



RECOGNIZING GOD'S VOICE

THE FOUNDATIONS-FOR-LIFE SERIES
VOLUME 5

The Foundations-For-Life Series by Rachel Burchfield
Published by Texas Bible Institute
An outreach of Burchfield Ministries International, Inc.
P.O. Box 100 Columbus, Texas 78934 U.S.A.
www.texasbibleinstitute.org www.burchfield.org

The Foundations-For-Life series was written originally to support young adults in their commitment to follow Jesus Christ. The first workbook, The Adventures of Following Jesus, was written in 1994 exclusively for the students of Texas Bible Institute. Each of the remaining nine workbooks also teach timeless truths and provide answers found in God's Word, the Holy Bible. TBI is an outreach of Burchfield Ministries International, Inc. in Columbus, Texas.

After thirty years of serving as TBI's President, Rachel Burchfield has revised her time-proven Foundations-For-Life series to equip all ages. Teens and adults can now become Strong In Life through TBI's Distance Learning Program, while the On Campus option still remains an option exclusively for 17 - 25 years of age.

The overall objective of the Foundations-For-Life series is to:
Make unshakeable disciples for Jesus Christ
Create a love for the inspired Word of God
Introduce the adventures of being a bold Bible believer

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ISBN: 978-1-7355219-4-7

Printed in the United States of America

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Printed in the United States of America

Statement of Faith
Burchfield Ministries International, Inc. believes in the inspiration of Scripture which reveals the Fatherhood of a Creator God, eternal life found only in His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in every believer for guidance, comfort, and strength. To review BMI's complete Statement of Faith, visit burchfield.org.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



1983

Dear Sons and Daughters,

Welcome to the great adventure of following Jesus Christ!

We are proud that you have chosen to build your life on God's unchanging Word. The decisions you are making during these treasured TBI months will determine the course of your life, family, and future legacy. Pastor Tommy and I both made those same choices fifty years ago!



2003

This "Foundations-For-Life" curriculum was written exclusively for our dear Texas Bible Institute students. Thousands of TBI Alumni from thirty-nine states and forty-two nations are now "Strong For Life" and fulfilling God's purpose for their lives. Now, it's your turn!

Building strong foundations occurs when you accept the inspired Word of God as the final authority in your life. Once you learn that the Bible is a living love letter from your Father, it will become a joy. Settle it forever that God is good, His ways are perfect, and miracles still happen.



2021

So, dear one, read and re-read this workbook until you've "made it your own." As you mature in Christ, these writings will serve as reference manuals for your own miracle moments, and you'll be Strong For Life.

In His Joy,

Pastors Tommy and Rachel Burchfield

Founder and President, Texas Bible Institute

"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 3:11

WHAT WE BELIEVE

GOD IS
OUR FATHER



As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him. Psalm 103:13

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort...

II Corinthians 1:3

JESUS CHRIST IS
OUR SAVIOR



For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John. 3:16

I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6

THE HOLY SPIRIT
EQUIPS BELIEVERS



However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth. John 16:13

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to Me... to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8

THE HOLY BIBLE
CAN BE TRUSTED



Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." Matthew 24:35

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. II Timothy 3:16

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	From The Desk Of The President	iii
	What We Believe	iv
Chapter 1	The Voice Is Real	1
	• <i>Ten Bible Examples</i>	3
	• <i>Hearing vs. Recognizing</i>	4
	• <i>Devotional - Your Promise From Jesus (Part One)</i>	8
Chapter 2	The Voice Is Everywhere	9
	• <i>Six Silent Sermons Of Creation</i>	11
	• <i>Preparing Your Heart</i>	12
	• <i>Devotional - Your Promise From Jesus (Part Two)</i>	16
Chapter 3	The Written Voice	17
	• <i>God's Four Megaphones</i>	19
	• <i>20 Ways God Speaks Today - Part One</i>	20
	• <i>Devotional - Test This Voice</i>	24
Chapter 4	The Inward Voice	25
	• <i>20 Ways God Speaks Today - Part Two</i>	27
	• <i>The Believer's Inward Witness</i>	28
	• <i>Devotional - Test This Voice</i>	32
Chapter 5	The Spirit's Voice	33
	• <i>20 Ways God Speaks Today - Part Three</i>	35
	• <i>Dreams, Visions, Angels...</i>	36
	• <i>Devotional - Test This Voice</i>	40
Chapter 6	The Confirming Voice	41
	• <i>20 Ways God Speaks Today - Part Four</i>	43
	• <i>Confirmations, Circumstances...</i>	43
	• <i>Devotional - Test This Voice</i>	48
Chapter 7	Protection From Deception	49
	• <i>How To Test Those Voices In Your Head</i>	51
	• <i>FAQ About Hearing God's Voice</i>	53
	• <i>Devotional - Test This Voice</i>	55
Chapter 8	God, Is That Really You?	57
	• <i>Turning The Volume Up</i>	59
	• <i>The "I've-Heard-From-God" Checklist</i>	61
	• <i>Devotional - Test This Voice</i>	63
Addendum	• <i>Answer Key and Credits</i>	65
	• <i>True Stories by Rachel</i>	66
	• <i>TBI World Alumni Association</i>	71
	• <i>20 Ways God Speaks Today</i>	72

*I am His sheep, and I know His
voice and the voice of a stranger
I will not follow.*

Jn. 10:4

Chapter 1

THE VOICE IS REAL



Does God speak to people *today*? Does He speak only to *His VIPs* such as Billy Graham or the Catholic Pope? Throughout history, men and women of great prominence have acknowledged *the voice of God* in their lives.



YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

PSALM 33:9

For He spoke, and it was done.

PSALM 29:4

The voice of the LORD is powerful.

Looking Ahead:

- This Voice creates
- This Voice guides and guards
- Two starting questions

*God's Word is a love
letter sent from Home.*

Reading scripture aloud enhances comprehension.

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH THE AGES

32 AD *"My sheep know My voice."*

God's voice told Me to share the Father's love with His people. Those who hear My voice will also hear His. -*Jesus Christ, Savior*

385 AD *"Take up and read."*

God's voice came to me in a sing-song way, and my eyes fell upon Romans 13:3-4. From juvenile delinquent to scholar to monk to bishop, I wrote 22 volumes defending Christianity. -*Augustine of Hippo*

1517 *"The righteous shall live by faith."*

God's voice revealed that my good works as a monk couldn't earn me heaven. His voice provoked my 95 theses nailed to the Catholic Church door, beginning the Protestant Reformation. -*Martin Luther, Reformer*

1849 *"Lead My people to freedom!"*

God's voice led me to make 19 trips back to the South to help 300 fellow slaves to safety. Slaveholders posted \$40,000 for my capture, but God told me how to escape. -*Harriet Tubman*

1878 *"Raise an army for social relief."*

God's voice was sounding in my ear, "Where can you go and find such heathen as these? Where is there so great a need for your laborers?" Currently, 25,000 officers in 91 countries are marching on. -*William Booth, First General of The Salvation Army*

1960 *"Proclaim the gospel to the world by television."*

God's voice told me to put my law degree from Yale on hold and purchase a bankrupt UHF television station with only \$70 in my pocket. Fifty years later, we have reached 170 nations and 70 languages. -*M.G. "Pat" Robertson, Founder of Christian Broadcasting Network*

1965 *"Build a university that ministers to the whole man."*

God's voice called me to build ORU. The world of Academia mocked me, but, eventually, U.S. News 2021 listed it among "Best Regional Colleges." Over 4,000 students and five doctoral programs. -*Oral Roberts, Oral Roberts University Founder*

1969 *"Carry a cross around the world."*

God's voice called me to carry a 12-foot cross and point people to Jesus Christ. Since 1969 I have walked 43,000 miles across 324 nations. Arrested 24 times. One pair of shoes lasts 500 miles. -*Arthur Blessit*

2020 *"I'm bringing you many sons and many daughters."*

God's voice inspired me to consolidate my thirty years of TBI curriculum and create an online school for all ages; 39 states, 42 nations, and counting. -*Pastor Rachel Burchfield, President, Texas Bible Institute*

THE REALITY OF THIS VOICE

Many people wonder if God speaks to men today. Even though most don't expect God to talk to them personally, they recognize the validity of His voice. They supposed that if God does speak to men, it is only to His VIPs such as Billy Graham or the Catholic Pope. Do you believe in God? Do you believe that He wants to speak to you?

Once you have confirmed the existence of a Supreme Being, you will be faced with yet another decision. Do you believe, as the Deists do, that He is simply a Cosmic God regulating the Universe or a personal God? Is His task to create the universe or heal your heart? Many say God does speak to men, but only to those of Sovereign importance.

History records many prominent leaders such as Christopher Columbus, Benjamin Franklin, and George Frideric Handel received instructions from God. Scientists, musicians, politicians, and leaders in every sphere of influence credit divine instructions to their success.

Since this book was written from a biblical perspective, we will forego the historical accounts and dissect the Scriptures on this subject. Scriptures record that God did speak to man concerning a wide variety of subjects.

The “Who” Behind This Voice

Is this the voice of a cosmic god or a personal covenant God? Yes to both. The psalmist answers this question in two distinct divisions. “The heavens declare the glory of God...there is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.” He is the cosmic evangelist. God is shouting at you through clouds, blue expanses, stars, and golden sunsets saying, “I AM here. I AM glorious. I want you to know Me.”

- Psalm 19:1-6 The Creator-God (Elohim)
- Psalm 19:7-14 Our personal, Covenant-God (Yahweh)

Learning To Recognize

Many people do hear God's voice, but they don't recognize it. Even when God began and ended Jesus' earthly ministry with an audible voice, people thought it was thunder.

The audible voice of God startled the crowd standing nearby. Some thought it was only thunder, yet others said, “An angel just spoke to him!” Jn.12:29 TPT, Mat. 3:17

Samuel Heard, But Didn't Recognize

God is speaking to you more than you realize. Perhaps you are like young Samuel in the Bible story found in I Samuel chapter three. He heard God's voice but didn't recognize it. When the Lord called his name in the nighttime, he thought that Eli, the priest, had called him. Eli taught Samuel how to recognize the voice of God. He taught Samuel exactly what to do and say. That is the purpose of this workbook. We are going to help you recognize the voice of God. Are you ready? It's pretty easy!

Behind this Voice is a Creator-Father-God.

THE “WHAT” BEHIND THIS VOICE

What topics does God discuss? Here are ten Bible examples for you to mix and match.

SCRIPTURE	WHO	SUBJECT
Genesis 1:28	_____	Life Assignment
Genesis 12:1	_____	Geographic Move
Exodus 3:14	_____	Reality of God’s Presence
Joshua 1:8	_____	Military Strategy
Jeremiah 1:4-5	_____	Commission
Daniel 11:12	_____	Political Prophecy
Matthew 2:13	_____	Son’s Protection
Mark 10:21	_____	Priorities in Life
Matthew 17:27	_____	Finances - Taxes
Acts 13:2	_____	Missionary Journey

WHO

<i>Barnabas & Paul</i>	<i>Jeremiah</i>	<i>Moses</i>	<i>Abraham</i>	<i>Joshua</i>
<i>Adam</i>	<i>Joseph</i>	<i>Peter</i>	<i>Daniel</i>	<i>Rich, young ruler</i>

These great men of God heard God’s voice. If He spoke to people in the Bible, then He is still speaking to people today because Malachi 3:6 says, “For I am the LORD, I change not.” Thank God you don’t serve a cosmic God who busies Himself only with the control of the universe. You serve a personal God who speaks to you about the things most intimately important.



