

# Hearing God's Voice

John 10:27 – *My sheep listen to my voice; I **know** them, and they follow me.*

Are you one of God's sheep? Are you born again? Are you in relationship with God? Then you have the right and privilege to hear God's voice on a daily basis.

**γινωσκω - Ginosko, intimate knowledge of some body, like I know my wife, it expresses intimate knowledge through experience.**

## Three Voices

Basically you hear **three-voice** everyday.

1. God's voice or the **Holy Spirit** – This is a **prompting, a stirring, a soft small voice**. How do we recognize it? It **conforms to God's word all the time**.
2. **Self, your own voice** – These **reflect your inner desires and selfishness**. They will be **contrary to God's word and plan** for your life and are **motivated by self**.
3. **The devil** – These **sound like words from God** but are **not based on God's word and are not God's plan for you**. In fact they are **contrary to His plans for your life**. They often **sound too good to be true** and are usually misleading and cause confusion. Remember he puts thoughts into your mind and then blames you for thinking such bad things.

We need to **filter out these two voices of self and satan** and **concentrate on what God is saying in your inner man or Spirit**.

**God is always talking we need to identify His words and concentrate on what He is saying**. That is why He **said we should go into our closet** when we spend time with Him. To cut ourselves off from the outside and listen to His voice, inside us.

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## So how does God speak?

God speaks in many ways and **this list is by no means the alpha and omega** of how God can talk to you, He can use anything at His disposal to speak to you and often even in ways you thought not possible.

Remember God talks to us in our inner man.

### 1. His Word

**If Gods word does not change you, renew your mind then you need to repent and hear His voice in His word.** In ROMANS 12:2 *Do not be conformed to the things of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, then you will be able to test and prove Gods perfect will for your life.*

**Everything we know about God is in His word.** Every revelation He has ever made or any truth He wants us to know about Himself is in His word. God's word is complete, there is nothing more or less, He wants us to know about Him, except what He has already said between these two covers of your bible.

There are **over 5000 promises in the bible** that you can claim in your own life. How many have you claimed. When God talks to you in His word. A verse, stands out, a truth makes sense. You see something you can apply in your life.

Let me show you turn to PSALM 130:3-4 - If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared. (NIV)

Here we see a truth, **God does not keep a record of our sins.** Why **because if He did how would we be able to worship Him.** But **through God there is forgiveness and thus He is feared.** What is God saying to you now?

- 2. Dreams, visions, circumstances** – Often God will use a dream, vision or circumstance in ones life to talk to you. Sometimes it might be a rebuke or something God wants to warn you about. **You need to be in tune with Him to recognize this and acted on it.** Remember **nothing ever happens by chance.** There is always something behind what is happening to you, we need to identify if it is from God or the devil.

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3. **Nature and our surroundings** – God speaks to us through nature and our surroundings. How often have you looked at a flower or a creature and become amazed at the intricate detail of His creation.

How often have you seen a beautiful sunrise or sunset and thanked God for it. How often have you looked at the stars and wondered about His creation.

Just as an example of God's greatness, let's look at the stars and universe that He created. You know that He made everyone by hand and knows each one, by name. Some stars like ANTARES are larger than our entire universe, from the sun to past Pluto. Some stars like the Southern Cross and Orion can give us direction and time. Some stars like our sun and many others give light and produce energy. Did you know that the closest star to us is four light years away? What can we do, but to worship the Creator? When we see His handy work, His personality, His personal touch in our surroundings, He is talking showing us His greatness and Splendor.

4. **Prophecy** – God could speak to you through prophetic teaching, but this will always confirm what God is already saying to you. If it does not check it out. We must also realize that the prophetic must only be used to inquire about what God is saying, Godly warnings and rebuke. Prophecy must never be used like fortune telling, when this happens it is contrary to God's word.

Prophecy, **is there to help you know God's will and plan for your life.** It is a form of God communicating to you. You need to **take all of the prophecy, mill it through, and test it with what God has already said to you in the past.** Churn it, **draw out what is good and what God is saying to you, reject what is not from God but act on what He is telling you.**

5. **Through other people** – The most **common way that you would hear God speaking to you in this way is through preaching.** When God's word is preached it says in Hebrew 4:12, *that God's word is full of living power, it is sharper than the sharpest knife, cutting deep into our inner most thoughts and desires and exposes for who we really are.* **Whenever God's word is preached expect to hear Him talk to you.**

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I am preaching but as I am **speaking another voice inside you is talking to you, that is God**. Identify it and learnt to act on it.

That is why it is good to take notes because once you have heard the sermon, **you have got more revelation, what God wants you to hear is in your note book!**

It might surprise you to find that what the person preached and what you have in your note book will be different. The reason for this is that God is talking to your inner man and you are writing it down without even knowing it.

He could speak to **you through other people's lives**. Often people portray a specific godly characteristic that you desire, something God wants you to change. God uses this positively to change our attitudes and lives. **The bible says "...we are to spur one another onto good works..."**, so let us do just that. Look at the people around you and ask God to put some of their godly characteristics into your life.

6. **Through past experience** – We learn from our past mistakes or successes, thus we need to constantly learn from past experiences and let God talk to us and show us our motives and desires.

Often things, people, circumstances get below our skin. But did you ever think that this **could be an exam that God is allowing you to write**. If you pass it then you move on to the next exam in life, but if you fail it, lose your temper, lash out etc, then I am afraid you will rewrite this test over and over until you pass it.

