

## To Hear God's Voice (Part 2)

As earlier stated, we can discern the wisdom and ways of God through nature, creation, thought as Romans 1:20 indicates *"Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what he has made."*  
***But what other ways can we discern God's voice? And how should we test/confirm it is God?***

1 John 4:1 "Beloved, do not trust every spirit but test the spirits to see whether they belong to God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Matthew 12:33 "A tree is known by its fruit" (same in Luke 6:43-44)

Matthew 7:15-16 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves. ***By their fruits you will know them.*** Do people pick grapes from thorn-bushes, or figs from thistles?"

2 Corinthians 11:13-14 "For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, who masquerade as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan masquerades as an angel of light."

***Matthew 7:20 "So by their fruits you will know them."***

Galatians 5:22-23 –Discern by the Fruits of the Holy Spirit-- "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."

### Some of the ways/means that God will speak to you:

- An actual, audible voice as at Jesus' Baptism Matthew 3:17, or Transfiguration Matt 17:5  
This means is rare. But we do read of Adam and Eve hearing God's voice in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:8), or God speaking audibly to Moses in the burning bush (Exodus 3:4-6). God spoke to the whole assembly from Mount Sinai in Exodus 20:1-22. Also, Paul hears the voice of Christ in his conversion experience on the road to Damascus in Acts 9:3-7.
- God's messengers-angels speak for God or with God's Words. To keep to the New Testament, we read about the Angel Gabriel speaking on behalf of God with his visit to Zechariah in Luke 1:18-19 and to Mary in Luke 1:26-27.
- God speaks in visions or with actions in visions. Peter's speech in Acts 2:17 quotes Joel's 3:1 prophecy that God 'will pour out of my Spirit on all flesh (that) your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams". Acts of Apostles has God communicate through several visions, such as Peter's vision of 'clean animals' in Acts 10, or Paul's own conversion foretold to Ananias in Acts 9:10, or Paul's vision of the church in Macedonia calling for help in Acts 16.
- A Divine Sign of God's Will. In Mark 11, Jesus symbolically curses a fig tree to reveal the condemnation of the current Temple and its Corruption being ended. Mark 11:12-14 says, "The next day as they were leaving Bethany Jesus was hungry. Seeing from a distance a fig tree in leaf, he went over to see if he could find anything on it. When he reached it ***he found nothing on it but leaves;*** it was not

the time for figs. And he said to it in reply, "May no one ever eat of your fruit again!" And his disciples heard it. In verse 15-19, we hear of Jesus' clearing out the Temple. Then we revisit the fig tree to discover..... picking up in verse 20 "Early in the morning, as they were walking along, they saw the fig tree withered to its roots. Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered." The Sign says it all!

- The Actual Written Word of God-Jesus' Own. John 6:63 "***The words that I speak to you are spirit and life***". And Peter says to Jesus, "'Master, to whom shall we go? You have the ***words of eternal life***" (John 6:68). Jesus is God speaking to us. Jesus tells us that "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God'" (Matt 4:4 where Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 8:3).
- God speaks/works through other People In Genesis 45:5-8, Joseph tells his brothers that God sent him away from them, to later deliver them from harm by his own work in him. Joseph says, "Do not be angry with yourselves for having sold me here. It was really for the sake of saving lives, that God sent me here ahead of you. God, therefore, sent me on ahead of you to ensure for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives in an extraordinary deliverance." And Jesus Himself said that "Where two or three are gathered in my Name, there I am in their midst" (Matthew 18:20).
- God speaks to us through our heart, conscience, sanctuary of our soul (image-likeness of God). Was it through his own conscience that Elijah heard the still, small divine whisper from God in 1 Kings 19:9-12? God speaks to us (convicts us?) in the sanctuary of our heart (created in God's image-likeness), as we read in Romans 8:26-27 "*for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because it intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will.*"

*Maybe God speaks to us more as more as we learn to recognize His Voice.*

Jesus indicated, "My sheep hear My voice" (Jn. 10:27). God is still speaking; are we listening?

John 10:4-5 "When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, *because they recognize his voice.* But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers."

John 16:12-13 "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. *He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears,* and will declare to you the things that are coming."

Matthew 13:16-17 "But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and *blessed are your ears, because they hear.* Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

