

The Lost Voice of God

How to Hear God's Whisper

John 10:1-16, 27-30

²⁷ "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

Isaiah 30:21 – And your ears will hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it, when you turn to the right hand, and when you turn to the left.'

The Problem – God is silent, does not speak today except thru word.

Atheists, Dispensationalists, Cessationalists

Psalm 19:1-4

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. ² Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. ³ They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. ⁴ Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

All of creation speaks. Angels shout and sing. They speak, they are messengers. The stars sing. (Black holes play the lowest note of the universe.) (Job 38:4, 7) The hills break into song. The trees clap their hands. (Isaiah 33:12) The oceans roar. (Psalm 46:3) The clouds thunder. The wind whistles and howls. The rain patters and beats like a drum. But God: Oh, no, He cannot speak. We won't let Him. He's not permitted. God speaking could be dangerous.

God has given a voice to all his creatures, great and small. They all communicate. Dogs bark, cats meow, chickens cluck, roosters crow, cows moo, pigs oink and squeal mice squeak, ducks quack, horses neigh and whinny, monkeys chatter, birds chirp, tweet, sing, warble, and twitter; crows caw, , snakes rattle and hiss, deer snort, elephants trumpet, lions roar, sheep baa, goats neah, dolphins click, turkeys gobble, seals bark, wolves howl, rabbits squeak and scream, raccoons chatter, pigeons coo, whales sing, owls hoot, grasshoppers chirp, and parrots squawk and talk.

Shall I go on? There isn't a critter in all God's creation that does not communicate through voice, sounds, grunts, hisses, clicks, touch, chemicals, light and the list goes on and on. **But God, you say, cannot speak. He is silent. He has been muffled. He has been silenced. He has been put in a corner for a time-out.**

How to Hear God's Whisper?

Many Voices in the World

1. Your busy mind (multiple thoughts) -
2. Your conscience (accusing/excusing) -
3. People's voices (opinions, influence) -
4. Parental voices (training, guilt) -
5. Internal voices (schizophrenic) -
6. The world's advice (natural law) -
7. The devil and demons whisper (tempt) -

But God: Oh, no, He cannot speak.

The Shepherd Jesus Speaks

1. The Written Word - Psalm 119:130 The entrance of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.
2. The Witness Within - Romans 8:14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.
3. The Whisper in Ear - Isaiah 30:21 You will hear a word behind you saying, this is the way, walk in it.

The Holy Spirit Whispers

The ministry of the Holy Spirit in us. (see text)

- John 14:16-18 – *Parakletos* = Truth
- John 14:26 – *Parakletos* = Teacher
- John 15:26-27 – *Parakletos* = Testifier
- John 16:7-10 – *Parakletos* = Convincer
- John 16:12-15 – *Parakletos* = Guide

Romans 8:1-27 – Holy Spirit Speaks/Whispers – The Holy Spirit is always speaking. Substitute “Spirit” with “Spirit’s Whisper” – He dwells within you.

How to Hear for the Voice of God

1. A thought (a sentence) – (ie) Clymer – “get in and drive your car.”
2. A word (one word repeated) – (ie) “Stop! Help her!”
3. A picture (an image, vision) – (ie) a picture in your mind’s eye, usually in prayer
4. An idea (concept, novel idea) – (ie) this is inspiration, a God-plan (from within)
5. An impression (intuition, impulse) – (ie) leading, guiding
6. A revelation (vision, dream, angel) – (ie) Muslim’s being converted
7. A warning (a caution, discernment) – (ie) A warning my mother’s sense
8. A Scripture brought to mind (verse) – (ie) Mark 16 “Go into all the world and preach”

The Challenge - *Spend Time With Your Shepherd*

1. **Every day alone with the Word**
2. **Every day ½ hour daily listening**

In the Garden – “I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses. And the voice I hear calling on my ear, the Son of God discloses. And he walks with me and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own. And the joy we share as we tarry there. None other has ever known.”

John 10:1-16

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

John 10:27-30

²⁵ Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all ; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.”

The Holy Spirit Whispers to Us

The ministry of the Holy Spirit in us.

John 14:16-18 – *Parakletos*= Spirit of Truth

¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

John 14:26 – *Parakletos* = Teacher

²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

John 15:26-27 – *Parakletos* = Testifier

²⁶ “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

John 16:7-10 – *Parakletos* = Convincer

⁷ 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: ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

John 16:12-15 – *Parakletos* = Guide

¹² “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. ¹³ 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.