

Hearing God's Voice

Principle 1: One of the most Amazing Realities in the World is that Almighty God takes Time to Speak to Each of Us as Individuals!

I. Listening to God's Voice

Proverbs 3: 6–7 (Message) **Listen for GOD's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track.** Don't assume that you know it all. Run to GOD! Run from evil!

In My own Life, I can Share Some of the Different Times God has Spoken to Me and Given Me Direction for My Future.

- * My Calling to Ministry
- * Marrying My Wife Cathy
- * Naming My Son Barak
- * Purchasing this Facility

II. God's Intention for Mankind

Jeremiah 10:23 (NKJV) **O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.**

PRINCIPLE 2: God has not Created Us to be Self-Led and Function Independent of Him.

A. God Created Us to Follow His Voice

Proverbs 3:5–6 (NKJV) ⁵ 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.**

PRINCIPLE 3: The Majority of Life's Problems come from Doing things Our Way Instead of God's Way.

B. Following God's Voice Brings Blessing

Proverbs 3:1–2 (NIV) My son, **do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, ²for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity.**

C. There are Consequences for Not Following God's Voice

Genesis 2:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, **"Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."**

PRINCIPLE 4: Adam and Eve Chose not to Listen to God and to do things their Way Instead of God's Way. They Thought They Knew Better than God and this Decision Opened the Human Race up to the Problems We have Today.

D. God's Voice Directs Us

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) For **I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.**

III. Seeking God's Voice

PRINCIPLE 5: The First Step in Learning to Hear God's Voice is Desiring to Hear Him; God will not Force Himself on Us, He wants Us to Respond to Him Out of Love.

Jeremiah 29:12–13 (NIV) ¹² Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ **You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.**

Someone might say, "I've Asked the Lord to Hear His Voice, but I have Not Heard Him"; could it be because they are not Whole Heartily Seeking after God?

A. God is Always Speaking

Matthew 13:15 (NIV) **For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes...**

PRINCIPLE 6: God is Faithful; if We seek Him with all of Our Hearts We Will Hear His Voice, but if We Desire to Live Independent of Him He will Let Us.

B. Paying Attention to God's Voice

Proverbs 4:20–22 (NKJV) ²⁰ My son, **give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.** ²¹ Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; ²² **For they *are* life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh.**

C. Sheep Know the Voice of their Shepherd

Jesus Uses a Common Example of a Shepherd with His Sheep, to Illustrate Himself as Our Shepherd Leading and Guiding Our Lives.

John 10:2-4 (TRT) ² The true Shepherd walks right up to the gate, ³ and because the gatekeeper knows who he is, he opens the gate to let him in. **And the sheep recognize the voice of the true Shepherd, for he calls his own by name and leads them out, for they belong to him. ⁴And when he has brought out all his sheep, he walks ahead of them and they will follow him, for they are familiar with his voice.**

IV. God Speaks to Everyone

PRINCIPLE 7: God is Always Speaking, but not necessarily with His Audible Voice from Heaven, It Could be with His Still Small Voice to Our Spirit and We May not Even Realize It's Him!

A. Our Heart

Isaiah 30:21 (NKJV) **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.**

B. Nature

Romans 1:20 (NKJV) **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**

C. God's Word

Psalms 119:105 (NKJV) **Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.**

D. The Holy Spirit

John 16:13 (NKJV) However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, **He will guide you into all truth... and He will tell you things to come.**