to let God into your mess. In other words, being completely open with God helps you let go of the lies and grasp His truth.

The one preventing you from hearing God's voice and his three weapons (Genesis 3), Satan's goal is to rob, kill and destroy you (John 10:10). The way he does this is by getting you alone so you and he can have a conversation about you, your life, and God. Everything he says is a lie designed to get you to do things (sins) that will lead you further and further away from God. And once you're far away from Him, he'll accuse you of the things (sins) that took you away from God, which leads to further isolation, deception, and accusation:

Isolation, Satan will try his hardest to keep you away from God because when you're with God, His light enables you to see everything crystal clearly, especially your horrible mistakes (1 John 1:5-10). This is what Satan did to Eve: it was him and Eve having a conversation about her, her life, and God. All Eve had to do is go back to God and ask Him about everything Satan said and her eyes would've been opened. Instead, her eyes were opened but with the most horrific and distorting filter. Now, when she looked at herself, all she saw was guilt and shame. When she looked at her life, all she saw was conflict and hopelessness. When she looked at God, all she saw was terror, pain and death (Genesis 3:7-19).

Deception, once Satan, the father of lies (John 8:44), gets you alone, he will deceive you. And everything that comes out of his mouth, even the most innocent statement, is designed to deceive you...and it will (Genesis 3:1, 3). God never told Adam and Eve they couldn't touch the tree, but after one question from Satan, all of a sudden God is a cruel and angry Father who puts a nice, shiny object in front of you and then says, "Don't you dare touch it!"

Accusation, Satan is the accuser (Revelation 12:10), so once Satan gets you to believe his lie(s) and do the thing (sin) that takes you further away from God, he accuses you of those sins, which then make you feel guilty and ashamed, which further isolates you from God and leads to more of Satan's deception and accusation (Genesis 3:7-12).

But God never leaves us nor forsakes us. The moment Satan attacks, He's ready to rescue us. All we need to do is listen to His voice calling us out of Satan's lies. The moment we respond He helps us shed his lies so that He can clothe us with His truth (Genesis 3:9-21).

Are you in a place where you can hear God or has Satan isolated you? Satan will try to keep you from hearing God's voice. But no matter how brilliantly he succeeds and how bleak things look, God has the power to undo Satan's lies. After Adam and Eve fell for Satan's lies and ended up covered with fear, guilt and shame, God ran to their aid and called them out of their fear and shame. God undid the lies they believed and replaced them with His truth about themselves, their life, and God. By the time God was done redeeming them, not only were they each individually restored, their relationship was also restored (Genesis 3:20-21).

III. Conclusion

To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return." And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.