



HEARING GOD'S VOICE

BY SHAUN HICKEY

"Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live..."

(Isaiah 55:3 – NKJV)

I have served Jesus Christ for nearly 20 years, and two common challenges I have seen people face are:

1. Accusations from the devil a person is not fully forgiven of their sins.
2. That they can't hear God's voice; suggesting God does not speak to them.

These two challenges can intertwine to some extent; If a person is harbouring sin in their life there will be an underlying doubt in their heart, that God is willing to speak to them.

We need to overcome both challenges to receive a breakthrough and walk boldly in the hearing of God's voice, empowering us to serve Him in obedience.

A NEW REALM...

When I was *born-again* my life was dramatically transformed in Christ. One moment I was a broken, tormented person, and the next moment I was walking in absolute freedom; instantly set free through the power of the blood of Jesus Christ.

- *"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins"* (Colossians 1:13-14).

I was transformed within and immediately awakened to a whole new realm I had been blind to. And without any training I could hear the voice of God so clearly and would constantly receive revelation and teaching from the Holy Spirit. As I read the word of God, I would be absorbed in the living truth. It was like I was in full time download mode, all the time.

However, as time went on the devil started to attack my mind, and I came under a considerable amount of condemnation which caused me to doubt my standing in God. To add to his attack, although I had been dramatically transformed as a person, I was not yet a perfect person in my actions and character. So, when I fell short in my actions, this opened the door of my mind to greater attacks from the enemy.

I started to doubt God wanted to speak to me. My past personal experience (in the natural realm) had been if I did something wrong people would not talk to me for two weeks. Unfortunately, I

carried this mentality into my new life in God, and I assumed this punishment of silence would be the same with Him; If I failed, He would not want to speak to me for a period.

It is true, sin can hinder our connection with God and our sin will condemn us before God, causing confusion and guilty feelings to afflict and at times overpower us. However, the mentality that God does not want to speak to us in our failings is not true at all.

- *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).*
- *“My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever” (Psalm 73:26).*

To be confident in the hearing of God’s voice we need to overcome flawed thinking and be renewed in our minds so we can walk in true liberty and relationship with God all the time.

FULLY FORGIVEN...

We must repent of all our sin before God and allow His precious and powerful blood to cleanse us of all unrighteousness. We must then take confidence in His word, that what He says is truth. That we are freely and totally forgiven through the blood and cross of Jesus Christ:

- *“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.” (Ephesians 1:7)*
- *“But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. ¹² Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Hebrews 9:11-14).*

If we are walking with God, yet in our weakness succumb to temptation and sin against God, we must know in our hearts that we are not cut-off from Him, for God’s mercy and grace is much deeper than we can imagine.

If we sin, we must go boldly before the throne of grace and receive His mercy:

- *“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:14-16).*

Jesus Christ is for us and not against us. He is our High Priest and Advocate who is willing to stand in the gap for you:

- *"...and if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world"* (1 John 2:1-2).

As an "Advocate", Jesus does not advocate for our sin, excuse our sin, nor deny we have sinned against God. If we were to be taken to the court of heaven, He would allow all our sins to be presented before God.

However, as our Advocate, Jesus pleads for the non-imputation of our sins, pleading for a full pardon of them according to the punishment He received for sin; that all our sins have been taken upon His own body and His blood was shed for the remission of them.

Jesus advocates that through the punishment He received on our behalf, forgiveness can be granted to us. And because God is loving, forgiving, merciful, gracious, slow to anger, and does not deal with us according to our sins (see Psalm 103), He mercifully and gracefully forgives us of all our sin and iniquity, freeing us of all guilt, shame, and punishment due.

- *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9)
- *"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more"* (Hebrews 8:12).

Through a repentant heart we can have confidence that our sins are forgiven and there is nothing standing between us and God. We must believe His word and come boldly before Him, trusting in His love and mercy; that He is not an earthly father who may reject us and sentence us to silence, but an Almighty Father who draws near and desires to speak to us, to revive us. Praise Jesus!

DOES GOD SPEAK TO US?

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

(John 10:27)

I heard very clearly from God as He led me into ministry. However, as I came under the attack of the enemy, I started to doubt I could hear from Him.

I would host healing/revival meetings where many people from the community and various denominations would attend. During these meetings the power of God was evident; people would get healed and delivered of all kinds of infirmities and be encouraged through the outworking of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 12:1-11).

However, when I left each meeting, I would feel very dejected and cry out to God, *"I am a fraud, I can't hear your voice."*

This would cause me deep distress. With all the people who were coming and looking for help, I doubted I was hearing from God and doubted what I was doing in ministering was correct. I constantly cried out to God for help and breakthrough.

To cut a long story short, and after many months of struggle, I was led to a seminar focused on hearing God's voice. I attended in the hope of receiving a five-step formula I could apply to my life and preaching. However, I did not get anything like this.

As the seminar went on, I became absorbed in what the ministers were sharing. Testimony after testimony of hearing God speak and then acting on it through obedience. It was powerfully liberating to hear such a dynamic taking place.

As God ministered to my heart through these testimonies and the sharing of the word, I started to get revelation I had been hearing from God all along, but I had not been associating it to the hearing of God's voice.

Through hindsight I could see God had been speaking to me the whole time and leading every day. During healing meetings, the things I was sharing with people and the way I was ministering to them was a direct result of hearing God's voice and by following the leading of His Spirit. This revelation was so liberating it has empowered my life ever since.

"MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE..."

We must believe what Jesus said:

- *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me"* (John 10:27).

Jesus spoke these words to an unbelieving people who doubted He was the Son of God (see John 10:22-26). Because of their unbelief they could not hear nor receive the words of Jesus, and the miracles Jesus performed - that bear witness to Him - were not received because of their hardened hearts. As a result, Jesus made this statement, *"You do not believe, because you are not of My sheep"* (John 10:26).

When we believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, our Saviour, and Redeemer, we are immediately brought into the sheepfold; we become one of His sheep. Jesus uses this description to provide a clear picture of Him being the good shepherd who looks after His sheep. Those who believe and call upon the name of Jesus Christ will become His sheep.

Jesus said plainly, *"My sheep hear My voice."* This is not a suggestion; it is a statement and a promise. When you believe in Jesus, **you can hear His voice** and He promised to speak to you. To be a born-again believer and say God does not want to speak to you is an absolute lie from the devil.

Do not waste time doubting any longer. God is speaking to you, and I pray as you work through this article that you will receive revelation breakthrough and become retuned into His voice.

Please pray this personalised prayer in agreeance:

"May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give to me the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, may the eyes of my understanding being enlightened; that I may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward me who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. I ask this in the precious name of Jesus Christ. Amen." (Prayer personalised from Ephesians 1:17-21)

“...AND I KNOW THEM...”

During an encounter meeting, the Holy Spirit led me to speak a word of encouragement over a woman in attendance, which I did, and then continued with my message. A few days later I was told this woman was really impacted by this God intervention, making the statement, “*He knows me.*”

This is not to suggest it’s because I spoke to her. No, she was astonished that Jesus would speak to her, that *He knew her*; that He would single her out amongst a large group of people and speak specific personal encouragement into her heart.

This is who Jesus is. He knows His sheep so intimately and knows when they need to hear from Him.

Jesus said His sheep would hear His voice, **and He knows them**. Let us see how intimately He knows you:

- *“You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvellous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them. ¹⁷ How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; when I awake, I am still with You”* (Psalm 139:13-18).

Jesus knows you and He knows how to get your attention. Jesus knows every word of your vocabulary, every feeling you have, every thought, fear, and doubt in your mind. He knows your struggles and your needs. He knows what will break your heart, so knows how to speak to you with love and compassion. He knows what Scriptures you carry in your heart, and the desires of your heart.

Jesus knows how to speak to you and how to get you to receive His words. He may speak to one person in a particular way, but He knows that same way may not impact or connect with you. He knows your love language. He knows you!

Through experience I have learnt the difference between Jesus speaking to me, and when man is speaking to me. When Jesus speaks to me, He uses words and impressions I understand, and words we share together in our private time. This is how He captures my attention. I then know whatever follows would most likely be from Him.

Capturing your attention...

Jeremiah was young man who had an encounter with the LORD and received a prophetic call. Jeremiah’s calling (see Jeremiah Chapter One) is one of my most favourite dialogues in the word of God:

- **(V5)** The LORD speaks to Jeremiah regarding the purpose He had called him too.
- **(V6)** Jeremiah doubts this call due to his age (credentials)
- **(V7-8)** God rebukes Jeremiah for doubting and gives Him a command to go (obedience to God overrides any credential)

- (V9-10) The Lord empowers and equips Jeremiah for the call ahead (it is all about hearing from God and going forth with His commands. He will equip you when He sends you).

The LORD then wanted to release more in-depth information to Jeremiah, but first He had to capture Jeremiah's attention, seeing in the spirit:

- **(V11)** The LORD asks Jeremiah, "What do you see?" This is not referring to what Jeremiah is seeing in the natural, but the spiritual. Jeremiah answered, "I see a branch of an almond tree." This is a vision Jeremiah's having and he is clearly seeing something he recognises. Jeremiah is not seeing an unrecognisable object or responding with frustrated and confused words; He knew it was an almond tree. Now what did the almond tree mean? It may not have meant anything to Jeremiah at that point, but the LORD was in the process of capturing Jeremiah's attention.
- **(V12)** The LORD was pleased with Jeremiah; he had seen in the spirit correctly and was focused on the LORD. Now the LORD had Jeremiah's attention in the spirit, He could take him deeper into the vision, saying, "I am ready to perform My word."
- **(V13)** The LORD then asks Jeremiah a second time, "What do you see?" (The LORD was expanding on the vision). Jeremiah said he could see an image of a boiling pot and described the direction it was facing.
- **(V14-19)** Once the LORD had captured Jeremiah's attention, by seeing in the spirit, the LORD then released a flood of revelation to him. From this point on, the LORD would regularly speak to Jeremiah through visions and by the sound of His voice.

The LORD knew Jeremiah intimately; before Jeremiah was in his mother's womb the LORD had a plan for his life. And the LORD knew how to speak to Jeremiah, in his case it was through the hearing of God's voice and tuning Jeremiah's mind into receiving visions.

When speaking and releasing a vision to Jeremiah, He did not show him a foreign object he knew nothing about, nor did He speak to Jeremiah in a way of confusion. The dialogue was clear and effective.

The LORD created you and He knows how to speak to you too. So, we need to learn how God speaks to us personally. It may be through visions, it may be through dreams, it may be through the hearing of His voice; it will probably be through all these forms and more, because God is not limited in how He speaks.