**How did you learn things as a child?** You touched things, you tasted things, and you experienced things. What did you do with the things that did not taste too nice, hurt you? Rejected it. Did you ever try it again? Why not?

This is the same with our hearing God through experience. **We learnt that if you tithe, God will bless you. Does He always bless you? Yes but sometime we do not see its evidence.** You received a miracle of healing or saw the miracle, will you have faith to pray for someone else's healing?

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7. **Through praying in the Spirit** – This is one of the most powerful tools we have.

The bible says in 1 Corinthians 14:2 *for anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God.*

1 Corinthians 14:14 *For if I pray in a tongue my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful.*

**Your spirit is communicating directly with God**, do you realize what you are talking about? You are speaking **divine secrets about your future**.

You must realize that **no problem or tragedy** will ever come your way without the Holy Spirit warning you about it before time. **He will call you to pray and intercede before hand.**

**How does he do this by a check in your spirit, heaviness, uneasiness, something is not quiet right.** Then you need **to pray right then** and there, something negative is about to happen to you or a loved one. **Pray in your heavenly tongue, loud and out your mouth and intercede** until you feel the release in your spirit.

There is also a **positive prompting which gives birth to something positive in your life**, this especially happens as soon as you are finished having time with God, or you just feel a need to just pray in your heavenly language. Do it, you'll reap the benefit, something positive is about to be birthed in your life.

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These are but a few ways God can talk to you, but even now He is saying things in your inner man.

## Why do we not hear Gods voice?

1. **You are not listening!** When you go about your day not tuned into God. Not having a quiet time, not talking to Him, not having fellowship with Him **you can not hear His voice.**

Make time to hear His voice, **do everything you can to hear Him daily.** He is talking we just **need to get quiet and hear Him.** Switch off the radio, disconnect the telephone, and go into a place in your home where you can be **undisturbed.**

Start of by Praising and worshipping God, then get quiet before Him, do not say anything just listen. Take a pen, paper and bible with. As you get quiet the devil will remind you of things to do, make a to do list and **jot these things down there.**

Then it will come a soft voice, as stirring, an unction, a feeling in your body. Act on it. If God is saying things write them down, if He is telling you to pray, then pray. Do whatever He asks you to do.

Lets face it, **as you hear Gods word you can still miss it.** Look what happens at a restaurant? The waiter takes your order, even writing it down but when it arrives it is all wrong.

Be careful to **accurately write down what God is saying.**

**Do what he tells you to do.** If you miss it that is fine **but rather miss it than not try to hear His voice.** Eventually you will hear Him speak to you and that make your whole walk with Him so close and intermit.

2. **You are out of fellowship!** You have **neglected going to church, mixing with church people, back slidden or your love for God has cooled down.**

You are **angry with God.** The is a wall, separating you, a wall of sin.

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Just **go before God, admit you are wrong**, repent and be restored to fellowship with Him. God is not angry with you but is forgiving and merciful towards us. He understands but make right with Him today!

3. **You too lazy, do not have enough time!** – Each one of us has the **same amount of time in a day**, what you do with that time will **make all the difference in your walk with God.**

**You want to be bless and successful, spend quality time with God. Get direction.**

Sacrifice a television program or some idle time and spend it with God, you see the difference after your first experience.

**Man is a three-dimensional being.** You have three areas within your self, Body, Soul/Mind and Spirit.

- Your **Inner man** – This area is where you communicate with God. This is your spirit man, you communicate on in the Spiritual realm.
- Your **Soul / Mind** – This is where you think of things and are creative. This is also the area where the devil talks to you. He can not read your thoughts but he can put ugly thoughts in it. This is also where
- Your **Body** – This is where you preserve your environment, you interact with people.

Let's test it, we already know God talks in your inner man, I will show you later how this works. Let's do some addition.  **$4 + 4 - 5 + 7 * 2 = 20$** . That is your mind or thoughts working. You have made contact with your **mental realm**.

Let's close our eyes. Put your hand on the shoulder of the person next to you. Can you feel their hand on your shoulder? You have now discovered your body and You have made contact with your **Physical realm**.

Close your eyes. Think of your whole life, since you were born. Go through the high lights of these years. Now think of what you were like before you were saved. Ask God now to reveal any sin He wants you to deal with. Write them down.

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When you were born again Jesus took all our sins away. Here is a whole bundle of our sins, however there are some of these sins that God still wants us to deal with. What you just did now was identify the five prominent sins God wants you to deal with, now. When you go home today take sometime and speak to God about these five sins, Deal with them individually by confessing them, accept responsibility for them, ask forgiveness, repent of them and received your forgiveness and cross it off your list. Now remember to do with this at least once every 4 to 6 weeks.

You have made contact with your **spiritual realm**.

**Remember communication is a two-way channel of talking, hearing and answering.** Imagine visiting people and all they do is talk about themselves and never give you a chance to say anything, do you think you will be friends very long?

### **Action – What must I do?**

If you are born again, then you can hear God's voice. My sheep hear my voice, are you a sheep of the shepherd?

1. Make time to hear His voice daily
2. Get your life in order. Get rid of sin and compromise, they only hinder us from listening,
3. Get into God's word daily, study it, memorize it, and let it soak into your heart. Let His words richly indwell your life daily.
4. Make your self-available to hear God. Always live right with people, sort out any problems with people as they occur and put up your antenna.
5. Take time to listen to God, record His words accurately and do what He is telling you to do.
6. Take time to be alone with God and have a quiet time.
7. Pray in tongues daily and whenever you do not know what to say when communicating with God.



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