BE TEACHABLE.

PS. 25:4

God speaks to quiet hearts.

The “Where” Is This Voice?

- Elijah learned it was “not in the strong wind, earthquake or fire, but in the still small voice.”
1 Kings 19:12
- In the Old Testament, that Voice was _____ you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it.” *Is. 30:21*
- In the New Testament, that Voice has moved _____ of you.

The “Why” Behind This Voice?

God is a loving Father and cares about your personal needs and desires. When you are worried about a loved one or applying for a new job, He cares. He will listen and respond to anything important to you. That’s what fathers do!

Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. 1 Pet. 5:7

On a larger scale, God is orchestrating a greater plan for His church and our earth. Don’t you want to be a part of His masterpiece? God speaks to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways. In most biblical examples, the “Why” behind the voice focuses on His purposes, not their problems. So, let’s think bigger and jump into the middle of God’s great plan. When His heart becomes your goal, His voice will become loud.

The “How” Behind The Voice

Are you ready to hear His voice? Two simple questions can get you started. Saul, the religious leader persecuting the early Christians, asked these questions first. His encounter with the Voice changed everything.

And he said, **“Who are You, Lord?”** Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” So he, trembling and astonished, said, **“Lord, what do You want me to do?”**

Write Saul’s two questions and make it your personal prayer:

Acts 9:5 _____

Acts 9:6 _____

A mysterious Voice has guided humanity for 6,000 years.

THE VOICE IS REAL

01

Everything seen and unseen is a result of a Voice.

02

The Voice belongs to a Creator-God who is also our Father-God.

03

It's common for people to hear, but not recognize God's voice.

04

Two simple questions from Acts 9:5-6 will welcome that Voice.



Supporting Scriptures

Ps. 29:3

Ps. 29:4

Ps. 33:4

Ps. 33:9

I Sam. 3:8

II Sam. 22:14

Jn. 10:4

Ac. 9:5-6

Your Promise From Jesus (Part One)

*And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them;
and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Jn.10:4*

1. Are you sure you are His sheep? When did you trust Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior? _____

2. What is Jesus' promise to His sheep in this scripture? _____

Settle this forever! When you got born again, you received the ability to know His voice. That is what Jesus promised you! Let's put that promise into action right now by declaring this confession of faith out loud. A confession of faith is a statement that agrees with what God has said.

{ God's Word in my mouth releases God's power in My life. }

Call To Action: Close your eyes and declare that confession of faith right now three times.



God talks most about things that are on His calendar.

Reflection



HAPPY HEART TIP!

Be thankful for God's
GOODNESS

PS. 107:1

The password to God's heart is "thank you."

Chapter 2

THE VOICE IS EVERYWHERE



A respected psychologist announced his "*newfound*" antidote to prevent depression and nurture mental health. His answer? *Return to nature*. A day at the beach or a walk in the park. Hmm... sounds like the psalmist beat this current expert by a few millennia.



YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

PSALM 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.

PSALM 46:10

Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

LOOKING AHEAD

- Creation's message
- Learn to marvel
- Heart prep

*God's Word changes
you from the inside out.*

Reading scripture aloud enhances comprehension.

THE VOICE IS EVERYWHERE

Our magnificent God speaks to everyone, everywhere, every day without uttering a word. How does He express this silent message of His unfailing love?

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS CREATIONS

Be still and know that I am God. Ps. 46:10

The Bible isn't a book of rules or a book of heroes. The Bible is, most of all, a story. A love story about God's non-verbal communication comes to us daily through His creation. He reveals Himself through the physical world we refer to as nature. Whether you are marveling at the majesty of the Grand Canyon or the wings of a hummingbird, nature testifies of God's existence and affirms certain facts about God. Through His creations, He speaks daily to believers and unbelievers.

To hear His "voice" through nature, you'll need to learn to be still and wonder in awe of His intricate detail. This week alone, He shouted, "I am here!" to me through a brilliant sunrise rocking four shades of pink and a red-headed woodpecker with distinctive black markings. Why did He do that? He is sending me His "winks and whispers" of love. All of creation was made for our pleasure, and when you notice, it pleases Him. Behind the creation is a Creator. Behind every design is a Designer.

SILENT SERMONS - PSALM 19

The scriptures recorded in Psalm 19:1-6 describe our Creator's silent sermons spoken daily to a world that wonders where He is.

Sermon #1 - God is Real

- Ps. 19:1 - *The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork.*
- God says, "Gaze at My starry sky. I'm here. I'm real."

Sermon #2 - God Is Faithful

- Ps. 19:2 - *Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.*
- God says, "I am as predictable as day and night."

Sermon #3 - God Has No Language Barriers

- Ps. 19:3 - *There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.*
- Our response to God's creations is the same in every language ... "WOW!"

Sermon #4 - God's Presence Has No Geographic Barriers

- Ps. 19:4 - *Their line (sound) has gone out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world.*
- God says, "I'm everywhere."

Sermon #5 - God's Care Is Constant And Central

- Ps. 19:5 - *In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices like a strong man to run its race.*
- God is like the sun; constant and central to our existence.

Sermon #6 - God Sees Everything

- Ps. 19:6 - *Its rising is from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end; and there is nothing hidden from its heat.*
- God says, "No one can hide from the sun; no one can hide from Me."



BE STILL.

Ps. 46:10

God speaks to quiet hearts.

FOUR WAYS TO PREPARE YOUR HEART

God speaks to quiet hearts. Learning to turn off conflicting noises and be inwardly still takes time. Are you ready to be a listener, not a talker? His voice reveals His heart and His heart is wise, kind, and loving.



HEART CHECK

I want God to speak to me as long as I like what He says.

Amen!

Ouch!

I want to speak to God about what's important to me.

Amen!

Ouch!

God can talk about what's important to Him.

Amen!

Ouch!

I'll listen as long as He speaks before my 10pm bedtime.

Amen!

Ouch!

God speaks mostly through His Word and during personal prayer. Prayer is basking in His presence, listening as much as talking. Questions and attitudes melt in His presence. Most answers come from getting to know Him.

THESE FOUR WORDS WILL MAKE RESPONDING TO GOD'S VOICE EASY:

Wait

Reveal

Adjust

Obey

1. "WAIT ON THE LORD"

Waiting on the Lord is not a passive exercise as in waiting in a long line and twiddling your thumbs. A better description would be that of a waiter who is focused on meeting his customer's requests, knowing that he'll soon be rewarded.

When you need to hear His voice on a matter, purpose in your heart to 'wait on the Lord' for one week. How? Sit in His presence for 15 minutes. Meditate on Isaiah 64:4, the "God who acts for the one who waits for Him." Don't rush His visit. Serve Him praise when He asks for it, and if He requests adoring worship on the side, do it! Waiting on the Lord always brings a reward. He's the best tipper that you'll ever know!



Behind the creation is a Creator.

- **Mary sat at Jesus' feet**

*As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, **who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.** Luke 10:38-39 NIV*

This woman waited on the Lord by giving focused attention to the Word. Remember, Jesus is the Word (*John 1:1*). When you read the Word, you are spending time with Jesus.

As you genuinely wait upon the Lord, you'll notice priorities and perceptions in your heart will begin to change; attitudes, motives, desires. What's happening? God is beginning to speak to you. God is revealing Himself to you.

2. ACKNOWLEDGE WHAT GOD REVEALS

As you read your Bible, your Bible reads you. You'll be "drawn" to a specific scripture which means that you'll notice or be reminded of a scripture. Read it over and over. God is speaking to you. He is revealing His heart. Sometimes you'll know exactly what He's referring to, and you won't have a clue other times.

Let's say that you read Romans chapter 14. Read slowly and prayerfully. While you enjoy the entire chapter, you are specifically "drawn, curious or inspired" by verse 19, which says,

So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up. Rm. 14:19 NLT

Instantly, you think of a roommate that irritates you. You think of her alarm clock that rings so loudly. Your thoughts run through the get-to-class routines and your verbal jab, a payback for ruining your morning. The finger of God touches your lousy attitude, and His Word becomes a flashlight shining on the darkness in your heart. Dear one, you're having a G.V. moment! (God's Voice) God has spoken to you. He has revealed His heart on the matter.

3. ADJUST YOUR ATTITUDE

Trust demands a response. Once the truth has been revealed, your heart will get bitter or better. In this case, you are certain that the unity-building scripture found in Romans 14:19 was His voice. It's your turn to respond. Will you listen? Perhaps you can say, *"Oh, Lord, I didn't realize my attitude to her was that big of a deal, but forgive me. Let me see her through Your eyes."*

Adjusting your heart to His heart means that you say, *"Lord, I agree with You that my attitude towards my roommate is wrong."* Take responsibility for your heart and leave your roomie with God.

Every sunrise shouts, "There is a God!"

4. OBEY HIS VOICE

Obedying the voice of God quickly is essential. If you want to hear God's voice twice, you need to obey Him once. You can agree with God that you need to adjust your life to His heart, but your actions continue to silence His voice in your life until you actually obey. I've obeyed many times with gritted teeth and clenched fists. Jesus said,

"If you love Me, keep My commandments." Jn. 14:15

LET'S REVIEW PREPARING YOUR HEART TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 1. I _____ on the Lord. | A. Obey |
| 2. He _____ His heart. | B. Adjust |
| 3. I _____ my heart to His. | C. Reveal |
| 4. I _____ His Word. | D. Wait |

THE VOICE IS EVERYWHERE

01

God speaks to us through the beautiful intricacy of His creations.

02

Behind all creation is a Creator.

03

The first step to hear God's voice is to learn how to have a quiet heart.

04

Prepare to hear His voice in four words; wait, reveal, adjust and obey.



Supporting Scriptures

Gen. 1:3

Ps. 19:1-6

Is. 64:4

Ps. 8:3

Ps. 37:7

Rom. 1:20

Your Promise From Jesus (Part Two)

I am the Good Shepherd [and My Sheep] will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers. Jn. 10:11, Jn. 10:5

Who did Jesus say He was in John 10:11? _____

List six strangers who frequently try to influence you:

_____	Ps. 1:1	_____	II Cor. 11:13
_____	Ps. 1:1	_____	II Cor. 11:13
_____	Ps. 1:1	_____	II Cor. 11:14

Confession of Faith
I am His sheep and I hear His Voice.
And the voice of the stranger, I will not follow.

Call To Action: Declare this confession of faith right now out loud three times.

Settle this. A concession of faith is a declaration of what God has said. The distinction between staying vs. declaring involves mixing faith with your words. To declare means, "God said it and I believe it."



Marvelling at God's creations, big and small, reminds you of His love.

Reflection: _____

HAPPY HEART TIP!

Be thankful for God's
CREATIVITY

PS. 40:5

Chapter 3

THE WRITTEN VOICE



College chemistry introduced me to *litmus paper*. Just one dipping revealed instantly whether the solution was *acidic or alkaline*. There is a litmus test for hearing God's voice, too. Dip that "voice" into the written *Word of God*, and you'll instantly know whether it's *truth or deception*.



YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

JOHN 10:4

And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

PSALM 19:7

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

LOOKING AHEAD

- The loudest voice
- The litmus test
- Toss out the old!

*When you read the Bible,
the Bible reads you.*

Reading scripture aloud enhances comprehension.

GOD'S FOUR MEGAPHONES

God's voice is amplified through four microphones, but all twenty expressions flow through the inward man. The top two megaphones (The Written Voice and Inward Voice) take preeminence, requiring the lower two to align completely. Believers who understand that God speaks only to their born-again inner man will learn quickly how to recognize His voice.



THE WRITTEN VOICE

God speaks primarily through His written Word. When you read your Bible, God is speaking to you. God's Word, the Holy Bible, is actually a written document of His voice. It is the inspired collection of His words and a legal copy of His will. It is a description of His nature; Who He is, and what He does. Your time-proven Bible is a collection of 66 books written by 40 authors over 1,600 years and has been meticulously copied and sovereignly preserved through the ages. The Old Testament was written for the nation of Israel. The New Testament was written for the Church. Remember that!

TEN FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE

Find these answers in the paragraph above.

- A _____ document of His voice
- A _____ collection of His words
- A _____ of His will
- A description of His _____
- _____
- There are _____ books.
- Written by _____ authors over _____ years
- Meticulously _____ and sovereignly _____

THREE WAYS GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD

God's voice and God's Word will always agree. Test every voice you hear by the written Word of God. Let's examine the three ways God speaks through His written Word:

1. THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

*God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days **spoken to us by His Son...** Heb. 1:1 NKJV*

God speaks to you predominantly through the words and example of Jesus. It's safe to say that when people listened to Jesus, they were hearing God's voice. That applies to you, too. Jesus' sermons and actions are recorded in the four _____. **If you want to hear God's voice, read the words of Jesus over and over. My suggestion is to purchase a Red Letter Edition of the New Testament with the words of Christ in red.**

What Did Jesus Say About His Words?

1. His words came directly from God.

The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in you, He does the works. Jn. 14:10

When you read the Bible, you are hearing God's voice.

2. His words are spiritual capsules of life.
It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I have spoken are spirit and life. Jn. 6:63
3. His words will live forever.
Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Mat. 24:35, Mk. 13:31, Lk. 21:33
4. The Holy Spirit will remind His disciples of what He said.
...the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Jn. 14:26

Want more? Jn. 7:16, Jn. 8:26, Jn. 12:49-50, Jn. 14:24

2. THE NEW TESTAMENT

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and **training in righteousness**. II Tim. 3:16 ESV*

The New Testament is the manual for the Church, so it is the predominant source of guidance for born again Jesus followers. Is it more important than the Old Testament? No, but it is more applicable. (*More on that later.*)

When you read “*Love one another*” in John 13:35, that is God’s voice speaking to you. When you read, “*With God, all things are possible*” in Matthew 19:26, that is God’s voice speaking to you. Some people read the Bible as if it were a buffet, picking and choosing what they want, but it’s much wiser to honor every precious word as if He was personally reading it aloud to you.

A consistent reading of God’s Word is the single most important habit that will help you recognize God’s voice in your life. When you read the Bible, you are hearing His voice.

3. THE OLD TESTAMENT PRINCIPLES

God still speaks to His children through the promises and principles of the Old Testament, but none of the Old Testament laws are binding to the Christian. The key to understanding the relationship between a Christian and the Law is knowing that the Law of Moses was given to the nation of Israel, not Christians. Does that make the Old Testament irrelevant? No, but it makes it inapplicable.

Basing your life on the Old Testament is like obeying the rules of your elementary school when you’ve moved on to high school. You’re a disciple of Jesus now. You should treasure the Old Testament principles, but the rules no longer apply to you. When Jesus died on the cross, He put an end to the Old Testament law. If this worries you, relax. Every Old Testament principle that applies to believers today is included in the words of Jesus who said in Matthew 5:17, “*Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.*” See Rom. 10:4, Gal. 3:23, Eph. 2:15



Settle this! Jesus said, “My sheep know My voice.” Jn. 10:4

SO, HOW DOES GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT?

Study these five areas:

- The _____ of God Ex. 34:6
- The _____ names of God (*Jehovah - Jireh, etc*)
- God's _____ to His people
- The _____ and patterns of how God deals with people
- The 50+ types and shadows which _____ to Jesus Christ

Four Voices No Longer Apply

God spoke to His people in the Old Testament in 12 different ways, but four of them do not apply to New Testament believers. These are the four which have been replaced by the believer's inner witness:

- **The Law of Moses** - Christ fulfilled the Law, so Christians no longer hear God's voice through those 600+ laws.
- **Urim and Thummim** (Ex. 28:30) - Two precious stones kept in a special pouch and used to get direction from God. Similar to casting lots.
- **Through Animals** (Num. 22:21-31) - A talking donkey? When Balaam, the prophet, chose to rebel against God's instruction, his donkey saw an angel and spoke to Balaam.
- **A Fleece** (Jdg. 6:36) - An expression that means to ask God for a sign. Gideon threw out a fleece (lamb's skin) and bargained with God, "If I wake up and this fleece is dry, I'll lead your army."

GOD'S VOICE CHECKLIST:

_____ God speaks through His written Word.

_____ What does Jesus say about it?

_____ Is this voice in agreement with the loving, redemptive nature of Father God?

_____ Do the principles of the Old Testament support this?



LET'S REVIEW GOD'S FOUR MEGAPHONES:

The _____ Voice

Words of Jesus, New Testament, Old Testament principles

The Inward Voice

The Spirit's Voice

The Confirming Voice



BE IMMOVABLE.

Ps. 62:6

THE WRITTEN VOICE

01

God's Voice has 20 expressions heard through 4 megaphones.

02

God speaks predominantly through His written Word.

03

God's voice and God's Word will always agree.

04

Test every voice by the words and example of Jesus.



Supporting Scriptures

Jn. 10:4

Ps. 119:89

II Tim. 3:16

Ps. 19:7

Rom. 15:4

Heb. 1:1

Test This Voice!

"Lee's almost six years old. Should I tell him that he's adopted?"

1 Start with the Word...

Does the Bible specifically address this topic?

YES _____ That's settled. The end.
NO ☒ I'll expect an inner witness.

2 Depend on the Spirit...

What did the Holy Spirit put in your spirit?

A Scripture? _____

A Song? _____

 Streetlight Red Green Yellow

3 Trust your inner Witness...

Based on the Spirit's "nod or no," I will...

 Reject that voice ☒
 Accept that voice _____

"Give your tithe to that unemployed neighbor."

1 Start with the Word...

Does the Bible specifically address this topic?

YES ☒ That's settled. The end.
NO _____ I'll expect an inner witness.

2 Depend on the Spirit...

What did the Holy Spirit put in your spirit?

A Scripture? Malachi 3:10

A Song? _____

 Streetlight Red Green Yellow

3 Trust your inner Witness...

Based on the Spirit's "nod or no," I will...

 Reject that voice ☒
 Accept that voice _____

try!
it!

HAPPY HEART TIP!

Be thankful for God's
MERCY

PS. 86:5

The password to God's heart is "thank you."

Chapter 4

THE INWARD VOICE



Imagine swallowing a cell phone!

When someone called with a gift or invitation, you would hear the ringer in your belly. Your spirit man is very much like a cell phone. It needs to be fully charged and waiting for His call.



YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

ROMANS 8:16

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

COLOSSIANS 3:15

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

LOOKING AHEAD

- The quietest voice
- The Nod or the No
- Five types of quiet

*Build your life on the
unchanging Word of God.*

Reading scripture aloud enhances comprehension.

THE INWARD VOICE

The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord. Prov. 27:20

There are five examples listed below of how God's Inward Voice speaks, and all of them occur in your inner man.

1. BELIEVER'S INNER WITNESS

The Spirit Himself testifies and confirms together with our spirit [assuring us] that we [believers] are children of God. Rom. 8:16 Amp

When the Bible is silent on a topic, the Holy Spirit communicates His guidance through an inner witness. For example, how will you know which gym to join or when to tell your son he was adopted? Such topics are not specifically mentioned in your Bible, so Father God gave you a "knower" which the Scriptures describe as an inner witness.

Before you were God's child, your decisions were at the mercy of well-meaning opinions from others. But as a believer, you no longer need to depend on an outer witness, such as secular experts, because you have an inner witness *"from the Holy One, and you know all things."* 1 Jn. 2:20

God's GPS - The Nod Or the "No"

A respected psychologist was interviewing a brilliant child on a wide variety of topics. He was amazed at the confidence of this kid and awarded him the title of genius. "I'm not a genius, sir," admitted the 10-year-old. *"My dad was sitting behind you, answering your questions with a nod or a no. I just copied him."* Believers are like that smart kid. The Spirit will give you an inner nod or a no. Copy Him, and you'll always succeed.

Paul's inward witness became an internal GPS and guided his missionary journey. Did the Holy Spirit put into his spirit a "Nod or a No"?

Acts 16:6 _____

Acts 16:7 _____

Wait For An S-S-S! (A Scripture, A Song, Or A Streetlight)

Another explanation of how the Believer's Inner Witness operates is through an S-S-S. When you need anything from the Lord, check your inner man first. Sometimes the Holy Spirit imparts a Spirit-selected scripture or song while other times, you'll receive an inner red light, green light, or yellow light. The Holy Ghost knows everything, and the Holy Ghost is always right. That means that your inner witness is never wrong. Never. You can always depend on your inner witness.

The One who knows it all has moved inside of you.

SIX FAQs ABOUT THE BELIEVER'S INWARD WITNESS

Q. What is the believer's inner witness?

A. The believer's inner witness is an impression that the Holy Spirit communicates to a Christian's human spirit. It is not a voice but a knowing.

Q. What is the best scripture that explains the believer's Inward Witness?

A. *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. Rom. 8:16*

Q. Why is the believer's inner witness necessary?

A. When the written Word of God is silent on a topic, the Holy Spirit communicates the specific answer needed through the believer's inward witness. (*Relationship issues, starting a business, daily decisions, etc.*)

Q. What are the three benefits for this inner witness?

A. The believer's inner witness functions in three ways: 1) Assurance of your salvation; 2) Divine guidance; 3) Assistance in personal worship

Q. Is the inner witness different from the voice of God?

A. Yes. God's voice is more authoritative, while your inner witness speaks through impressions and peace.

Q. How will I know if I've made the right decision?

A. Your spirit man will never be wrong. Never. If correct, you'll sense an inward peace or abounding joy well up in your heart. If you don't, stop and pray again.

For Girls Only

Our daughter and I were on a limited timetable to find her perfect wedding dress. After a few dead ends, she said, *"I sense we're supposed to go to that store in Katy and not wait for our Friday appointment. Let's go right now."* Sure enough, her perfect dress had just arrived for a 48-hour trunk show. Had we waited until her Friday appointment, it would have been gone.

The Holy Ghost knows everything, and the Holy Ghost is always right.

Trust Your Spirit, Not Emotions

Emotions are powerful and can be deceptive. A sad song might stir up some "liver quiver," but God only speaks to your spirit. Man is a triune being:

You are a spirit. You have a soul. You live in a body.

This can be illustrated as a train with the spirit as the engine and the emotions as the caboose. When God communicates with you, His Spirit speaks directly to your (*human, recreated*) spirit.