I assure you, if God is speaking to you, no matter what form it comes, He knows how to get your attention.

Personal testimony...

Like Jeremiah, one way the Lord speaks to me is through visions. Early in my walk with Jesus I never thought I would have visions, and in my immaturity, I would feel less spiritual than those who did. Then one day it all clicked.

I attended a meeting where a prophetic man was speaking. During his ministry he shared how we have photographic minds, and if he was to talk about a fridge, we would be able to see a fridge in our minds. The moment I considered this the Holy Spirit instantly released my mindset, showing me the images and impressions, I would receive in my mind were at times visions coming from God.

Around the same time, I attended a different Holy Spirit conference. During one session the prophetic minister (Jeni Tucker) asked for someone to come up the front who had not been prophesied over before. I raced to the front hungry for this ministry.

However, Jeni turned this around on me. She told me I was the one who was going to prophesy over an experienced prophetic woman. I was nervous as I had never done this before and the room was full of people watching me.

Jeni was amazing at leading me in this. She told me to speak in tongues and then share what I felt God was saying, or what I saw in the spirit.

First, in my mind I could see an image of a classroom. Once I acknowledged this image, I then saw another image of this woman leaving the classroom and getting in a sports car, then driving off with purpose.

This *vision* did not mean a lot to me as I had not been taught on interpretation. Jeni then shared if someone sees a car or vehicle in a vision/dream, this usually relates to ministry. Jeni then asked the woman if my vision meant anything to her.

Well, it turned out she was a schoolteacher who was leaving her school-room profession to step into ministry. There was more detail to it, but it *blew me away* to see I had seen so clearly. Jeni then built on my vision through prophesy and taught me a bit more. This further unlocked me in hearing God's voice.

The next day I was back in my home church. During the service my eyes locked on a man sitting a few rows in front of me and I *felt* the Lord wanted to speak to me.

I started to see an image of a motorbike. As I drew my attention to the motorbike, the vision began to expand. I could then see this man riding the motorbike and was wearing full body armour and riding very quickly through traffic. The body armour was enhanced to me. I understood straight away what God was saying.

After the service I went and spoke to this man, who was a Cadet training to be a Salvation Army Officer. I shared the vision I saw and how quickly he was going to move forward in ministry, but he needed to stay prayerful and covered in the armour of God.

Not long after, I heard that he and his wife were accelerated in their officer training, being put straight into the ministry to plant a church for the Salvation Army, after only one year of training; at that time Salvation Army Cadets would spend three years in training before being released into church leadership. This was so encouraging for me.

God continued to develop my understanding of hearing His voice and seeing in the spirit.

I get many visions from God, and I know when He is speaking to me. But like Jeremiah, I do not get an immediate run of information. I may only get one image in the spirit of my mind. But if I capture this image and turn my attention to it, the Lord usually expands the vision.

If the Lord is speaking through words, I may only get one word. Initially this word may not mean anything, but if I capture the word and tune into hearing God's voice, God will continue to speak to me. His initial intention was to capture my attention.

I know them, I do not confuse them...

I do not believe Jesus is going to speak to us with foreign terminology that leaves us in **confusion**. Initially we may not understand the depths of what Jesus is saying, but if Jesus is speaking, He will capture your attention and lead you to revelation.

There have been times Jesus has spoken words I did not immediately understand, or He showed me a Scripture I did not have initial revelation on. His intention for doing this is to get me to dig deeper and uncover what He wants to release to me. This is another masterful way God leads us if we are willing to dig.

When being led through the process of *the Baptism of Fire*, there was a moment I came under an extreme amount of fear; it was an instant manifestation that struck my mind. Unsure what was going on, I went to the doctor in the morning, who tried to put me on medication.

This did not sit right with me. The Lord had been doing an incredible amount of work and deliverance within me, that the result was not to go on medication.

I pressed into the Lord in prayer, and as I sat quietly, but trembling with this fear, I heard a quiet whisper, "Mataku."

Mataku? What does Mataku mean?

This was not confusion; **this was an awakening of interest** that led me to search what that word meant. And it turned out "Mataku" is a Maori (Indigenous people of New Zealand) word that means fear.

I knew straight away what God was saying. It was a spirit of fear attacking me. And once I spoke this out, renouncing and rebuking this spirit, I was instantly set free, never to come under such fear again. I threw all the medication out. I did not take it, nor did I need it.

This was an intense time and I needed help. But Jesus did not confuse me in the process, He led me through the process. I want to enforce this point; **Jesus does not confuse us. He may awaken our interest to dig deeper, but He is not the source or author of confusion.**

- *"For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints" (1 Corinthians 14:33).*

Over the years I have had people speak to me through *prayer* or *prophesy*, and the wording they have used did not connect with my heart nor draw my attention to Jesus. At times I have walked away so confused, and at times wondering if I'm being condemned by Jesus, leading me into a head space of troubledness. This is not fruitful in anyway.

The simple truths we need to hold onto that will give us peace, and help us discern our way through are:

- Jesus knows us.
- Jesus knows how to speak to us and get our attention.
- Jesus is not the author of confusion.
- Jesus leads us into revelation and understanding. If we are willing to connect with His voice and dig a bit deeper into the message.

In your desire to connect with the voice of God you can release any pressure you have placed upon yourself, trusting He knows how to speak to you. If you have a desire to hear from Him, He knows how to communicate to you, because He knows you.

“... AND THEY FOLLOW ME.”

