





God Is Closer
Than You Think
The Voice

John 10:14-15a, 27

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father.... My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

“And [Adam and Eve] heard the sound of the LORD God....” Genesis 3:8

“Now the LORD said to Abraham....”
Genesis 12:1

“God said to Moses....” Exodus 3:13

“The LORD said to Joshua....” Joshua 1:1

“Then the LORD said to me [Isaiah]....”
Isaiah 8:1

“This is the word that came to Jeremiah
from the LORD....” Jeremiah 1:1

“The word of the LORD came to
Ezekiel....” Ezekiel 1:3

“The Spirit told me [Peter]....” Acts 11:12

Hebrews 12:25

“See to it that you do not refuse him [God] who speaks.”

1 Kings 19:9-13

“There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’”

He replied, ‘I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.’”

1 Kings 19:9-13

“The LORD said, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.’ Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.”

1 Kings 19:9-13

“Then a voice said to him, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’”

Dallas Willard in *Hearing God*

“The still, small voice—those inner promptings—is still the most preferred and most valuable form of individualized communication for God’s purposes.”

1 Samuel 3:7

“Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD:
The word of the LORD had not yet been
revealed to him.”

1 Samuel 3:19

“The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up”—and here’s the phrase—“and he let none of his words fall to the ground.”

Ten Guidelines for discerning the voice of God

(Roger Barrier, *Listening to the Voice of God*)

1. God tends to speak with gentle leadings.
2. God's voice produces freedom.

Matthew 11:30

“My yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Ten Guidelines for discerning the voice of God

(Roger Barrier, *Listening to the Voice of God*)

1. God tends to speak with gentle leadings.
2. God's voice produces freedom.
3. God tends to speak when I am seeking him.

Jeremiah 29:12-13

“Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

Ten Guidelines for discerning the voice of God (Roger Barrier, *Listening to the Voice of God*)

1. God tends to speak with gentle leadings.
2. God's voice produces freedom.
3. God tends to speak when I am seeking him.
4. When God is speaking, there is a sense that everything is under control.
5. God convicts of specific sins.

John 16:8

“...will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.”

Ten Guidelines for discerning the voice of God

(Roger Barrier, *Listening to the Voice of God*)

6. God speaks with 100% truth that can be tested by the Bible.
7. God's voice always leads to a deep, abiding sense of peace.

Philippians 4:7

“...the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:4-6

“Rejoice in the LORD always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The LORD is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Ten Guidelines for discerning the voice of God

(Roger Barrier, *Listening to the Voice of God*)

8. Get wise counsel from Christ-followers you trust!
9. Make sure that what you are sensing is from God really agrees with the character and nature of God.
10. Ask yourself, “Does this agree with my conscience?”

Dallas Willard

“Of course you could be wrong. God doesn't intend to make us infallible by his conversational walk with us, but you are usually correct.”