BE SECURE.

PS. 91:1

God speaks to quiet hearts.

WHAT ARE OTHER DESCRIPTIONS OF YOUR SPIRIT MAN?

_____ Inward man	A. <i>II Cor. 4:16</i>
_____ The spirit of man	B. <i>Eph. 3:16</i>
_____ Inward man	C. <i>Rom. 7:22</i>
_____ Inner man	D. <i>I Pet. 3:4</i>
_____ The hidden man	E. <i>I Cor. 2:11</i>

Two Spirits - Divine and Human

Three Bible verses put the divine Spirit and the human spirit together, and each for a particular reason. Notice the capital "S" and the lowercase "s" making. What does this teach us? It shows us the three essential roles of the human spirit to receive the voice of God.

- A distinction between Holy Spirit and the human spirit
That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Jn. 3:6
- Our assurance of salvation
The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. Rom. 8:16
- Proper worship explained
God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. Jn. 4:24

Two Spirits Mingled Together

But He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. I Cor. 6:17

By this verse, we can see that the two spirits are mingled together as "one spirit." This doesn't mean a loss of distinction occurs between the two. The Spirit is still divine, and our human spirit is still human, but they are united as one. For example, hot tea is a single beverage, but with two different ingredients: water and tea. When brewed, the two are mingled together as one.

2. THE INWARD VOICE IN PRAYER

Cast your care on Him, for He cares for you. I Pet. 5:7

Prayer is a two-sided conversation with your Heavenly Father. You can pray about everything. Nothing is too insignificant because He loves you as a father loves His child. After you have poured your heart out in prayer, take time to be quiet and listen for His reply. It will come through your inner witness. Does God speak through your thoughts? Yes, but it came through your spirit and bubbled up to your mind. God speaks only to your spirit man.

God gave you a "knower," so you can confidently know.

3. THE INWARD VOICE AND PEACE

Let the peace of God rule (act as an umpire) in your heart. Colossians 3:15 AMP

God speaks through peace in your inner man. Peace is like an umpire, and the umpire is always right. When He says, "You're s-s-s-a-a-f-f-e!" you're safe.

Following inner peace often requires you to do things contrary to your common sense. I've saved thousands of dollars by being led by peace. The Holy Spirit knows where the traffic jams and super sales are! Sometimes opportunities arrive that seem promising, but "all that glitters is not gold." After the excitement settles, you had better listen to your "knower." You will sense either a calm peace or a troubling in your spirit. The moment you've lost your peace, stop and go back to where you left it. Follow peace, and you will follow God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:7 NIV

Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down... Phil. 4:7 MSG

4. THE INWARD VOICE AND PROMPTINGS

Another way that God speaks through your inward witness is through promptings, which are those nudges or suggestions from your inner man. I liken them to the vibration mode on your cell phone. You won't hear it, but you'll feel it. It isn't quite as loud as His voice, but He is certainly talking to you. God speaks to you regularly through "promptings." It's an easy way to begin to recognize God's voice. Here are some common examples:

- A prompting to drive home from work on a different route
- A prompting to send an encouraging text
- A prompting to get up earlier to spend time in God's Word
- A prompting to check your bank balance

5. THE INWARD VOICE AND DESIRES

God doesn't always speak in flashy ways, such as prophetic dreams and visions. Quite often, He drops His ideas into your heart. God's voice is disguised as a growing desire within you. We knew a retired man who wanted to help single moms with their home maintenance issues. He was a fix-it type guy, and it eventually developed into an outreach at his church. Read this scripture slowly to understand this powerful process.

[Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight. Ph. 2:13 Ampc

Another translation says, "...giving you the motivation and determination..."

If a desire continues to grow, maybe God is speaking to you. See examples on page 66.

When the Bible is silent on a topic, depend on your inner witness.

THE INWARD VOICE

01

God speaks to believers through an inward witness.

02

The inner witness is the Holy Spirit speaking directly to your (recreated) human spirit.

03

God speaks through gentle nudges, which are called promptings.

04

God's voice is often disguised as a growing desire in your heart.



Supporting Scriptures

Rom. 8:16

II Cor. 4:16

Ph. 4:7

Prv. 20:27

I Cor. 6:17

Col. 3:15

Test This Voice!

"I've had an abortion, yet I'm leading this Bible study. I'm such a hypocrite."

1

*Start with
the Word...*

Does the Bible
specifically address
this topic?

YES ☒ That's settled. The end.
NO ☐ I'll expect an inner witness.

2

*Depend on
the Spirit...*

What did the Holy
Spirit put in your
spirit?

A Scripture? I John 1:9
A Song? _____



Streetlight

Red Green Yellow

3

*Trust your
inner Witness...*

Based on the
Spirit's "nod or no,"
I will...

 Reject that voice ☒
 Accept that voice ☐

"Ask your boss for a raise next week."

1

*Start with
the Word...*

Does the Bible
specifically address
this topic?

YES ☐ That's settled. The end.
NO ☒ I'll expect an inner witness.

2

*Depend on
the Spirit...*

What did the Holy
Spirit put in your
spirit?

A Scripture? Hebrews 13:5
A Song? _____



Streetlight

Red Green Yellow

3

*Trust your
inner Witness...*

Based on the
Spirit's "nod or no,"
I will...

 Reject that voice ☒
 Accept that voice ☐

try
it!

HAPPY HEART TIP!

Be thankful for
God's GRACE

EPH. 2:8

The password to God's heart is "thank you."

Chapter 5

THE SPIRIT'S VOICE



This is the Church's finest hour!

The Holy Spirit is calling ordinary people to do extraordinary things. If you give God your 'natural,' He will give you His 'super,' and together, you will be supernatural!



YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

REVELATION 2:7

He who has an ear, let him hear
what the Spirit says to the churches.

II CORINTHIANS 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the
Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.

LOOKING AHEAD

- The Wildest Voice
- Supernatural ways
- God, is that you?

God's Word is a seed.

Reading scripture aloud enhances comprehension.

THE SPIRIT'S VOICE

Some exciting news comes to you today from Joel 2:28! The prophet Joel saw and described the Holy Spirit's outpouring upon the Church today.

*And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will **pour My Spirit out** upon all flesh; and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men will dream dreams and your young men shall see visions. Joel 2:28*

Jesus releases His Spirit to anyone who calls out to Him. He brings hope, healing, joy, and purpose in the most miraculous ways. You can fully expect God to speak to you through all seven expressions of the Spirit's voice.

He that has ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says. Rev. 2:7

EXPECT HIS VOICE IN MIRACULOUS WAYS



One word from God can change your life forever.

1. GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT*

God still speaks through these nine gifts, and you can fully expect them to be a part of your daily walk of faith. They provide guidance and confirmations for your divine assignments and will equip you for supernatural living. The Book of Acts has 50 distinct occasions of one or more of these Spirit-Gifts functioning through believers. For brevity's sake, I've clumped these together as one predominant way God speaks, but technically, they are nine distinct expressions of His voice. You can locate a list of these nine Gifts of the Spirit in I Corinthians 12:8-10.

VERBAL GIFTS: GIFTS THAT SAY

1. The Gift of Tongues
2. The Gift of Interpretation
3. The Gift of Prophecy

REVELATION GIFTS: GIFTS THAT SEE

1. The Gift of the Word of Knowledge
2. The Gift of the Word of Wisdom
3. The Gift of Discerning of Spirits

ACTION GIFTS: GIFTS THAT DO

1. The Gift of Faith
2. The Gifts of Healing
3. The Gift of Working of Miracles

2. VISIONS**

A vision is a supernatural revelation while awake or in a trance. There are 21 men recorded in the Bible who had visions from God:

- Abraham *Gen. 15:1*
- Jacob *Gen. 46:2*
- Balaam *Num. 24:4, 16*
- Samuel *I Sam. 3:10-15*
- Nathan *II Sam. 7:17, I Chron. 17:15*
- Isaiah *Is. 1:1, II Chron. 32:32*
- Messiah *Ps. 89:19*
- Ezekiel *Ez. 7:13, 8:13, 11:24*
- Iddo *II Chron. 9:29*
- Daniel *Dan. 2:19, 8:1-27, 9:21-24*
- Nebuchadnezzar *Dan. 2*
- Obadiah *Ob. 1*
- Nahum *Nah. 1:1*
- Habakkuk *Hab. 2:2-3*
- Zacharias *Luke 1:22*
- Peter *Mt. 17:9, Acts 10:19, 11:5*
- James *Mt. 17:9*
- John *Mt. 17:9, Rev. 9:17*
- Ananias *Acts 9:10-12*
- Cornelius *Acts 10:3, 17*
- Paul *Acts 16:9-10, 18:9*

3. DREAMS

Dreams often fall into the same category as "Visions," but they include something felt, thought, or seen during sleep. The Scriptures have a record of 34 dreams sent by God; 22 are located in the Old Testament and 12 in the New Testament. Dreams differ from a vision in that they occur while you are asleep, while a vision occurs while awake. In my personal experience, the interpretation is immediate and obvious. Still, I have some trusted friends who did not receive the interpretation of a dream until many years later.

SOME OF MY FAVORITE DREAMERS ARE:

Joseph - *Genesis 37:5, 9*
Daniel - *Daniel 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10-12*
Joseph - *Matthew 1:20, 2:13, 2:19*

* Every Gift of the Spirit is Jesus in action. See *addendum for true stories*.

**Compare any vision with the Father's nature and the redemptive message in the Word.



BE HOPEFUL.

PS. 130:5

God speaks to quiet hearts.

If God entrusts you with a dream in the night or a vision while awake, it is wise to keep it private for a season. Pray and wait on the Lord. If it is from God, it can stand the test of time. Sometimes your “dream from God” comes from a nighttime pizza binge, but other times, God is preparing you for supernatural things ahead.

4. ANGELS

Angels have many assignments, but often they become God’s spokesmen. There are 104 recorded appearances of angels to people in the Bible. They are frequently in the form of a human, often wearing white and sometimes possessing wings. In the Bible, they appeared to both men and women, Jews and Gentiles. In the book of Revelation alone, there are 52 angelic appearances.

Many of their angelic greetings were, “Fear Not!” which I find humorous since the natural reaction to a nine-foot-angel suddenly appearing would cause even the bravest to have reason to fear. The message of angels will always agree with the written Word of God.

5. MIRACULOUS SIGNS

The Bible has 160+ recorded miracles with God’s voice speaking through each one. For example, when the Red Sea parted for Moses and the Israelites, He said, “Get out of Egypt!” Through Moses alone, God performed 42 miracles, with the obvious messages of, “I’m more than enough,” and “Obedience brings a blessing, but disobedience brings a curse.”

In the New Testament, there were 37 miracles through Jesus recorded in the gospels and there were many not recorded. His disciples performed miracles, too. Miracles are God’s way of demonstrating His great love and saying, “I want My people healed, whole and happy.”

6. SYMBOLIC ACTIONS

A prophet commonly used nonverbal prophecies with gestures to act out a message by God. A good example in Acts 21:10-12 is when Agabus, the prophet, took Paul’s belt and tied his hands as a prophetic symbol of his imminent arrest and prison sentence. Several examples can be found in Gen. 15:10, Ex. 3:5, Jos. 5:15, I Sam. 11:7, II Kings 2:19-21, Jer. 18:1-10, and Acts 21:11.

