



HEARING GOD'S VOICE

The Mark of a Follower of Christ

Psalm 23; Jeremiah 32: 1-15; John 10: 1-18

**God's people are marked out by the fact that they hearken to His voice.
My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. John 10:27.**

Jesus' sheep hearken to His voice

The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers. (John 10 : 3-5)



God's people hearken to His voice through the ages

The main dispensations in the Bible show God's dealings with the human race in the various periods of human history.

The Patriarchs

God dealt with the fathers of families eg. Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
These patriarchs and their families related directly to God.
(Genesis 6:9-22; 12:1-5; 49:1-3)

The Law

God placed the nation of Israel under a law which did not apply to other nations.
God's people related to Him through the law, the temple and the priesthood.
(Exodus 15: 22-26; Deuteronomy 28; Jeremiah 7: 22-24)

The Gospel

In this period of time, the gospel is proclaimed to the whole human race, regardless of race, nationality, class and gender. God requires a response from each person.
(Matthew 28:18-20)

While God's way of dealing with people was different from one dispensation to another, His requirement for them to hearken to His voice is the same all through time. Consider these scriptures: Exodus 15:26; Deuteronomy 28: 1-3, 15; Jeremiah 7:22-23.

Today,

if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart (Psalm 95: 7-8).

There are many people today who have not entered God's rest because they have not hearkened to God's voice.

The Holy Spirit brings God's voice to His people

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all.

The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. John 6:63

The Holy Spirit quickens God's Word and imparts life to us. Many of us come out of traditions that emphasize engaging the mind. We need to grow in engaging the heart and to hear God's voice through scripture.

This Lenten season, apply these 3 disciplines to yourself:

1. Fasting

Deny yourself of some legitimate functions and activities in order draw near to God.

2. Prayer

Join other Christians to pray daily at 12 noon.

3. Feeding on God's Word

Read and incline your ear to the voice of God.



How can I be sure that I have heard God's voice?

The following factors will help you recognise if it is God or another who is speaking to you.

Arbiter (Colossians 3: 15-16)

God's voice always produces God's peace. Let the peace of Christ act as the arbiter. We need to be cautious when peace is absent and there is an inner unrest.

Bible (2 Timothy 3:16)

God, the Holy Spirit, never contradicts Himself. So he will not bring God's voice to us in a way which contradicts Scripture.

Counsel and Circumstance

Seek the advice of family members and mature Christian friends (Proverbs 11:14). God's call is often confirmed by a situation that is special beyond reasonable doubt (Jeremiah 32: 6-9).

Resource : Derek Prince Legacy Radio.

Guides/Apps for Bible-reading, with audio/podcast functions:

Bible in One Year

bibleinoneyear.org

Helps you read the Bible with commentary in one year.

Our Daily Bread

odb.org

Daily encouragement and inspiration to draw closer to God each day.

Journey Through

journeythrough.org

Each title helps you finish a book of the Bible systematically.

Lectio 365

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/lectio-365/id1483974820>

A daily devotional resource that helps you pray the Bible every day.