

QUICK THEOLOGY

How to Hear God's Voice



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Introduction

“How can I hear God’s voice?” It’s a question that many of you are asking, and it’s one that I love! As we get into in this book, we will find that the short answer is that we must learn how to listen for God. So, in the following pages I’m going to give you some tools to help you do just that.

This will be a shorter book because the Bible is very straightforward about this. Scripture is clear about how we can hear God’s voice, but when it comes to practically walking it out, that’s where it gets difficult. That’s where we run into problems.

I will tell you right out of the gate, two of the biggest reasons we struggle to hear God’s voice and to know when He is speaking are because 1) We don’t take the time to sit and listen; we don’t spend enough time with Him to hear His voice, and 2) We live in a distracted age; we have accepted distraction and even cultivated habits

of distraction. We don't train ourselves to focus. Rather, we create an identity that is unfocused and distracted. Or even if it's something we struggle with or we have ADHD or another condition, we may not make the lifestyle changes necessary to actually help us to hear His voice better. So in this book we will talk about the various ways we can cultivate our ability to seek God's face and listen for His voice.



Seek God

Regardless of who we are or where we are, there are all kinds of cultural influences, pressures, distractions, and spiritual warfare at play. And it's all vying for our attention, attempting to pull us away from God and to cause us to be numb and deaf to His voice. We need to be aware of this because it matters in the day to day whether or not we are taking the time to listen for God.

As I thought about how to sketch out this book, I went to the Bible and looked up verses about hearing God and about God's voice. What we see in Scripture is God's desire to be heard. God desires to hear you, and He wants to be heard by you. It's not as if we are pursuing Him and He is running in the other direction. He is not trying to escape us as we are trying to seek Him. He wants to be found. Scripture says again and again *God wants to be found, and He is found by those who seek Him*. We see it in both the Old Testament and the New.

If that's the truth God has spoken about Himself, then we have to take Him at His word and trust that the God of the universe wants to be sought. He wants us to hear Him, which also means that He is speaking. So, who then in the equation is the one who is not hearing? It's us. We have to get better at listening, and that is a discipline. It comes with time, practice, and patience.

As we go through the verses I've highlighted for this book, I want you to keep in mind that this is simple and biblical. This is a kind God who wants to be heard, but it will not be easy. It is going to go against our nature and our culture. In fact, at no point in history has it been an easy thing to do. If you look at the prayer lives of the forefathers of our faith, they will often say how difficult it is. But as they cultivated the habit of seeking God and listening for Him, they found it to be a beautiful and delightful thing.

The first verse I want to start with has to do with the importance of hearing God. Romans 10:17 says, "*So faith comes from hearing and hearing through the word of Christ.*" Faith—our belief in God, in His grace, and in His character—comes from hearing. We cannot believe what we do not know; we cannot know what we have not heard. "But in order to hear God," Paul says, "You have to know the words of Christ." Where are the words of

Christ? They're in Scripture.

Sometimes I will talk to people online who follow my work, and they will say, "Well, I want to hear God, but I just don't hear Him." So I press a little and ask, "Well, have you spent any time in the Word? That doesn't mean you have to do an inductive study for 40 minutes every day. But are you listening to it on audio, are you praying through it, are you memorizing Scripture?" Often they say, "No."

Friends, the very ground level of hearing God is hearing God through His Word. That is where He speaks most clearly. It is where He has revealed Himself, and every single thing He says through other avenues will line up with what He has already said about Himself there. If we want to hear God, we need to be in the Word of God. We need to be listening to it, reading it, speaking it back to ourselves, and writing it out. Whatever our learning style is and however our brain works, God has given us avenues—especially in today's society—to consume His Word. He has given it to us, and we must spend time in it if we want to hear Him. So, number one is that you have to hear God's Word in Scripture (Romans 10:17).

The second verse I love that talks about this is Jeremiah 33:3. It actually confirms what what we looked