7. AN AUDIBLE VOICE

Here are eight examples of God’s audible voice in the Bible.

- Adam *Gen. 2:16*
- Cain *Gen. 4:6*
- Noah *Gen. 6:13*
- Moses *Ex. 3:4*
- Samuel *I Sam. 3:4-10*
- Jesus, John the Baptizer, and crowds *Mat. 3:17*
- Peter, James, John *Mk. 9:7*
- Saul, also known as Paul *Acts 9:4*

I heard God’s audible voice when I was 15 years old. No one taught me to test it by the Word, but it’s proven to be an authentic experience that I have treasured for 50+ years. See “Christians and Social Drinking” on page 66 in the Addendum.

“Good Morning, Holy Spirit. I expect Your supernatural help today.”

BEWARE OF GOOFY STUFF

A well-meaning deacon stood in his local church and prophesied, *"Thus saith the Lord."* He began with vibrato in his voice, *"Some of the things My children saith that I saith, I did not saith."* God does seem to get blamed for some goofy things. If someone prophesies you're supposed to move to Africa, don't leave until they supply you with a return ticket. Tell them, "Thanks for this. Let me pray about it, and I'll wait for an inner witness." Always test your spiritual experiences by comparing them with the Word of God. *See Chapter 7.*

WELCOME HIS SPIRIT'S VOICE

Listening to His Spirit-voice will always bring the Spirit's fruit; love, joy, peace, hope, and healing. I am amazed at how practical, yet spiritual He is. He'll speak to you about national elections, getting your toddler potty trained, and how to start a successful business.



LET'S REVIEW GOD'S FOUR MEGAPHONES:



The _____ Voice

Words of Jesus, New Testament, Old Testament principles

The _____ Voice

The Inner Witness, Prayer, Peace, Promptings, Desires

The _____ Voice

*Gifts of the Spirit, Visions, Dreams, Angels, Miraculous Signs,
Symbolic Action, Audible Voice*



The Confirming Voice



Test every spiritual experience by the Word of God.

THE SPIRIT'S VOICE

01

The voice of the Spirit and the voice of Jesus are the same.

02

The Spirit meets personal needs and releases supernatural assignments.

03

Test every spiritual experience in the light of God's written Word.

04

Let's welcome and expect every expression of the Spirit's voice.



Supporting Scriptures

Rev. 2:7

Joel 2:28

Jn. 10:4

II Cor. 3:17

Ac. 2:16

Rev. 19:10b

Test This Voice!

"What if Hindus are right, and my Christian faith is a sham?"

1 Start with the Word...

Does the Bible specifically address this topic?

YES ☒ That's settled. The end.

NO ☐ I'll expect an inner witness.

2 Depend on the Spirit...

What did the Holy Spirit put in your spirit?

A Scripture? John 14:6

A Song? _____

 Streetlight Red Green Yellow

3 Trust your inner Witness...

Based on the Spirit's "nod or no," I will...

 Reject that voice ☒

 Accept that voice ☐

"I dreamt that my friend was killed in a car accident. Is God speaking?"

1 Start with the Word...

Does the Bible specifically address this topic?

YES ☐ That's settled. The end.

NO ☒ I'll expect an inner witness.

2 Depend on the Spirit...

What did the Holy Spirit put in your spirit?

A Scripture? II Tim. 1:7

A Song? _____

 Streetlight Red Green Yellow

3 Trust your inner Witness...

Based on the Spirit's "nod or no," I will...

 Reject that voice ☒

 Accept that voice ☐

try
it!

HAPPY HEART TIP!

Be thankful for
God's LOVE

ROM 5:8

The password to God's heart is "thank you."

Chapter 6

THE CONFIRMING VOICE

Training wheels are for those who are new at riding a bicycle. Once you are *confident*, you don't need them anymore. This chapter describes some awesome "training wheels" that God uses *until* your spirit man ultimately leads you.



YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

MATTHEW 18:16

But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'

ROMANS 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

LOOKING AHEAD

- The Assuring Voice
- God, is that *really* You?
- Kick the door down

*God's Word changes you
from the inside out.*

Reading scripture aloud enhances comprehension.

THE CONFIRMING VOICE

You've learned that God speaks primarily through His written word and points us to Jesus Christ as our example. You've also been trained to depend on your inner man and inspired to expect His supernatural Spirit voice. Today you'll be introduced to five examples of the Confirming Voice, which will give you the confidence to say, "I've heard the voice of God."

- God's Written Voice - the loudest voice
- God's Spirit Voice - the wildest voice
- God's Inward Voice - the quietest voice
- God's Confirming Voice - the assuring voice

CONFIRM, DEFINED

- a) To make certain
- b) To prove to be true or correct
- c) To place beyond all doubt through more information or evidence

1. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH CONFIRMATIONS

A confirmation is when God repeats His message to you in two or more different ways. If you think that God has spoken to you, you should first check your inner man for that inward witness. If it's a topic of significance such as marriage, or if it will affect several other people, you may ask the Lord for a confirmation. Some consider this a practice of the spiritually immature, but I consider it an act of mercy from a loving God who wants you to be confident in hearing His voice.

Two Or Three Witnesses

Every parent knows the strength of two or three witnesses. They won't believe their perfect child is guilty until they hear two or three teachers saying the same thing about their mischievousness darling.

The Old Testament required two or three witnesses to require a conviction (*Deut. 19:15*). The implication was, "Unless two or three folks saw it, it didn't happen." Jesus continued this biblical pattern saying, "...that in the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word may be established." *Mat. 18:16*

Mary actually had six confirmations through different people that Jesus was a miracle baby with a divine purpose. Take time to read how each person told her the same information as what the Lord had initially told Mary. That is what a confirmation is.

- | | | | |
|-------------|---------------------|----------|---------------------|
| • Angel | <i>Luke 1:3</i> | • Simeon | <i>Luke 2:25</i> |
| • Elizabeth | <i>Luke 1:41-43</i> | • Anna | <i>Luke 2:36</i> |
| • Joseph | <i>Matthew 1:20</i> | • Magi | <i>Matthew 2:11</i> |
| • Shepherds | <i>Luke 2:16</i> | | |



BE INTENTIONAL.

Another interpretation of “two or three witnesses” is:

Your first witness is _____

Your second witness is _____

Your third witness is _____

Jennifer's Story

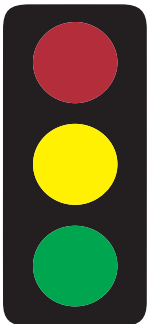
(TBI Alumni 2000)

I was planning to go to college directly out of high school, but I began sensing that wasn't the right decision. [inward witness] A guest speaker ministered a [prophetic word] to me, saying, "The LORD says that you have the right plan, but wrong timing for something you're planning to do." I prayed for two months, [waiting on the Lord] but while at Discovery Camp, they explained Texas Bible Institute, and I just knew that was God's plan." [inward witness - her "knower"] When I returned home, my uncle had mailed me a check for the exact amount of the tuition. [confirmation]

2. GOD CONFIRMS THROUGH CIRCUMSTANCES

Albert Einstein had it right when he said, "*Coincidence is God's way of staying anonymous.*" I would say the same about circumstances. God is the invisible orchestra, moving predominantly through natural laws. If He wants you to sing for Him, you will be given a beautiful voice. If He wants you to serve Him as a CPA, you'll excel in working with numbers. When you have welcomed Him into your life, there is nothing that comes your way that hasn't gone through the fingers of His mighty Hand.

RED LIGHT, GREEN LIGHT



God, who made the world and everything in it, ... has determined your preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings... in Him we live and move and have our being. Acts 17:26

We can clearly see God hovering over Paul's circumstances during his missionary travels:

- Open doors gave Paul a "green light." *Acts 16:15*
- Closed doors gave Paul a "red light." *Acts 16:6-7*

God doesn't always cooperate with these open-or-closed-door formulas. If He is calling you to do something contrary to natural circumstances, He will deposit supernatural (easy-to-believe) faith that will circumvent the hindrances.

Confirmations function like training wheels while you gain confidence in your inner witness.

For example, Paul had some closed doors regarding his travels to Thessalonica and wrote, "Satan had hindered them." *1 Th. 2:18* He could have noticed that closed door and thought, "Well, *I really loved those guys in Thessalonica, but there's plenty of other people to reach.*" How did Paul know whether it was God or Satan closing that door? He checked his "knower!" When the Holy Spirit confirmed with Paul's inner man that it was Satan hindering him, he refused to surrender and sent Timothy in his place. Paul regrouped and kicked that closed-door down!

As you develop your spirit man, you'll perceive God's perspective regarding your circumstances. Then, you'll "know in your knower" whether to accept the natural circumstance or defy the hindrance in Jesus' name, and kick that door down.

3. GOD CONFIRMS THROUGH ANOTHER PERSON

Have you ever heard the expression "the Voice in the voice?" That is what occurs when you hear God's voice speaking to you through another person. Not everyone speaks for the Lord. Beware when well-meaning people offer you free advice because it's usually based on their own experiences. Even spiritual input from a plethora of podcasts and social media memes needs to be scrutinized. Who is God most likely to use to speak to you?

Eph. 6:1 _____

Heb. 13:17 _____

Prv. 21:20 _____

4. GOD CONFIRMS THROUGH THE LAW OF RESPONSIBILITY

I knew a woman who wanted to "reach the heathen in Africa for the Lord." When she told me of her plan to leave her own five kids (ages 7 to 16) with a sister for two years, I halted her plan and told her that God wanted her to first reach the heathen in her household.

Friends, this is not rocket science. God speaks through your responsibilities.

- If your kids are still at home, God is saying, "Take care of your children."
- If you have an elderly parent, God is saying, "Become their caregiver."
- If you have bills, God says, "Be responsible and pay your bills."

People often claim that God is telling them to do something new and exciting, but in reality, they are simply weary of being responsible. So, be responsible, and you'll honor God.



**TURN OFF THE
NOISE. UNPLUG.
BE INTENTIONAL
ABOUT HEARING
GOD'S VOICE.**

5. GOD CONFIRMS HIS EXISTENCE THROUGH CREATION

"For since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes are clearly seen. Being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse." Rom. 1:20

What "invisible attributes" are clearly seen that describe Him?

God speaks through His world and His word.



LET'S REVIEW GOD'S FOUR MEGAPHONES:



The _____ Voice

Words of Jesus, New Testament, Old Testament principles

The _____ Voice

The Inner Witness, Prayer, Peace, Promptings, Desires

The _____ Voice

*Gifts of the Spirit, Visions, Dreams, Angels, Miraculous Signs,
Symbolic Action, Audible Voice*

The _____ Voice

*Confirmations, Circumstances, Godly leaders,
The Law of Responsibility, Creation*



**A confirmation is when God repeats
His message to you in a different way.**

THE CONFIRMING VOICE

01

A confirmation is when God repeats His message to you in a different way.

02

God's biblical pattern of confirmations requires 2 or 3 witnesses that agree.

03

Regardless of how God speaks, be certain your inward witness agrees.

04

Be confident in Jesus' promise from John 10:4: *"My sheep know My voice."*



Supporting Scriptures

Jn. 10:4

Deut. 19:15

Rom. 1:20

Jn. 10:27

Mat. 18:16

Rom. 8:28

Test This Voice!

"Is there any hope? My life is in such a mess."