Jesus is captivating. When He speaks His voice connects with the deep places of our spirit and soul. His penetrating words awaken the deep desires of our heart and purpose. Dreams and desires that have been left dormant, shut off through inner wounding are activated by His words that full of the Spirit and life:

- *“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life” (John 6:63).*

When you hear the Spirit filled, life giving words of Jesus Christ, there will be a natural desire to forsake all you have and follow Him.

In Luke Chapter five, after some fisherman had encountered a miraculous catch through the words and directive of Jesus, Simon Peter was so convicted of His Majesty, that he fell at Jesus’ feet saying, *“Depart from me, for I am a sinful man”* (see Luke 5:8).

But Jesus did not leave Simon Peter in his distress. Jesus responded, *“Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men”* (Luke 5:10).

Simon Peter and the other fisherman who were present, after encountering a miracle and hearing the voice of Jesus were so impacted and captivated, they forsook all they had and followed Him (see Luke 5:11).

This should be our natural response to the voice of Jesus. When He speaks, we should respond, *“Here am I, Lord, send Me.”*

These new disciples of Christ did not ultimately know where Jesus was going to lead them, nor did they understand how it would all end. All they knew was, they had a desire to follow Jesus. It did not matter how, where, or what, what mattered was following Jesus.

When Jesus said His sheep would hear His voice and they would follow Him, He was speaking confidently on how His people would respond to Him. These fishermen are clear proof of this. Jesus is the only One we should be following.

Following Jesus is not always how we expect it...

I served Jesus in the Salvation Army for approximately six years. In this time Jesus used me to establish several ministries that were flourishing, and people’s lives were being impacted. Through ministry I had an identity within the movement, and I felt this was the place for me.

Then one day Jesus spoke these words to me, *“Are you willing to lay down what you know, to step into what you don’t yet know?”*

My only response was, *“Yes!”*

Now, I did not know where I was to go. He did not tell me where I was going. But Jesus was seeing if I was willing to forsake all I knew, leave it all behind, and follow Him.

It doesn't matter if you do not have the full understanding of the steps you need to take. You only need to take one step towards Jesus. Because ultimately it doesn't matter where you are going, or what you are doing. What matters is that you are following the voice and leading of Jesus Christ, in obedience.

When Jesus told me to lay down what I was doing in the Salvation Army I did not know where He was taking me. But through obedience to His voice and a burning desire to follow Him, He has led me every day, into many places, local and international ministry over many different denominations.

When the fisherman encountered Jesus Christ, they forsook everything they had and followed Him. Scripture telling us these men went forth and turned the whole world upside down (See Acts 17:6). How remarkable is that?

With your desire to hear God's voice and understand the leading of the Holy Spirit, will this be your testimony, that you were used to turn the world upside down? Because it can be if you too are willing to respond when you hear Him.

As we continue, remember these three points Jesus made:

1. **My sheep hear My voice:** Jesus promises that His people will hear from Him. You can hear His voice.
2. **I know them:** Jesus knows you intimately and knows how to get your attention. Become still before Him and trust Him.
3. **They follow Me:** When Jesus speaks your natural response is to follow Him. Forsake what you know and trust Him going forward.

GOD'S VOICE

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."

(Revelation 3:20)

WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY ABOUT GODS VOICE?

Jesus promised that His people will hear His voice:

- *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me"* (John 10:27).

Faith comes through *hearing* from God:

- *"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Romans 10:17).

God's voice gives direction:

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

The Holy Spirit speaks the heart and words of God:

- *“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come” (John 16:13).*

God’s voice brings life when we walk in obedience:

- *“That you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them” (Deuteronomy 30:20)*
- *“Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.” (John 5:25).*

God’s voice will set you free:

- *“Is not My word like a fire?” says the LORD, ‘And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?’” (Jeremiah 23:29)*

God’s voice/word brings healing:

- *“He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions” (Psalm 107:20)*

God’s word is a discerner of the heart:

- *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).*

Through the Holy Spirit, God’s voice will convict of sin:

- *“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (John 16:7-8).*

The voice of the LORD will always accomplish its purpose:

- *“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:10-11).*

The voice and word of God is powerful and there is no earthly force that can compare it. At the sound of His voice the whole earth trembles. Let us look at Psalm 29 and how it describes the power of His voice:

- The voice of the LORD is over the waters and His glory thunders (V3)
- The voice of the LORD is powerful and full of majesty (V4)
- The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars (V5) – Like the effect thunder can have upon a large tree.
- The voice of the LORD divides the flames of fire (V7)
- The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness (V8)
- The voice of the LORD strips the forest bare and makes the deer give birth (V9) – This is likened to the effect thunder has on deer during birthing season, either being frightened by it that they feel no pain, or the sound of thunder hastened the birthing process.

In receiving such bold and powerful truths how we can ever say we can't hear the voice of God, and how can we ever live without it?

It is imperative that we learn to discern and recognize His voice and when the Holy Spirit is communicating to us:

- To receive direction for our lives.
- To walk closely with Him, and in obedience to Him.
- To walk in breakthrough, liberation, and power.
- To destroy the works of darkness.
- To ensure we don't miss opportunities Jesus is bringing our way.
- To avoid stepping into situations and positions He has not called us to.
- To grow in wisdom and understanding in all things.
- To minister in the power of the Holy Spirit to others.
- To fight the good fight of faith and remain faithful in His word.

HOW CAN WE HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD?

