

HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD

CIRCLE UP | SCOTT STEVENS

Christians should strive to be the least offendable people in society, known for what they're for rather than what they're against.

Hearing the Voice of God:

1. Some of our foolishness and heartaches are the result of us mistaking our own imagination and desires for the voice of God.
2. There is not a step-by-step formula for hearing the voice of God.

Our lives = The Past, The Present, The Future

X = "Existence" **L = "Life"**

The goal is not just reaching the future, but **moving from existence to abundant life.**

John 10:1-5

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

Jesus came so we might have life and have it abundantly, while the thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy.

John 10:6

This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

John 10:7-9

So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

John 10:11

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

“Read your Bible and pray.’ Then he sat back and buttered his roll and he ate it.”

- Kent Chevalier, *Do it Afraid*

The best passageways to hearing God’s voice are scripture and prayer.

Question: Do you want the abundant life Jesus speaks about, or are you okay settling for what the world has to offer?

Luke 11:9

And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Hearing God’s voice requires wanting it and being willing to eliminate noise from our lives.

We must eliminate noise such as excessive social media, mindless entertainment, negative relationships, and busyness.

John 5:19

So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father[a] does, that the Son does likewise.

You are designed in the image of God. You were designed to hear the voice of God.

God often speaks in whispers and questions rather than loud proclamations.

→ God asked over 300 questions in the Old Testament.

Genesis 3:8-9

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool[a] of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

God asks: **“Why are you hiding from me?”**

1 Kings 19:11-13

And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. 12 And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper.[a] 13 And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

God asks: **“What are you doing here?”**

Isaiah 6:3

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

Isaiah 6:7-8

And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.” And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

God asks: **“Do you trust me? Will you follow me?”**

God’s questions often reveal what we’re hiding from, why we’re stuck, and whether we’ll trust Him.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between merely existing and living the abundant life Jesus describes in John 10:10, and where do you find yourself on that spectrum today?
2. What specific 'noise' in your life prevents you from hearing God's voice, and what practical steps could you take to eliminate it?
3. Which of the three Old Testament questions resonates most with you right now: 'Why are you hiding?', 'What are you doing here?', or 'Will you trust me?'
4. How does the idea that compliance is for inmates but we follow God in freedom change your perspective on your relationship with Him?
5. What passageways to hearing God's voice (scripture, prayer, fasting, solitude, serving, generosity) are you currently neglecting, and why?



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