1

*Start with
the Word...*

Does the Bible
specifically address
this topic?

YES



That's settled. The end.

NO



I'll expect an inner witness.

2

*Depend on
the Spirit...*

What did the Holy
Spirit put in your
spirit?

A Scripture?

Psalms 103:3

A Song?



Streetlight

Red

Green

Yellow

3

*Trust your
inner Witness...*

Based on the
Spirit's "nod or no,"
I will...



Reject that voice



Accept that voice

"Maybe I should quit my job and finish college."

1

*Start with
the Word...*

Does the Bible
specifically address
this topic?

YES



That's settled. The end.

NO



I'll expect an inner witness.

2

*Depend on
the Spirit...*

What did the Holy
Spirit put in your
spirit?

A Scripture?

Philippians 4:19

A Song?



Streetlight

Red

Green

Yellow

3

*Trust your
inner Witness...*

Based on the
Spirit's "nod or no,"
I will...



Reject that voice



Accept that voice



try
it!

HAPPY HEART TIP!

Be thankful for
God's STRENGTH

NA. 1:7

The password to God's heart is "thank you."

Chapter 7

PROTECTION FROM DECEPTION



Deception changes your perception of God.

Instead of a loving Father, sin portrays Him as a bully who wants to cramp your style and take your fun away. Sin will take you farther than you planned to go and cost you more than you planned to pay.



YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

I TIMOTHY 4:1

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.

JOHN 8:32

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Deception is here
- Test those voices
- Your personal promise

*God's Word in your mouth releases
God's power in your life.*

Reading scripture aloud enhances comprehension.

PROTECTION FROM DECEPTION

...some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of devils. I Tim. 4:1

Deception does not come announced. It is dangerous because you may never realize what is happening. To be deceived is to be misled and deluded by a false impression. God warned us in His Word that spiritual deception was only going to increase in the last days. Highlight these scriptures about end-time deception. *Mat. 24:3-4, I Tim. 4:1-2, II Cor. 4:4, II Cor. 11:13-14*

A deceived heart has turned them aside. Is. 44:20

The only tactic Satan has is deception. Believers need to test every idea, philosophy, trendy teaching, and cultural opinion by God's Word. You need to scrutinize what is being said by preachers, politicians, parents, peers, and professors. I don't care how large their audience is. Test their message by the Word of God.

America's great deception is humanism, which displays a grandiose dependency on human willpower. Frank Sinatra's song, "I Did It My Way" could be the humanist's anthem. Anyone who exalts the human's potential without God is deceived. Our position in Christ has nothing to do with willpower or human achievement and everything to do with, "Christ in me, the hope of glory." *Col. 1:27*

HOW TO TEST THOSE VOICES IN YOUR HEAD

Everyone deals with crazy thoughts and voices in their head, but believers in Jesus have an inside advantage. *You have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know...I Cor. 2:12*

Q. Why do I need to test every voice?

A. *"He who is *spiritual judges all things" I Cor. 2:15*
[*born again, who has become a spirit, who houses the Spirit]

Q. Who will teach me?

A. The Holy Spirit teaches you. *I Cor. 2:13*

Q. What is this testing process?

A. *The Holy Spirit "compares spiritual things with spiritual."* *I Cor. 2:13*
He explains spiritual truths to spiritual people, or in other words, His knowledge is transferred from His Spirit into your spirit. Thus, you will instantly know what He knows about the subject.

Read I Corinthians 2:10-16, and you'll learn more about this testing process.
It's easy!



BE THANKFUL.

COMMON DECEPTIONS	TRUTH
I'll accept Christ later.	<i>Luke 12:16-21</i>
Good people go to heaven. Bad people go to hell.	<i>Rom. 3:23, 6:23</i>
Many roads lead to God.	<i>John 14:6</i>
I don't need God's help. I can _____ on my own. (<i>quit drinking, fix my marriage, compulsive habits</i>)	<i>Prv. 26:11, Rom. 7:15</i>
A loving God wouldn't send people to hell.	<i>Romans 1:18-20</i>
Hell isn't a real place, anyway.	<i>Mat. 25:30, Jude 6,7,13</i>
I can't understand the Bible.	<i>John 14:26</i>
Living for God is too hard.	<i>Mat. 11:30</i>
My life is beyond repair.	<i>Ps. 147:11</i>

THE TRUST VS. DECEPTION TEST

Use these four tests to determine whether the source is deception or truth.

1. The _____ Test
Does it agree with the message of God's redemption for sinful men through Jesus?
2. The _____ Test
Does it agree with the teaching and life example of Jesus Christ?
3. The _____ Test
Test it by these salvation truths.
 - *God's Word is inspired. II Tim. 3:16*
 - *The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. I Jn. 1:7*
 - *By grace are you saved through faith, not by works, lest anyone should boast. Eph. 2:8-9*
4. The _____ Test
Does it glorify a big shot or Jesus Christ?
5. The _____ Test
Test it by the long-term fruits of comfort, consolation, courage, and confidence in God.

Deception changes your perception of God.

TOSS THAT MOLDY TOMATO

A simple habit to develop is to reject any voice that is or makes you feel:

- | | | |
|------------|------------------|---------------|
| • Inferior | • Self-exalting | • Embarrassed |
| • Flippant | • Self-assertive | • Stupid |
| • Degraded | • Rude | • Vulgar |
| • Callous | • Like a sham | • Hopeless |

God's voice always makes you feel valued and loved.

BEWARE OF THESE SYNDROMES

"... because they did not love the truth, God will send them strong delusion." II Th. 2:10-11

The first signs of deception occur when a believer begins questioning God's Word, His love, or His salvation plan. Beware of these Syndromes!

- The Serpent Syndrome -- questioning the Word of God *Gen. 3:1*
- The Eve Syndrome -- questioning the love (or goodness) of God. *Gen. 3:6*
- The Athenian Syndrome -- questioning God's salvation plan *Acts 17:18*

How can you protect yourself from being deceived? If you continue in the Word of God and respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, you'll stay anchored in truth. Loving the truth keeps you free!

If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. Jn. 8:31-32

FAQs ABOUT HEARING GOD'S VOICE

- Q.** I just told God how lonely I was, and my ex-boyfriend's favorite song was on YouTube. Tears started rolling down my face as I remembered our good times. Is God telling me to reconnect with him?
- A.** Strong feelings or an emotional response has little to do with hearing God's voice. When your emotions are leading, don't respond for 24 hours. Instead, play a worship song to reprioritize your goals and remember why you broke off the relationship.
- Q.** Where do all the thoughts in my head come from?
- A.** Your 6,000 daily thoughts come from three sources; your human thoughts, God's thoughts and Satan's thoughts.

The yardstick of truth is God's Word, not your feelings or people's opinions.

- Q.** How do I recognize the thoughts that God put in my head?
- A.** God's thoughts are filled with peace and courage, and they agree with God's Word. Technically, He sends His thoughts to your spirit man, and they bubble up to your mind.
- Q.** How can I know if I am hearing God, Satan, or my thoughts? That sounds scary.
- A.** Renewing your mind is the process of comparing those thoughts with God's Word. Any thought that makes you feel inferior or whispers an inclination to sin is not a God thought. Regular Bible reading will silence the majority of anti-God thoughts automatically. If you think, "I'm not good enough," you can know that's not God's voice because His Word says that, "you are the apple of His eye".
- Q.** The Apostle Paul said that he "had the mind of Christ." Does that apply to me, too?
- A.** Yes! The more you serve Jesus, the truer that becomes. Your thoughts are actually His.
- Q.** What's the easiest way to hear God's voice?
- A.** Put the Word in you when you don't need it, so it will be there for you when you do need it.

YOUR PROMISE FROM JESUS

*And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, **for they know his voice.** Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers. Jn. 10:4-5*

***My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.
Jn. 10:27***

Confession of Faith
I am His sheep, and I know His voice.
The voice of the stranger I will not
follow. Jn. 10:4,27

Say that out loud right now! Say it boldly! Confidence in your ability to hear God's voice is growing inside of you. When you think, "O God, was that thought from you or just my own thoughts?" quote your promise from Jesus.



**FOLLOW PEACE
AND YOU'LL
FOLLOW GOD.**

PROTECTION FROM DECEPTION

01

Satan's only tactic is deception.

02

Deception begins by questioning God's Word, love, and salvation plan.

03

You can test the spirit by comparing it with Jesus' example and God's Word.

04

Jesus promised His people that they would know His voice.



Supporting Scriptures

Jn. 8:32

I Tim. 4:1-2

II Cor. 4:4

Mat. 24:3-4

II Cor. 11:13-15

Jn. 10:27

Test This Voice!

"A little porn is okay since my spouse isn't meeting my needs."

1

*Start with
the Word...*

Does the Bible
specifically address
this topic?

YES ☒ That's settled. The end.

NO ☐ I'll expect an inner witness.

2

*Depend on
the Spirit...*

What did the Holy
Spirit put in your
spirit?

A Scripture? Psalm 101:3

A Song? _____



Streetlight

Red

Green

Yellow

3

*Trust your
inner Witness...*

Based on the
Spirit's "nod or no,"
I will...

 Reject that voice ☒

 Accept that voice ☐

"I need to get used to this stiffness since arthritis runs in my family."

1

*Start with
the Word...*

Does the Bible
specifically address
this topic?

YES ☒ That's settled. The end.

NO ☐ I'll expect an inner witness.

2

*Depend on
the Spirit...*

What did the Holy
Spirit put in your
spirit?

A Scripture? Matthew 8:17

A Song? _____



Streetlight

Red

Green

Yellow

3

*Trust your
inner Witness...*

Based on the
Spirit's "nod or no,"
I will...

 Reject that voice ☒

 Accept that voice ☐

try!
it!

HAPPY HEART TIP!

Be thankful for
God's TRUTH

PSALM 25:5

The password to God's heart is "thank you."

Chapter 8

GOD, IS THAT REALLY YOU?



What To Pack, How To Grill ... checklists are essential.
Aren't you relieved that pilots and surgeons use a checklist?
Heads up! There is no checklist more important than what you'll
find on *pages 61-62*. It's the entire workbook on *two pages*.



YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

REVELATION 2:7

He who has an ear, let him hear
what the Spirit says to the churches.

LUKE 24:8

And they remembered His words.

LOOKING AHEAD

- The Assuring Voice
- Turn the volume up
- The "God's Voice" checklist!

*Put the Word in you when you don't need it and
it will be there for you when you do need it.*

- Pastor Tommy Burchfield

Reading scripture aloud enhances comprehension.

GOD, IS THAT REALLY YOU?

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. Rev. 2:7

Jesus repeated, "He who has an ear to hear" eight times in the book of Revelation! He wants us to be intentional about listening to His voice, so what does this scripture tell us?

Jesus is talking to His _____.

Jesus speaks through His _____.

There is a distinction between physical hearing and _____ hearing.

FOUR TIPS TO TURN YOUR VOLUME UP

God gave you an internal cell phone called your spirit man. It is internal and eternal. Just like your physical cell phone, your spirit needs to be cared for and charged up regularly. Here are four tips to help you stay fully charged and assure the Voice is loud and clear.

1. DEVELOP A QUIET HEART

Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10

God speaks to quiet hearts. He will not compete with the conflicting noises of your life. You'll need to "put the internal brakes on." You can learn internal stillness by focusing on God's character, such as His goodness, wisdom, and faithfulness. Put your mind on the Lord, and don't let crazy thoughts dominate your mind.