We can hear the voice of God through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity; God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), God the Holy Spirit.

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with His people and revealed the purposes of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life:

- *"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you"* (John 16:13-15).

Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as, "He":

- He will **guide you** into all truth.
- He will not speak on His own authority.

- He will **tell you** things to come.
- He will take from Jesus and **declare it to you**.

WAYS THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN SPEAK TO US...

- *“And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory” (Ezekiel 43:2).*

Do not limit God in how He should speak to us as there is no limitation to God’s ability or ways.

This verse from Ezekiel describes God’s voice like the sound of many waters, not one water. Therefore, God is not confined to anything; He is God. If He can speak through a donkey to get the attention of a prophet (see Numbers 22:21-39) then He can use whatever method, He wants to speak at any given moment.

You could experience any of the following (but not limited to):

- An impression, a thought, perception (See Luke 5:22), or a knowing.
- You could receive a desire (See Psalm 37:4)
- Have a surge of compassion (See Matthew 14:14)
- Receive a word of prophecy, wisdom, knowledge, tongues, interpretation; Gifts of the Spirit (See 1 Corinthians 12:3-11)
- Have a vision or a dream (See Joel 2:28; Numbers 12:6; Matthew 1:20; Acts 16:9)
- His Peace will lead you (See Philippians 4:6-7)
- Have a sudden witness in your spirit or feel a random pain in your body (this could be a word of knowledge, Gift of the Spirit).

Regarding this last point:

- 1. Having a sudden witness in your spirit**, means you may suddenly know something about a specific circumstance or person you are to minister to. The information will become alive in your spirit, and you will know it in your heart.

During ministry I have experienced numerous occasions where the Holy Spirit has communicated through a witness in my spirit or a Word of Knowledge. This could be the revealing of a demonic presence that needs to be cast out or a healing that is required.

For example, As I ministered to a person one evening, I received a witness in my spirit that the person was harbouring unforgiveness in their heart. I asked the person if this was true, and it was confirmed. I ministered accordingly.

There have also been times I’ve had witness in my spirit regarding the motive, character, or “spirit” of a person which could be contrary other opinions. In due course this has been proven to be correct on most occasions. The Holy Spirit was communicating this with me to protect His flock.

2. **Feeling a random pain in your body**, could be the Holy Spirit bringing to your attention a healing He wants to perform. I have received pain in many different parts of my body for no reason, before and during meetings. If I capture this feeling or pain and share what I am experiencing, there is often a person present who is suffering that infirmity. When responded to, healing can take place. Holy Spirit can also speak regarding infirmities He is willing to heal.

These are only a few examples. Remember God *knows you*. He knows how to speak in a way you will discern it is Him. It may take some practice, but you will tune into His voice.

HOW DOES GOD TALK?

- God is Spirit. He speaks through the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit speaks into our spirit.
- The message then goes from our spirit into our minds, where we begin to understand what is being communicated.
- We then need to decide. Will I believe and do what I am hearing, or will I deny what I am hearing/considering?
- The first impression is usually what we have picked up from the Holy Spirit.
- Do we believe this voice, or do we allow natural logic to take over?
- Natural logic will reject the supernatural.
- The flesh wants to play it safe.

As I have shared, there have been multiple times the Holy Spirit has spoken to me in a meeting. He could speak a word of knowledge regarding a health condition He wants to heal. But I then need to decide, will I step out in faith, believing I have heard from God, or will I deny what I have heard and miss an opportunity, even deny someone their breakthrough.

I have obeyed the voice of God many times and seen fabulous results. I have also heard God speak and *clammed up*, continuing to walk in my natural understanding, not allowing faith to create results. There have also been times I stepped out *in faith* and had no response.

This will happen from time to time as we learn to discern the voice of God, but we must not beat ourselves up about it if it happens. We may have heard correct, but the person became fearful and refused to respond. Or there may be times we just get it wrong. Either way, in our pursuit to hear and respond to God's voice, if we are walking in love there should be no damage, maybe only to our pride.

KNOW HIS NATURE - KNOW HIS VOICE

“Now the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. ⁶ And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷ keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...”

(Exodus 34:5-7)

To help identify when God is speaking to you, you must get to know His nature. This will help you filter out any confusion.

We must know, if something does not line up with the word of God or with His nature, then we can assume it may not be God who is speaking.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT GOD'S NATURE?

If I were to ask a group of people to share their thoughts on God's nature and how He treats people, I would get varied responses. Some may give a great description of His loving and compassionate nature, while some may share more on the discipline, rebuke, and wrath of God.

Early in my born-again life I would regularly confuse the hearing of God's voice with my own mindset and experiences; how I had been dealt with in my life. Many times, when I needed guidance or I fell short in my character, I would lean more towards condemnation and negativity, expecting to receive the anger and wrath of God, and suffer in swift punishment.

This is how I had lived before I was born-again; life was a negative and volatile environment. So, my mind was tuned only to negative voices, feelings, and experiences. I could easily pick up aggressive, negative thoughts, words, and feelings of guilt and condemnation, as this is what I was used to. Unfortunately, I applied these negative expressions as God speaking to me, causing me unjustified condemnation and fear, which hindered me from taking more opportunities opening to me.

TRANSFORM YOUR THINKING...

When we apply ourselves to hearing God's voice, we must not attune our ear through negative experiences or the fallen nature of those in authority over us (parents, teachers, pastors etc). For it is too easy to confuse how broken people have treated us through the years with the liberating voice of God.

