



How to Hear God's Voice

"Can you hear me, now?" - God

Every day, God speaks to us. Sometimes He invites us to draw close and listen as He reveals Himself, His character, and His direction. Other times He calls us to participate in His purposes. Still other times He simply whispers to remind us of His amazing love for us.

Oh, what a joy it is to know God speaks to me! But I've found that many believers are missing this vital element in their relationship with Him. As I've talked with people about my own radical obedience journey, they are quick to ask how they might hear from God too. Maybe you have some of these same questions: How do I know if God is speaking to me? How do I discern whether it is His voice speaking or just my own idea? What if I feel God telling me to do something that doesn't seem to make sense?

There is no magic formula for being able to discern God's voice. We can learn to recognize it the way we recognize the voices of those close to us: by knowing Him. And when we know Him, we can tell if what we are feeling led to do is from Him or not.

I'll be honest. Though I hear from God all the time, I've never heard His voice audibly. When God speaks to me, there's a certain impression on my heart that I've come to recognize as Him. I also ask myself five questions to determine if what I'm hearing is from God or not:

1. Does what I'm hearing line up with Scripture?

God will never speak to us or tell us to do something that is contrary to His Word. But unless we know Scripture, we will not be able to discern whether what we are hearing is consistent or not with the Word. I encourage you to get a journal and start recording the verses you study and some of your personal experiences with the things you are learning as you read God's Word.

2. Is what I'm hearing consistent with God's character?

God's Word also provides rich information regarding His character. Just as God always speaks in accordance with His Word, He speaks in accordance with His character. God will not say things that are inconsistent with who He is. The longer we know Him and the more we experience Him personally, the more we learn about His character.

3. Is what I'm hearing confirmed through messages at church or my quiet times?

When God is speaking to me about a particular issue, I cannot escape it. Around every corner there is a sermon or Bible study lesson or speaker's topic or conversation with a friend that is consistent with what I've been hearing from God in my time along with Him. When we invest in spending time alone with God, He will speak to us. Listen for His voice and then look for the message to be confirmed.

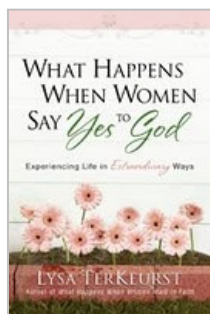
4. Is what I'm hearing beyond me?

Sometimes God calls us to do something big that we can't do in our own strength – either it is beyond our ability or beyond our nature human desire. It is not something we can strategize and manipulate into being in and of ourselves. It can only happen by God's divine intervention. Don't look at your inabilities and dwell in insecurities. Look at the Almighty God. See this call as your opportunity to watch Him work in you and through you. If you answer yes to the question 'Is this beyond me?' chances are God is speaking.

5. Is what I'm hearing pleasing to God?

It's easy to talk ourselves out of thinking we've heard from God. I think we'll pretty much use any excuse to convince ourselves it's not His voice so we don't need to act. If what you are doing pleases God, then even if what you thought you heard from Him wasn't His voice, you still please Him. We should always seek to err on the side of pleasing God. Ask this question, and you'll know what to do.

Use this five-question filter as a starting place in your conversations with God. When you live in the expectation of hearing God's voice, you will. In Jeremiah 29:13, God promises, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all of your heart." Respond by saying yes to Him and confidently walking in absolute dependence and glorious obedience.



For more information on this topic, read Lysa's book, *What Happens When Women Say Yes to God*.

Lysa TerKeurst helps everyday women live an adventure of faith through following Jesus Christ. As president of Proverbs 31 Ministries, Lysa has led thousands to make their walk with God an invigorating journey. For more information, visit www.LysaTerKeurst.com

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