

You Asked For It How Do I hear God Speak To Me?

One of the most important reasons Jesus lives in our hearts is because he guides us. One of the ways the Bible describes Jesus to us is as a shepherd. A shepherd is not passive in his watch over his sheep. Sheep are active and sometimes get themselves into trouble when they wander out on their own. But when the shepherd calls that wandering sheep back, the sheep always recognizes the shepherds voice. ***John 10:27 "Jesus said, my sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."***

Did you know, because of God's voice in your life you can make every decision right for the rest of your life? Even though you have made some big mistakes earlier in your life. Even if you've messed up and made a decision without seeking his counsel, God can still redeem that dead work and cause it to bear fruit. If we ask God to lead and guide us he will. When you ask him to speak to you he will and in return everything he speaks to you will bear fruit!

I've learned that when I'm leading myself, I will lean heavily on reason, emotion, or even worse fear. When God leads us none of those things coming to play. when God leads us none of those things coming to play. He leads us according to his will and not our own.

So how do we hear all of that? This morning I'm going to share with you some clear ways on how you can know that you have absolutely heard from God. Are you ready?

1. The 1st way Jesus speaks to us is through the Bible.

Every time you read the Bible God is speaking something to you on some level. When the Bible uses the word "Word," it's talking about

two distinct things. Number one is “**Logos,**” *which means written word.* The Bible is the written word of God with truths that are for all to read and applied to their lives. Then there is the “**Rhema**” word. ***Romans 10:17 says, “So Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”***

Have you ever been reading the Bible and a verse just jumps off the page and into your spirit? That’s called “**Rhema.**” So every time you read the Bible you give God an opportunity to speak to you!

2. The 2nd way God speaks to us is by his still small voice.

1 Kings 19:11:12 this is God speaking to Elijah. ***“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 still small voice.”***

Do you ever wonder why God speaks to us in the still small voice? I think some of the reason is because he doesn’t want to intimidate us. God doesn’t bark orders, rather his voice is the most loving voice you will ever hear! Even when he is warning us, he is still tender. That’s how you know you are hearing from God. The devil will bring fear, intimidation, and condemnation. Everything that God says always agrees with scripture. Always measure what you are hearing against God’s word. He will not contradict himself ever.

3. The 3rd Way, God speaks to us is through dreams and visions.

Joel 2:28-29 “And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream

***dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.”
Do you realize that we are living in “those days?”***

This is getting into the more prophetic realm where God still operates today and we embrace in this church. By the way, if some of you do move in the prophetic and God happens to speak to you please come and share that with me during the service so that we can give it its proper attention and honor. It's better to come forward and deliver a word then be the voice in the back of the room.

A vision is a picture that God is giving you in your heart. There's a reason God uses dreams. Because sometimes God has to bypass your conscious mind because your conscious mind sometimes will keep you from hearing from God. We want things to make sense all the time and we want to reason everything out and sometimes that gets in the way.

4. The 4th Way, God speaks to us is through peace.

Colossians 3:15 “Let the peace of christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.”

Let the peace of God rule in your hearts. That word “rule” means “to umpire or to call the shots.” One of the things I do not like about our softball league is that the league does not provide umpires which can cause a lot of chaos and needless bickering. When the umpire calls a strike or a ball or calls someone out or safe then that is the end of the story because the empire has the final authority.

John 14:27 Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.”

The Peace of God is a profound thing. It is a tangible thing. You can feel and experience God's peace.

Let's put this in application. If you were praying for direction in your life, and by the way, if the Bible says don't do it then don't do it, but if it says do it then do it but their somethings the Bible doesn't say. Like what kind of car to buy, what house to buy, who to Marry, or where to go to school. But as you pray his tangible peace will be with you. Sometimes things look right but you just don't have peace about. The lack of peace is God speaking to you. But this principle also works in reverse. Things can look blurry and unclear but God's peace is all over it.

The decision to move my family to Green Bay six years ago made no sense on paper but God's peace was all over the opportunity and that is what ultimately let us here.

Let me ask you a question: How long has it been sense you've had the peace of God in your life about what you are doing, the decisions you are making, the people you are allowing in your life, and the direction you are headed?

5. The 5th Way God speaks to us is by circumstances. Open and closed doors.

Revelation 3:7 "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: these are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open."

The Lord is the one that opens and closes doors, not us. Ask God to open the door and give you peace about it but we also have to be OK with a closed door! We love open doors and complained about the closed doors. Let me ask you a question do you allow your children to do everything they want to do? The answer is, no you don't. That is a form of love to our kids even though they would not see it that way. The same is true for the Lord.

6. Finally, the Last Way, God speaks to us is through people.

Proverbs 11:14 "For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is one through many advisers."

If you were seeking God will or you are needing an answer from the Lord in a certain area of your life, find a believer who has a proven track record for hearing and obeying the Lord.

I'm not here today because I made it by pulling up my own bootstraps. If I could show you pictures of the individuals that have spoken into my life over the years and helped me hear the voice of God, there would be too many to fill both of the screens. Learn to allow healthy voices in your life that will help you along the way with your walk with Christ.