When teaching people how to hear the voice of God (Holy Spirit), I start by teaching them the nature and character of God. This is to give understanding of who God is and His heart for people - I have met many wannabe "prophets" through the years whose only intention is to ambush a person with a misguided failing, or speak harshly, critically, and confrontationally to people already suffering trauma, causing more destruction in their lives.

The way some people communicate what they believe God is saying at times, and I compare *their* words and heart, with God's Word, heart, and nature, I struggle to see how the two correspond - There is a long list of words and statements made over recent years that come from a heart of cursing rather than truth, conviction, alignment, or blessing. This is just wrong!

MEDIDATE ON GOD'S NATURE; HIS HEART FOR PEOPLE...

We must apply Scripture and transform our thinking: *"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God"* (Romans 12:2).

My most favourite verses to share when teaching on the nature of God are from Psalm 103: *"Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! ² Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits"* (Psalm 103:1-2). Oh, the joyful cry from a heart that knows the goodness of God.

Let us mediate on some of these benefits and the nature/heart of God:

- He forgives all our sins and iniquities. He heals all our sickness and diseases (V3)

- He redeems us from destruction and crowns us with lovingkindness and tender mercies (V4)
- He satisfies our mouths with good things and renews our youth (V5)
- He executes righteousness and justice on behalf of the oppressed (V6)
- He is merciful, gracious, and slow to anger; an emphasis on His abounding mercy (V8)
- He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor punish us according to our iniquities (V10)
- Through the blood of Jesus Christ, He has removed our transgressions from us (V12)
- He is a good Father who pities His children. He knows our weaknesses (V13 & 14)
- His mercy is from everlasting to everlasting; an everlasting heart of mercy (V17)

This does not sound like an angry God who desires to speak negatively to His people or has a heart to constantly communicate doom. We must understand this of His nature to help discern His voice.

LET US MEDITATE ON MORE...

- **The Character of God:** *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control”* (Galatians 5:22-23)
- **God has good plans for your life:** *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope”* (Jeremiah 29:11)
- **God’s heart is to restore you:** *“For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds,” says the LORD...”* (Jeremiah 30:17)
- **The mission declaration of Jesus:** *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord”* (Luke 4:18-19).

How good are these, Scriptures? When we get them in our heart, our ears will become more attuned to His voice:

- We will begin to discern if the heart of God is within a voice or thought.
- We will not waste our time on corrupted messages birthed in fear.
- We will not let condemnation hinder our steps.
- We will breakthrough walls of opposition, knowing God’s heart for us.
- We won’t keep walking around the same mountain of confusion.
- We will become fruitful in our ministry to others.
- We will impact our communities for good, knowing that the goodness of God leads to repentance (See Romans 2:4).

DO NOT BE AFRAID...

Are you afraid to press into hearing the voice of God?

You may have been wounded or personally stumbled along the way, and now battle with constant feelings of guilt and condemnation. You may be associating these feelings to God speaking to you, or His heart towards you. But what does Scripture say?

- *“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:1-2)*
- *“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. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved” (John 3:16-17)*
- *“When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the (adulterous) woman, He said to her, ‘Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you? ¹¹ She said, ‘No one, Lord.’ And Jesus said to her, ‘Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more’” (John 8:10-11).*

I use these verses to emphasis:

- If there is no condemnation in Jesus - Jesus did not come to condemn the world; and Jesus spoke against condemnation - and you are suffering condemnation, whose voice are you listening to?
- If a person is speaking condemnation over a person or atmosphere, who is that person speaking on behalf of? God? Satan? Or self?

There will be times a person will have to receive discipline from Jesus. But the discipline of God does not come through torment or condemnation, it comes through love:

- *“The Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.” (Hebrews 12:6 - NIV).*

I received a mighty revelation and breakthrough from condemnation and fear when the Holy Spirit guided me to this verse:

- *“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love” (1 John 4:18).*

I had been so attuned to fear, condemnation, and torment that I believed this was Gods punishment to me. But as I meditated on this verse the Holy Spirit filled my heart with peace and renewed my mind.

Let’s take this step by step:

1. There is no fear in love.
2. Perfect love casts out all fear.
3. God is perfect love (See 1 John 4:8).
4. God loves me, so all fear must leave me.
5. Fear involves torment, so all torment must leave me.
6. I have been fearing because I do not have a renewed mind centred in his love, or nature.
7. I have been fearing because I have listened to the wrong voice.

8. I am now free because I know truth, and the truth has set me free (See John 8:32).

Truth: *“God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind”* (2 Timothy 1:7).

This is good news! I encourage you to renew your mind in the word of God and grow in discernment regarding the voices you hear. When you know His heart and nature, you will not fear, and you will break through invisible walls that have deceptively blocked your path.

PRACTICE WAYS TO LEARN HIS VOICE

“But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.”

(Habakkuk 2:20)

We have looked at some powerful dynamics and manifestations in the voice of God, however, hearing from God is not always fire falling from heaven. He can be found through the simplicity of a still small voice:

- *“Then He said, ‘Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.’ And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake;¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice”* (1 Kings 19:11-12).

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD...

In learning to discern the voice of God it is imperative to take time to be still and alone with Him. It is in the silence we learn to still our own inner voice and the distractions of our environment, enabling us to connect with God at a deeper level. This can take time and we must be patient.

