

My Sheep Hear My Voice

A weekly devotional message for the family

Seeking God's Will Through Prayer

(John 10:27-28) My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: (28) And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

As Christian believers, we are to have an intimate relationship with the Lord our God. We are to communicate with Him on a regular basis, and we are to not only speak to Him, but we are also to hear and know His voice. We are to expect that we will hear His voice. However, there are many Christians that have never heard God's voice, or they are not sure if they have heard from God.

How do we know for sure if we have heard God's voice? How can we develop this kind of relationship where we hear the voice of our Great Shepherd?

Let us go to the writing of a prophet to see what he did to develop this relationship with God. The prophet Habakkuk was praying and asking the Lord for an understanding of why there was so much violence and wickedness around him, yet no punishment. The prophet needed to hear from God, so he prayed and put himself in a position to hear from God. (Habakkuk 2:1-2) I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved. (2) And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

Understanding God's Voice

First - we need to understand the voice of God. (Habakkuk 2:2) And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

Habakkuk knew the voice of God. Here God spoke in a vision. Sometimes God speaks in a small whisper. (1 Kings 19:12) And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. First there was a strong wind and then an earthquake. After the earthquake there was a fire, but the voice of God was not in any of these. After the storms came the voice of God in a quiet, whispering voice.

Sometimes God's voice is a quiet, whispering voice. Sometimes the voice of God is like spontaneous thoughts, visions, or dreams. One day I was at my desk studying for a sermon, and the Lord spoke to me about someone that I was not think of. Words came to me about this person, and I knew that it was from the Lord. After the words, the Lord gave to me the interpretation. At the exact same time that person was on a bus going to university, and the Lord gave him the exact same words at the exact same time. But only the interpretation came to me, so I could give deeper insight into God's will for him.

There was one time when I was watering flowers and my mind was not really on anything. Words started coming to me about someone. There have been times of spontaneous visions, and dreams that I knew were from the Lord. One time in prayer, someone came to my mind, so I prayed for them. The next day I told that person that I prayed for them last night, and they asked me the time I was praying. When I told her the time she said that was the exact time when something happened, but God helped her through that difficult time.

One man wrote to me and told me that I was on his mind in a very big way. It was when I was going through a very difficult time. When we were in Jordan, one woman in New York said that she felt impressed to pray for the church in Jordan. When she told us the date, it was the exact date when a woman in the church in Jordan went to the hospital. God healed that woman.

Spontaneous thoughts, words, visions, or dreams coming to us about someone or someplace. When the Lord answered Habakkuk, the prophet knew that it was the voice of God speaking to him. When we first start hearing from the Lord, we may question if the voice is from God or not, but after time we come to know when it is from God. We know His voice and follow Him.

Standing Still to Hear God Voice

(Habakkuk 2:1, BBE) I will take my position and be on watch, placing myself on my tower, looking out to see what he will say to me, and what answer he will give to my protest.

Habakkuk said that he will stand and listen for the Lord to speak to him. After we worship the Lord we need to be silent and listen for the Lord to speak. (Psalm 46:10) Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

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As we are still, meditating on God's Word is a great way to stay focused on the Lord. (Psalm 1:2) *But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

Our great shepherd leads us to a quiet place so that when He speaks, we are in a place to listen. (Psalm 23:1-2) *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. (2) He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

We focus on the Lord Jesus, for He alone is source of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2) *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith...*

If we have thoughts of unworthiness, then we go to the Lord and ask for forgiveness of our sins. (1 John 1:9) *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Then we go back to focusing on the Lord. We keep our focus on Jesus.

Expecting to Hear From God

(Habakkuk 2:1, BBE) *I will take my position and be on watch, placing myself on my tower, looking out to see what he will say to me, and what answer he will give to my protest.*

As Habakkuk prayed, he was expecting to hear from God. He was ready to receive a vision or word from the Lord.

Jesus who gave us examples to follow, prayed often. We see the humanity of Christ needed to pray to the deity. Jesus kept His eye on heaven, and His heavenly mission. (John 5:19-20, NKJV) *Then answered Jesus and said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father do: for what things soever he does, these also does the Son likewise. (20) For the Father loves the Son, and shows him all things that himself does: and he will show him greater works than these, that you may marvel.*

(John 5:30, NKJV) *I can of my own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not my own will, but the will of the Father which has sent me.*

We need to seek God to know the Will of God. Then we need to seek God for His divine help to do His will. We need to continually pray to keep ourselves focused.

When we pray, we need to expect to hear a word or see a vision or dream. Jesus is ready to speak to us. Are we ready to listen? (John 15:15) *From now on I call you not servants; for the servant knows not what his lord does: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known to you.*

God is speaking today in dreams and vision. (Acts 2:17) *And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.*

Writing the Vision

(Habakkuk 2:2) *And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.*

After Habakkuk saw the vision, God told him to write it down, and make it easy for the people to understand it. I started a Prayer Journal in 2009. When I see or hear something in prayer, then I record it in my journal. From time to time I go back to read the things that I have recorded. When God speaks, do not take it lightly. Record it, and meditate on those things that come from God. When we hear something, compare it to the Word of God. God does not change, and His Word does not change. Our guide is the Word of God.

These steps will help us to hear from God. He wants to talk to us. Are we ready to hear from God? Seeking God through prayer in order to know His Will for our life. This is a must for all believers.