When you begin to pray, random thoughts will race through your mind, such as, "*I wonder if my new jacket will match my brown slacks? Yikes. I forgot to call Susan back. Solar heating would be good in our new cafeteria.*" Do you see? Not bad thoughts. Just unrelated thoughts to the voice of God.

Step out of the traffic! Take a long, loving look at me, your High God, above politics, above everything.
Psalm 46:10 MSG

This process is to develop a quiet heart by resisting those cluttered thoughts. *Cast down vain imaginations and every thought to the captivity of Christ.* Say out loud, "I resist that thought," and put your mind back on the Lord. *2 Cor. 10:5*

God rarely speaks to those who still have opinions.

2. FASTING IS POWERFUL

Biblical fasting is abstaining from food for a spiritual purpose. Jesus commended fasting in Matthew 6:17 when He said, "When you fast ..." (Not *if*) Most fasts involve food, but you can also fast media or sexual intimacy.

There are different kinds of fasts:

- Complete fast: water only
- Partial fast: one meal or type of food (Desserts, breads, etc.)
- Daniel fast: only vegetables for ten days (Dan. 1:12)

It is important to begin and end a fast gradually because your stomach shrinks significantly. If fasting is a new discipline, I would suggest starting with one meal and increase it to one day. If you are married, you can fast sexual intimacy if there is mutual consensus. Mild headaches or cravings are expected the first day due to the caffeine, toxins, and sugar that controls the American diet. Drink plenty of water and push on because you are about to enter into a realm with God that will leave you fully satisfied and focused. As a single woman, I fasted every Tuesday for one year to help me stay focused on His purposes and not let "sin have dominion over me." I heard His voice clearly on significant life decisions, and, as you begin to fast, you can, too.

3. SPEAKING IN TONGUES

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. Jude vs. 20

Speaking in tongues is a prayer language that is available to all believers. It turns the volume of God's voice way up. Pastor Tommy wrote a terrific mini-book called "31 Benefits of Praying In The Holy Ghost" about this subject. I would like to suggest a thirty-day challenge to speak in tongues for just five minutes per day. Watch out! God's voice will be loud, favor and promotion will occur, and deep emotional wounds will surface and be healed. If you haven't yet received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, you can simply ask your Father. Develop your inner man and listen.

*He leads me beside the **still** waters. Psalms 23:2*

4. "AND THEY REMEMBERED HIS WORDS" LK. 24:8

God speaks by causing you to remember what He said.

- Jn. 2:17 *Then His disciples **remembered that it was written ...***
- Jn. 2:22 *Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples **remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed...***
- Jn. 12:16 *... but when Jesus was glorified, **then they remembered that these things were written about Him.***

When His heart is your goal, His voice will be loud.

MY "I'VE-HEARD-FROM-GOD" CHECKLIST

Your ability to hear God's voice will affect every area of your life.
Here's a checklist that will answer, "God, is that really You?"



Does it agree with Scripture?

God's voice never contradicts His Word. He wouldn't tell you to marry an unbeliever since His Word clearly says that we should not be "unequally yoked." Reject any voice telling you to lie, hide something from your spouse, or stop attending church. God's voice always agrees with His Word.



I Have Submitted This to My Pastor.

God puts pastors and spiritual leaders in your life to "watch over your souls." They know you and love you. They might not say what you want to hear, but your teachable spirit will reveal maturity. On the other hand, their confirming approval will provide an abounding assurance. *Heb. 13:17*



Would Jesus Do This?

Since He is our example, think about His life while on earth. Would Jesus do whatever you feel this voice told you to do? What about your spiritual mentor?



Do You Have An Inner Witness?

The Holy Spirit has moved into every believer and speaks on God's behalf. Romans 8:16 calls it an "inner witness." I refer to it as your "knower." In your deepest being, there is a knowing of the things of God. Did God really speak to you? That inner witness will cause you to know that you know that you know.



BE EXPECTANT.

PS. 145:15

God speaks to quiet hearts.

✓ Do You Have Peace In Your Spirit?

The key word in this question is 'spirit.' You can have complete peace in your spirit, while your mind is screaming crazy thoughts. Quite often, obedience to God makes absolutely no sense to the natural way of thinking. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." *Prv. 3:5*

✓ Does it agree with the loving, redemptive nature of our Father God?

I knew a lady who said a voice told her that she must give her three-year-old son up for adoption since she was a bad mother. A man told me a voice told him to stop praying for his neighbor and let him "go to hell." Remember that God is a loving Father, and His voice will reflect that. I would question any voice that separates families, (emotionally) is self-destructive or demanding.

✓ Have You Received A Confirmation?

A confirmation is when God repeats to you His same message in a different way. Matthew 18:16 says, "...that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established." A witness is like a thumbs up or down. The first witness is God's Word. The second witness is your inner witness, and the third witness might be a scripture, song, godly person, favor, open door, dream, etc.

✓ Are You Willing To Wait For God's Timing?

After you are certain that God has spoken to you, ask Him about His perfect timing. You can do the right thing at the wrong time and invite unnecessary tension. Meditate on Isaiah 64:4 which says, "God acts for the one who waits for Him."

I am His sheep, and I hear His voice. *Jn. 10:4*

GOD, IS THAT REALLY YOU?

01

Good prayer and fasting habits will increase the volume of God's voice.

02

Speaking in tongues daily will quickly align you with God.

03

The more you know God's heart, the louder His voice will be.

04

The "God's Voice" checklist will assure success. Memorize it!



Supporting Scriptures

Rev. 2:7

Is. 64:4

Jn. 10:4

Ps. 46:10

Mat. 6:18

Jn. 10:27

Test This Voice!

"If you double your mission's donation, I will provide."

1 Start with the Word...

Does the Bible specifically address this topic?

YES _____ That's settled. The end.

NO ☒ I'll expect an inner witness.

2 Depend on the Spirit...

What did the Holy Spirit put in your spirit?

A Scripture? Matthew 19:26

A Song? _____



Streetlight Red Green Yellow

3 Trust your inner Witness...

Based on the Spirit's "nod or no," I will...



Reject that voice _____



Accept that voice ☒

"My prayers aren't making any difference."

1 Start with the Word...

Does the Bible specifically address this topic?

YES ☒ That's settled. The end.

NO _____ I'll expect an inner witness.

2 Depend on the Spirit...

What did the Holy Spirit put in your spirit?

A Scripture? Jeremiah 33:3

A Song? _____



Streetlight Red Green Yellow

3 Trust your inner Witness...

Based on the Spirit's "nod or no," I will...



Reject that voice ☒



Accept that voice _____

try it!

HAPPY HEART TIP!

Be thankful for God's WISDOM

COL. 2:3

The password to God's heart is "thank you."

ADDENDUM

ANSWER KEY

CHAPTER	EXERCISE	ANSWERS	
Chapter 1	The “What” Behind This Voice	• Adam • Abram • Moses • Joshua	
	The “Where” Is This Voice	• beside • inside	
Chapter 2	Four Ways to Prepare Your Heart	• wait • reveal • adjust • obey	
Chapter 3	Through Jesus Christ	Gospels	
	The Old Testament Principles	• character • compound promises	• principles • point
Chapter 4	God’s GPS - The Nod Or the “No”	• no. • no.	
	Trust Your Spirit, Not Emotions	1. C 2. E 3. A	4. B 5. D
Chapter 5	Welcome His Spirit’s Voice	• Written • Inward	• Spirit’s
Chapter 6	Two or Three Witnesses	• The written Word, inner witness,	• a confirmation
	God Confirms Through Another Person	• parents • Spiritual leaders	• wise
	God Confirms His Existence Through Creation	• His faithfulness • His wisdom	• His eternal power
	God Confirms His Existence Through Creation	• Written • Inward	• Spirit’s • Confirming
Chapter 7	The Trust vs. Deception Test	• The Message Test • The Mirror Test • The Blood Test	• The Spotlight Test • The Fruit Test
Chapter 8	God, Is That <i>Really</i> You?	• Church • Spirit	• spiritual

CREDITS

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After fifty years of personal study, it is understandable that I have gleaned truth from a plethora of biblically sound teachers, most of whose names are not listed, yet deeply respected. To them we owe our lives.

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

True Stories by Rachel

A Cute Boy

1970 - My first memory of hearing God's voice... I was 14 years old and sitting behind the cutest guy in my Algebra class. Brand new in the things of God, a thought popped into my head, *"Tell Michael about My love."* Time stood still. I thought, *"Are you kidding me, Lord?"* Silence. I didn't want to disappoint Jesus, so I blubbered through it, and Michael looked at me kinda weird. I didn't care because an indescribable joy overwhelmed me, and I've been hooked on the joy of pleasing Jesus for 50+ years.

Against All Odds

2010 - My husband, Pastor Tommy, had searched over 200 pieces of land for Believers World Outreach Church. He happened to glance at some acreage directly off Interstate 10. *"This is it,"* the Holy Spirit said. *"How could it be?"* thought Tommy, *"There's not even a road that takes you there."* Well, the owners declined our first offer, and we hit several obstacles, but today a wide road and our church building are exactly where He said it would be.

Christians and Social Drinking

1972 - I was 15-years-old and wrestling with typical teenage temptations. After a few weeks of wavering, I made a firm decision to decline the wild party invitations. It was very hard saying "no," and I lost many friends. I felt all alone in my stand for Christ, so I intentionally shifted my social circle towards some not-cool-but-authentic-Christians. As I walked into a friend's house one evening (I know the exact location on her sidewalk), I heard my name loudly. *"Rachel."* I stopped and looked around. *"Rachel."* Again I stopped, but there was no one there. My friend, Mary, said, *"What's wrong?"* I shrugged my shoulders and went inside, but a warm, loving Presence lingered inside of me for 30 minutes, and His courage sustained me throughout my entire sophomore year.

THE BELIEVER'S INNER WITNESS

An Arrest Avoided

1973 - As a high school senior, I was still learning how to recognize God's voice by depending on my inward witness. Some friends had invited me to go water skiing. As I packed my swimming things, I sensed a flutter of uneasiness. It was so faint that I paid it no attention. Again, I sensed the faintest queasiness possible. What was this inner queasiness? Was I getting nauseated? Did I eat something spoiled?

As I packed, I remember thinking, "This restlessness couldn't possibly be from the Lord. These kids are all Spirit-filled Christians, and the new boat belongs to *John's older brother." My head said, "Go," but my Knower said, "No." When I declined, my "Christian friends" lashed out with words that stung deeply.

I stayed home that Saturday night, half pouting and half curious about God's reason for boycotting my fun day. On Sunday morning, I learned that the Coast Guard took all of my friends to the police station for questioning. Apparently, John's brother had stolen that boat!! They were scared beyond words. And me? I was relieved that I had listened to my "Knower" or my strict father would have grounded me for life. **fictitious name*

Protected From Date Rape

1974 - When I was at East Texas State University, one of my Christian "brothers" asked me out on a date. Something in "my knower" said to decline. I was disappointed because he had a "double anointing." (Handsome and anointed to preach) Two weeks later, I heard he had "date raped" two different girls in my dorm. Listening to my "knower" spared me and saved me for my awesome Tommy.