When the Lord was leading me into ministry, He told me to stop everything I was doing and to pray. When I did, an amazing grace came upon me for prayer, and I would spend hours every day in silence. At first this was difficult; the flesh did not want to remain still, and my mind was always in a hurry. But the more I contended, yielding myself to Christ, the more *still* my flesh became, and the peace of God would surpass all understanding, and be manifest within me. The more I came before God in silence, the more powerful and effective my prayer time became, empowering my ministry time.

Once everything becomes still, and the external noises become silent (meaning we shut off to them; not being distracted), we begin to hear the still small voice of God. There were many things trying to distract Elijah as he waited on God - loud wind, an earthquake, and a fire - but as Elijah pressed into God these distractions tapered off and the still small voice of God penetrated through.

To connect with God on this level is all about time spent with God in silence. There is no quick route, there is no five-point plan, it is all about time, time, time, and more time! Yes, we have an immediate connection to God through the Holy Spirit when we are born-again (See Ephesians 1:13-14; John 14:26), but to develop a deep and rich relationship with God means self-sacrifice and time on your knees.

Overtime it did not matter what environment I was in - there could be very loud worship, and I have been placed right before loudspeakers before ministering - I had forged the ability to still myself and connect with God on a deeper level. If I tried to dance around in worship before preaching, I would not connect with God, it was just a fleshly experience, but stilling myself in silence before God would connect me to the Holy Spirit where all my attention would be on God. In these moments before ministering God has downloaded entire messages and words of direction/knowledge, that brought great impact in the meeting, glorifying Jesus.

LET SCRIPTURE SPEAK...

When you are alone in silence with God, take your time to read through Scripture, with a pen and paper handy. Write down any verse that catches your attention; something may feel like it has a deeper feel to it, or you may have a question arise in your reading of a verse. This could be God capturing your attention, drawing you into a verse He wants you to unpack.

Over time you may accumulate a list of verses that have captured your attention. Look to see if there is a common thread running through them. What could God be saying in these? Write down everything you feel God could be saying.

Are you receiving any words from people that have a similar focus, or encouragement, to them?

What could God be saying? Is there anything that has convicted you, something you may be disregarding?

LET PEACE BE YOUR UMPIRE...

There are many times our lives would have come into chaos. There are both natural (life happens) and spiritual (spiritual warfare) reasons for this. However, I believe God's voice **will not** lead you into chaos, it will lead you into peace.

Now by chaos I do not mean a spiritual battle or the need to stand against adversity. This is part of our faith development and character refinement. By chaos I mean complete confusion and disorder, fuelled by fear and anxiety.

When I passed through a season of warfare there was a lot of chaos happening around me, both in the natural and the spirit realm. Many times, I was attacked by a spirit of condemnation that caused a lot of distress. However, amongst the chaos and distress, I would hear a peaceful voice speak at the right time. **This would be the voice of God**, and His voice always brought into peace and produced significant breakthrough.

Whenever I come under a spirit or circumstance of chaos, I press into God and wait in the silence for Him to speak. It may take some time but in due course He will reveal His truth. And when you know the truth, the truth shall make you free (See John 8:32). Peace is released.

- *"Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all" (2 Thessalonians 3:16).*
- *"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You" (Isaiah 26:3).*

- *“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).*

GIVE THANKS IN ALL THINGS...

Giving thanks is a great way to recognise the voice and presence of God in your life. The more you become thankful, the more you will discern His activity and will for your life.

- *“Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).*

TRUST HIM AND ACKNOWLEDGE HIM...

If you desire to hear God’s voice for direction, you must learn to trust and acknowledge Him.

- *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6).*

We do this through our thankfulness, our walk of obedience, and faith. As we acknowledge and engage with God, He will lead us forward and direct our path.

BE HUMBLE...

Be humble in all things and in your approach to God: *“For God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6).*

HAVE FAITH...

You need to believe and have faith you can hear the voice of God. Jesus said, *“My sheep hear Me voice” (John 10:27).* This is not a suggestion; this is a statement.

PRAY FOR HOLY SPIRIT TO HELP YOU HEAR AND SEE...

- *“Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power” (Ephesians 1:15-19).*

TEST WHAT YOU ARE HEARING...

You need to test what you are hearing. One way to confirm what you are hearing is correct is to step out in faith. In doing this you must be prepared to make mistakes, but do not beat yourself up if you get it wrong, it is all part of any learning process.

If you stay within the parameters of love, comfort, and edification, you should not cause any problems. If you get it wrong accept it and apologise for any issues this may have caused. People are generally forgiving when we walk in humility. We must also forgive others for their mistakes.

We also test what we are hearing by the word of God. Does it line up with God's word?

- *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).*

BEING GODS VOICE

***"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?'
Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'"***

(Isaiah 6:8)

It is important we learn to discern the voice of God so we can live fulfilled, God glorifying lives. When we hear from Him and walk in obedience there are no limits to what we can accomplish.

One dynamic to hearing God's voice is communicating His voice, heart, and direction to others, to help them in their spiritual walk. This is a blessed part of our life in Christ, to be used by God to be a positive influence in our communities and fellowship.

When God uses a person to impart a word, or minister to another person through them, they must treat this privilege with the upmost respect and care. This is why we must learn and understand the nature of God. If we hear a word from God and deliver that word in the wrong manner or through the works of the flesh, we will not represent Him correctly and cause damage to another person.

SPEAKING EFFECTIVELY...

