

Hearing the Voice of God — Part 2

Pastor Dave Buehring September 13, 2015

A Brief Review of Part I

1) A God Who Speaks to His People

John 10:3-5, 27

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...My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

2) Remembering Who It Is that Is Speaking to You

- a. Holy and Feared — above all else
- b. Father — who lovingly shares His life and counsel
- c. Shepherd — who guides
- d. Friend — who walked alongside

3) Cultivating a Hearing Heart — Mark 4's Parable of the Sower

- a. A Hard Heart — seed sown on the path; hard to get in, hard of hearing
- b. A Shallow Heart — immediately receive w/joy; no root; tribulation, persecution
- c. A Crowded Heart — cares/world, deceitfulness/riches, desire/other things
- d. A Fruitful Heart — accept, bear fruit = 30, 60, 100-fold

Some of the Ways God Speaks

Consider a few of the dozens of kind of ways we communicate thoughts, information, ideas and stories today:

<i>Conversations</i>	<i>YouTube</i>	<i>Signs/Billboards</i>
<i>Texting</i>	<i>Graphic Design</i>	<i>Ads</i>
<i>Emailing</i>	<i>Websites</i>	<i>Stop Lights/Air Landing</i>
<i>Books</i>	<i>Video Calls</i>	<i>Hand Signals (baseball)</i>
<i>TV</i>	<i>Songs</i>	<i>Brail</i>
<i>Radio</i>	<i>Movies</i>	<i>Online (endless...)</i>

1) Through the Scriptures

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Joshua 1:8

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Jesus referenced 49 different Old Testament verses in the Gospels. Psalms (11), Deuteronomy (10), Isaiah (8) and Exodus (7) represent the books He drew upon most.

The Apostle Paul quotes or paraphrases 100 Old Testament passages, not including dozens of references to people, places and events in the Old Testament. If you are a believer that Paul authored the book of Hebrews then you can tack on additional 83!

Acts 1:20-25

For it is written in the Book of Psalms, “May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it”; And “Let another take his office.” So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.”

To Hear God read + sing + study + reflect (meditating)

2) Through Impressions from The Holy Spirit

Isaiah 30:21

And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

Acts 8:26-38

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him...Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

3) Through Waiting on God

Waiting on God in Prayer

Luke 6:12-16

In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles...

Waiting on God in Prayer with Fasting

Nehemiah 1:2-4

And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down,

and its gates are destroyed by fire.” As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

Waiting on God in Worship

Acts 3:1-3

Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger,[a] Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

4) Through the Peace of God

Colossians 3:15

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...

Acts 15:28-29

For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well.

To Hear God peace with God + peace with one another via agreement

5) Through People

Family

Exodus 18

The next day Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood around Moses from morning till evening. When Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, “What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand around you from morning till evening?... Moses' father-in-law said to him, “What you are doing is not good. You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone. Now obey my voice; I will give you advice, and God be with you...look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. And let them judge the people at all times. Every great matter they shall bring to you, but any small matter they shall decide themselves. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace.”

Did you know that if you're married the loudest “voice of God” in you life – next to you hearing from God – is your spouse?

Spiritual Leaders

Joshua 1:10-18

And Joshua commanded the officers of the people, “Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, ‘Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving you to possess.’”...And they answered Joshua, “All that you have commanded us we will

do, and wherever you send us we will go. Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may the Lord your God be with you, as he was with Moses!

Other Believers

Acts 11:27-30

Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius). So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

6) Through Circumstances

Psalm 37:23

The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the Lord upholds his hand.

Acts 16:6-10

And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them

To Hear God In Acts 16

circumstances + 1) vision + 2) agreement

7) Through Supernatural Means (Any Way God Chooses)

The Audible Voice of God

Acts 9:3-9

Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing.

Visions and Dreams

Visions — just read in Acts 16 – Macedonia; Peter/Cornelius – Acts 10

Matthew 1:20-21

And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Angelic Visitations

Acts 12:6-11

Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

However God Chooses

Numbers 22:22-35

And the donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road, with a drawn sword in his hand. And the donkey turned aside out of the road and went into the field. And Balaam struck the donkey, to turn her into the road. Then the angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on either side. And when the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, she pushed against the wall and pressed Balaam's foot against the wall. So he struck her again. Then the angel of the Lord went ahead and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam. And Balaam's anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff. Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have made a fool of me. I wish I had a sword in my hand, for then I would kill you." And the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey, on which you have ridden all your life long to this day? Is it my habit to treat you this way?" And he said, "No." Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand. And he bowed down and fell on his face.

Daniel 5

God's hand appears and lets the king know that his rule is coming to an end...he is killed that very night.

**Summary: Some of The Ways God Speaks
Through The Scriptures
Through Impressions from The Holy Spirit
Through Waiting on God
Through the Peace of God
Through People
Through Circumstances
Through Supernatural Means (Any way God chooses!)**

Some Ways to Test Your Hearing

- 1) Does it align with the Scriptures?
***The Holy Spirit will not lead us to do something that is not in line with the Scriptures.*
- 2) Does it align with God's character and ways?
- 3) Does it bear witness to you? To those you walk with? To your spiritual leaders?

- 4) Does life, faith, hope and courage accompany it?
- 5) Triple Confirmation (three-legged stool): *Scripture + Holy Spirit in You + Others*

A Few Practical Helps

- 1) Don't make it complicated – remember, God desires to speak to you!
- 2) Always allow God to speak to you in the way He chooses. (**Walk the Word...)
- 3) God's timing is just as important as His direction.
- 4) If lost, do the last thing God showed you to do.
- 5) Prophetic Words: *Test it to see if all or part is from God. Will most often confirm things God's already been saying to you.*

Moving from Hearing to Obeying

Matthew 7:24-27

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

Revelation – Obedience – Transformation

House of Prayer

Click on "House of Prayer" on www.gracechapel.net to fill out a prayer request.
Please come join our House of Prayer, Tuesday, September 15th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.