

7 Keys to Discerning the Voice of God

Habakkuk 2:1 (NIV)

I will stand at my watch
and station myself on the ramparts;
I will look to see what he will say to me,
and what answer I am to give to this
complaint.



Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)

³ ‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.’

God will speak to the hearts of those who prepare themselves to hear; and conversely, those who do not so prepare themselves will hear nothing even though the Word of God is falling upon their outer ears every Sunday.—A.W. Tozer

Having a hard time knowing what God is saying versus what others are saying? This Bible study is designed to help you know the voice of God: His language, character, and tone of voice. John 10:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

By growing closer to God through His Word, we will be able to discern God's voice from the voice of strangers.

Let's take a look at Habakkuk, a man who desperately needed to hear from God and was amazingly confident that God would indeed answer. God hears and answers prayers. When we pray we must combine our prayer with our faith which will bring about expectancy and anticipation to hear from God.

Throughout Scripture, God paints a picture of His relationship with His beloved as one in which He responds and speaks. The Bible is full of examples of people who had a relationship with God. They didn't call to God and then walk away despondent because they assumed God wouldn't respond. **On the contrary, they looked expectantly and eagerly for the**

response God would offer them.

Many of us don't really believe God will speak to us and give us directions concerning the details of our lives. We claim to believe that God speaks, but we are secretly discouraged because we don't see evidence of His voice in our lives. Hearing God begins with a believer approaching God with an expectancy that He will speak.

God wants to fellowship and communicate with us. That's two-way communication. Why? Because you can't really have a relationship unless there is true dialogue. How do we get to know a person? By communicating with them. By talking and listening.

It's the same with our relationship with God. He talks, we listen. We talk, He listens.

He also wants us to be fulfilled, blessed and successful in the plan that He has established for our lives -- so that we can be a reflection of His love and blessing in the Earth. In **Jeremiah 29:11** the Lord makes clear His intentions for you and I, 11. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

But as a child of God we don't have to walk blind. We can have confidence that we will hear His voice. The Apostle Paul writes in **Romans 8:14**, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." Conversely, this scripture implies that if we are God's children, if we are born-again, we will be led by His Spirit.

Psalm 37:23 and 24, "The steps of a good (righteous, born-again) person are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the Lord upholds him with His hand." God will order our steps, and even when we blow it, if we are truly trying to do His will, He will lift us up and give us a second chance.

Proverbs describes the way that our thoughts and intentions line up with God's will when we submit ourselves fully to the Lord. Put GOD in charge of

your work, then what you've planned will take place. ([Proverbs 16:3](#) Message Bible).

Proverbs 3 makes it even more plain. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths" ([Proverbs 3:5-6](#)).

Saints we can train our ear to recognize the voice of God above all the noise.

[Isaiah 30:21](#) says, "Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it,' Whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left."

Be careful not to listen to our own flesh, it can scream pretty loud (especially when we are under pressure, or we want something very badly). And the Devil is the father of lies -- he is the great deceiver, he also wants to speak to you.

The Bible gives us seven basic keys to help us properly discern the Voice & Leading of our God:

1. Scripture: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (II Timothy 3:16-17).
2. The Holy Spirit speaking to our heart: "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen, and everyone his brother, saying, 'know the Lord,' for all will know Me, from the least to the greatest of them" (Hebrews 8:10-11).
3. The Prophetic: Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good (I Thess. 5:19-21).

- Godly counsel: "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety" ([Proverbs 11:14](#)).
- Confirmation: "By the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed" ([Matthew 18:16](#)).
- The peace of God: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful" ([Colossians 3:15](#)).

Circumstances/Timing: "After these things he (Paul) left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them, and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working; for by trade they were tent-makers" ([Acts 18:1-3](#) -- this relationship between Paul, Aquila and Priscilla -- which happened as a result of circumstances -- became one of the most important strategic partnerships in the book of Acts).

Many times the Lord will confirm His direction to us through three, four or more of these keys -- especially when we are in the process of making an important, life-changing decision.

The bottom line, is that big decisions take big prayer. In other words, as we humble ourselves before the Lord, seek His guidance in our lives, the Good Shepherd will be faithful to lead us, "...in paths of righteousness for His name's sake" ([Psalm 23:3](#)).