God may be wanting to encourage a person into a new phase of their lives and character development, but if we apply that word through a wrong heart or motive, we could bring judgement/condemnation upon that person, causing them to retract, rather than empowering them forward into the new.

God sees the good in us and we must see the good in others too. Many years ago, I was speaking to an older man who had served God most of his life. As we were speaking, he said to me, *"You are a person of integrity."* Now at the time I probably wouldn't have given the same self-evaluation of myself. However, once this man spoke those words to me, they transformed my heart and convicted the focus of my life going forward. God released a new grace in my life, and I would say I have lived with integrity since.

God could have looked at me and been within His rights to reveal all the places in my life that lacked integrity. He could easily have exposed weaknesses that would have caused me to feel humiliation, shame, and condemnation. But God does not operate like that, He speaks life and releases grace to enable our standards to lift. God used this man to speak effectively into my heart, revealing the truth of who I was created to be in Christ.

I have seen lives transformed by imparting God's blessed words to people. The word of God says, *"The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit"* (Proverbs 18:21).

When we intend to hear and minister the voice of God, we must do so in the same manner God intended, for there is power in our words, power to bring death, and power to release life. I prefer to be a vessel of life and hope, rather than a person of doom and gloom. For we all know people who speak from the valley of doom, and there is usually a constant trail of destruction and hopelessness in their path.

THE RIGHT FOCUS, THE RIGHT HEART...

When we are led to speak or minister God's voice to another person, we must do so in the right heart and manner we are commanded.

Do not be judgemental to others, for you do not want to be judged. Do not bring condemnation, for you do not want to be condemned:

- *"Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven" (Luke 6:37).*

Speak with love, grace, and compassion:

- *"Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one" (Colossians 4:6).*
- *"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29).*
- *"But he who prophesies speaks **edification** and **exhortation** and **comfort** to men" (1 Corinthians 14:3)*

Edification: To build a person up

Exhortation: Strongly encourage or urge a person to do something. To encourage them forward in hope.

Comfort: To strengthen a person. Releasing them from feelings of pain, distress, or constraint.

Speak words of life that will revive a person:

- *"The Lord God has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary" (Isaiah 50:4).*

One of the greatest privileges I have serving God is communicating His word to people.

I am regularly called to minister to people who have suffered for years. As we share together there can often be a common thread; they have been spoken to in a negative way or constantly told there is something wrong with them. And yes, there is something wrong with them because they have only been given negative, fruitless words, from religious people looking for error.

I have ministered to hundreds of people who are in need hope. And as I have communicated the words of Jesus to them, I have witnessed the light of life begin to shine in them. It is not uncommon to see a person revived right before your eyes if you are speaking the words of God in the same heart and context of God.

FINAL THOUGHTS

“Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Consider your ways!’”

(Haggai 1:7)

There is no 3, 5, or 10-point plan to hearing God’s voice. What’s required is faith and belief that God wants to speak to you and is speaking to you. The moment I realised this my life was transformed.

As we close off this article, I ask you to consider these thoughts:

1. I want to hear from God, but do I spend time with God?
 - *“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...”* (James 4:8).
2. Do I believe God wants to speak to me?
 - *“Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, ‘How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.’”*
²⁵ Jesus answered them, ‘I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness of Me’” (John 10:24-25).
3. Do I believe I am worthy enough, that God would want to speak to me?
 - *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:8).

You are worthy because He made you worthy! If Jesus came and spoke salvation when you were at your worst (before being born-again), how much more willing is He to speak to you now that you are washed and covered in the blood of Christ?

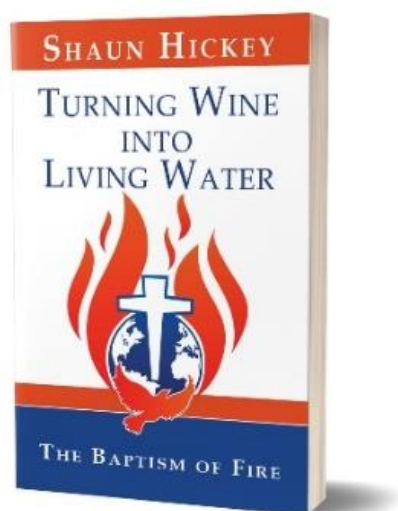
4. What am I expecting God’s voice to sound like?
 - *“Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it,’ whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left”* (Isaiah 30:21).
 - *“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come”* (John 16:13).
5. When I hear God speak, will I obey?
 - *“If you love Me, keep My commandments”* (John 14:15).
 - *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves”* (James 1:22).
 - *“If you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries”* (Exodus 23:22).

6. Get ready to hear His voice...

- *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me” (John 10:27).*

Let's pray in agreement...

“Father God, I come to You through the precious blood of Jesus Christ, who has washed me clean of all sin. Father, I desire to follow You and be obedient to You, so I ask you to please give me the grace to discern and hear Your voice more clearly. Please teach me everything I need to know regarding the hearing of Your voice. Please give me wisdom and understanding in the hearing of Your voice and lead me on the perfect path that You have prepared for me. Father God, I give my life completely to You, for Your will to be done in my life. Thank You for hearing me, and I thank You that I can hear from You. I ask and pray in the precious name of Jesus Christ, believing I will receive all my heart's desire in You and all the glory will be given to You. Thank You, Father. Amen.”



Shaun Hickey is the author of “Turning Wine into Living Water; The Baptism of Fire.” A book God is using to transform and empower many lives.

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