Protected From Embezzlement

1992 - When we first started Country Camp, our young staff were strong in zeal but lacked skills. A couple turned in a resumé that excelled in every way. They even had impressive references from reputable Christian leaders. They looked right and talked right. Our staff gave a unanimous "yes," but neither Tommy nor I had an inner peace. Our head said "yes", but our "knower" said "no," so we declined their applications. They were arrested, two years later, for embezzling church funds where they were employed. Thank God we followed peace.

Bigger Than You Think

1997 - Our firstborn, Andrew, was eleven years old when he had an idea to host a one-day event for homeschooled families. We owned a large camp, so I said, *"Sure. Go sit under that big oak tree with a blank piece of paper and ask the Lord to give you some ideas and details."* Andrew returned in about an hour, stating that he kept hearing in his spirit, *"It's bigger than you think!"* Based on that insight, we doubled our headcount of 400, and, sure enough, we had over 1,000 guests!

For Girls Only

2016 - Our daughter, Abby, and I were on a limited timetable to find her perfect wedding dress. After a few dead ends, she said, "I sense we're supposed to go to that store in Katy and not wait for our Friday appointment. Let's go right now." Sure enough, her perfect dress had just arrived for a 48-hour trunk show. Had we waited until her Friday appointment, it would have been gone.

Never Left Out

Our middle child, Peter, has heard God's voice in remarkable ways, some of which are in **Volume 9, Faith Principles**.

The Holy Ghost knows everything, and the Holy Ghost is always right.



GOD SPEAKS THROUGH DESIRES

"I didn't realize that God was speaking to me, but..."

I wanted to hear this Jesus for myself.
Zacchaeus (Bible)
I wanted to preach the gospel in China.
Hudson Taylor (1850)
I wanted to be a kindergarten teacher.
Emma K. Smart, TBI '91
I wanted to rodeo for Jesus.
Cowboys for Christ
I wanted to help prisoners.
Chuck Colson

I wanted to make movies.
Clayton Miller, TBI '94 Movie producer
I wanted to become a pilot and visit smaller churches.
Tommy Burchfield
I wanted to help churches with finances.
Rick Eaton, CPA

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Stolen Truck Found

1990's - We had hired a great guy who came highly recommended from another state, but he got dragged back into drug addiction over time. He stole a BMI ministry-owned truck and some ministry funds. The Holy Spirit gave Tommy a Word of Knowledge, saying, *"He's in a hotel in Sealy, Texas parked in the back between two eighteen-wheelers."* When we told the police, they drove to that spot and told us sarcastically that he wasn't there, but they hadn't looked behind the trucks. They went back and found him, just as Jesus said.

Trauma Revealed and Healed

1990's - A "Word of Knowledge" came to me during a National Women's Retreat in one word - fingernails. *"I don't know what this means,"* I shared, *"But someone has had a deep trauma regarding her fingernails, and Jesus is going to heal you right now inside and out."* In the back left corner of a jam-packed room, we heard a blood-curdling scream and a woman fell under the power of God. Later, she testified that, during a traumatic rape, several of her nails had painfully ripped off as she clung tightly to a pole. She left emotionally healed because of one Word of Knowledge.

Gift Of Faith

1989 - A supernatural Gift of Faith frequently operates in my husband, Tommy. It defied all common sense that we would leave success in Houston to move to a tiny town and build a camp, a Bible school, and (later) a church. Demonic attempts to stop us came monthly through land payments of \$6,000, electric bills of \$80,000, a camp kitchen fire, staff suicides, and unfair lawsuits, but a supernatural resilience rose up in Tommy, leading us often to overcoming victories. It was the Gift of Faith.

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH ANGELS

Angels At Discovery Camp

1995 - Many campers have seen angels during our Discovery Camp Miracle rallies. In the summer of 1995, we had 22,793 guests. One night we had 20 campers see a nine-foot-angel in the same exact location during different times in the service. Our staff interviewed them privately, and their descriptions, location, and angelic messages were identical. The angel was smiling and said, *"Jesus is coming soon. Tell your loved ones. Jesus is coming soon!"* Hundreds of teens ran to the altar to surrender to the love of Jesus.

Angels on Assignment

(This is so bizarre that I hesitate to write it down) The debut for our Shepherd's Inn motel for pastors was in two days, and the crews were so behind that we stopped to pray, asking God for a miracle. A husband and wife showed up to paint, explaining they *"had been assigned to help because Shepherd's Inn was a special place."* They were super quick, quiet, and did terrific work. No one knew who they were, where they came from, or where they went. We then remembered Hebrews 13:2, which says, *"...Some of you have entertained angels unaware."*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH CONFIRMATIONS

20/20 Story

In 1999, I felt impressed to write a small devotional to cover just 20 days with a booklet and one tape. Leaders advised me to include three tapes, but I sincerely felt the Lord inspired a one tape product so it wouldn't overwhelm beginners. A few weeks later, our tape distributor called and said, "Tell Rachel there is a brand new tape product available that looks just like something she might want. It has room for a small booklet and just ONE tape." (He knew nothing of my 20/20 and that was my confirming word to create the new 20/20 series which has since gone around the world.)

Fancy Clothes

I was in nursing school when the Lord gave me the inner witness that I would be speaking at adult functions. Because I felt called to young people, I asked Him for a confirmation. Within a month, I had three adult invitations and a woman gave me her sophisticated 'adult' wardrobe.

Moving to Country Camp

An opportunity arose for Tommy and I to move to Country Camp which had 553 acres. Even for Texas, that was large. The inner witness and peace in my spirit had said 'yes.' Because this was such an important decision that affected many lives, I asked Him to confirm my inner peace with a scripture. After praying in tongues for quite a while, He said, "Turn to Psalms 118:5 and you will find your answer." It read, "I called upon the Lord in distress: The Lord answered me and set me in a large place." As I waited five years for God's timing, this confirming word ministered great peace to me.

HOMESCHOOLING

1996 - The Lord gave me Proverbs 31:27, which says, "She watches over the ways of her household," and I began sensing a need to homeschool Andrew for a few years. It was a huge decision as I was serving full-time in ministry, but when an anonymous gift arrived, it was a pledge with Proverbs 31:27! I knew.

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH DREAMS

(The backstory here is that Tommy and I were in our third year of building Discovery Camp and reeling over the demanding business side of managing 70+ young staffers, 500+ acres, maintenance issues, and serving the needs of thousands of guests.)

Divine Connections

1990 - Tommy and I had been praying for wisdom. While pregnant and taking an afternoon nap, God gave me a dream of something that went wrong during a Miracle Service in our packed camp chapel. I thought, "If Papa Ward were still alive, he could tell us what to do." Suddenly, Papa appeared in the chapel! (Although he had been in heaven for several years.) In this dream, he reached for Tommy's hand and then reached for Bro. Virgil Mott's hand in the opposite corner. Like a toy with stretchable arms, he joined the two men's hands, released a belly laugh, and disappeared. I woke up to the sound of a car door. It was Virgil Mott! He was a retired businessman and casual acquaintance who we hadn't seen for years. We knew then that God was joining him with Tommy and, for the next 25 years, God used this godly father figure to share wise input, and his dear wife, Martha, took her role as an intercessor seriously. God's wonderful ways!

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH THE LAW OF RESPONSIBILITY

Diapers and Destiny

1992 - By the time I married and had two toddlers, I felt the need to quit traveling to ministry events to stay home and "be there." When a prominent minister chided me on the phone, "Rachel, why did you quit on Jesus? Where are your "signs and wonders?" Looking at two-year-old Peter hanging on my leg, I said, "I still have signs and wonders, Cindy, and they follow me everywhere I go."

Just Sneak Out

2008 - Some ministry colleagues invited me for an "invitation-only" event. I was so excited, but when I realized that it was during one of our large Discovery Camps, it was a no-brainer and I declined. "You have a strong staff," they said, "just sneak out for one night." No. When you are responsible to pastors and parents who are trusting you with their kids and teens, you can't just leave, even though your staff is strong, and no one would know.

Being A Caregiver

My dear mother was cheerful and appreciative all the way to her last breath, but her care was still confining and inconvenient to my busy (and selfish) world. It's tempting to delegate unlovely tasks when you are able to, but you never need to pray, "Lord, is it Your will to take care of my elderly mom." She is your responsibility.

You can read more true stories in **Miracle Moments, a narrative about the Burchfield's obedience to build a camp, Bible school, and church. Available through www.burchfield.org or Amazon.*

39 States

TBI WORLD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

42 Countries

Dedicated to our Sons and Daughters in the Texas Bible Institute World Alumni Association
May God continue to use you to share the good news of Jesus Christ in your nation!

English

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

Spanish

Porque tanto amó Dios al mundo que ha dado a su hijo unigénito, que todo aquel que cree en él no debe perder, mas tenga vida eterna. *Juan 3:16*

Arabic

لما احب الله العالم

Amharic (Ethiopia)

ከፍጥረት ስላወጣ ወይም ከፍጥረት

Belize Creole

Yu si, Gaad lov di peopl dehn eena dis werl soh moch

Bengali (India)

কারণ ঈশ্বর জগৎকে এমন প্রমে করলিনে যে

Bulgarian

Защото Бог толкова възлюби света

Chamorro (Guam)

Sa taegüenao na jaguaeya si Yuus y tano

French

Car Dieu a tant aimé le monde

German

Denn also hat Gott die Welt geliebt

Haitian Creole

Paske, Bondye sitèlman renmen lèzòm

Hausa (Nigeria)

Gama Allah ya yi kamnar duniya

Hebrew

כי כה חבב את העולם ה' והוא

Hindi (India)

परमेश्वर को जगत से इतना प्रेम था

Hungarian

Mert úgy szerette Isten e világot

Indonesian

Karena begitu besar kasih Allah akan dunia

Japanese

神は世を愛された

Jamaican Creole

Kaa, yu si, Gad lov di worl so moch

Korean

신이 세상을 너무 사랑했기 때문에

Mandarin Chinese

神愛世人

Maori (New Zealand)

Koia ano te aroha o te Atua ki te ao

Romanian

Fiindcă atât de mult a iubit Dumnezeu lumea

Russian

Ибо так возлюбил Бог мир

Setswana (Botswana)

Gonne Modimo o ratile lefatshe mo go kalo

Swahili

Kwa maana jinsi hii Mungu aliupenda ulimwengu

Tagalog (Philippines)

Sapagkat pag ibig ng Diyos sa sanlibutan

Tamil (Sri Lanka/India)

தவேன் இவ்வளவு உலகத்தில்
அன்பாகிறந்தார்

Thai

เพราะว่าพระเจ้าทรงรักโลก

Ukrainian

Так бо Бог полюбив світ

Zulu

Ngokuba uNkulunkulu walithanda izwe kangaka

TWENTY WAYS GOD SPEAKS TODAY

The Written Voice

1. Jesus' words and actions
2. The written New Testament
3. The Old Testament principles

The Inward Voice

4. The believer's inner witness
5. Prayer
6. Promptings
7. Peace
8. Growing desires

The Spirit's Voice

9. Dreams
10. Visions
11. Angels
12. Miraculous signs
13. Prophetic symbolic actions
14. Audible voice
15. Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Confirming Voice

16. Creation
17. Godly leaders
18. Confirmations
19. Circumstances
20. Law of Responsibility

