



The Sharon Star

How to Hear the Voice of God

By Andy Snoke

Can a man or a woman hear God? If so, how does He speak? How can we know that we are genuinely hearing from the Lord and not from our own hearts? The answer is “yes.” God does speak to His family. And there are ways in which we can learn to discern His voice, over our own thoughts. God does want to speak to His people. When the Lord does speak to us as individuals, it is most often in more than one way. The Lord has a way of “confirming” His Word and His ways through more than one avenue.

It is important that when we, as Christians, feel that God is “speaking” to us, we look for at least two or three confirmations that this is true. For, as fallen creatures, we can easily be misled by our own opinions, wants, desires, and needs. God’s voice is most often not thundering and overwhelming, but as God spoke to Elijah, it can be simply a whisper, with other confirmations. To begin with, we need to admit to ourselves, that the most spiritually experienced, well meaning saints, can get it wrong. We can fully believe that God has spoken to us, and be absolutely wrong. This is the story of Acts 15. It is through several avenues that God’s word is confirmed and that we become clear that God is speaking.

The intent of this article is to look at a few ways in which God speaks to us in this hour. If you believe that God is speaking to you, I encourage you as a reader to be sure that God is also speaking in more than one method that will be outlined below. Confirmation is always important. Don’t look for just one avenue; look for more than one.

God speaks through scripture.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). God speaks clearly, and directly through scripture. There are many things that a person need not even ask God about because they are already outlined in the Scriptures. For instance, a man may wake up very early in the morning and dread going into work if it is

an inconvenient and difficult environment. Should a man ask God if he should in fact go to work because it is difficult and inconvenient? I dare say that a prejudiced mind might think that he heard God say, “Just stay home and take it easy!” In reality, the Scriptures teach that if a man does not work, he should not eat. Therefore, there is no need to even ask God about whether it is important to work. Instead, in this situation, a man should give thanks to God for the job that provides the things he needs to support his family.

1. A man never has to ask God if he should love his wife. He is commanded to do so in Eph. 5:22.

2. A wife should never have to ask God about respecting her husband as she is already commanded to do so in Eph. 5:33.

3. A family need not ask God if they should pay a tithe to the Lord, as they are already commanded to do so in Malachi 3:8-11.

These are just a few examples of the will and voice of God speaking through the written Word of God.

God can speak to our heart and mind

God can and does speak directly to our heart and mind. At the same time, if we were to only rely on our “feeling” that it is God speaking to us, we could easily be misled. This is why it is important that when we feel that God is “speaking” to our hearts, we should also look for other avenues for discerning His will that confirms that. “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is

Table of Contents

How to Hear the Voice of God	1
Encouragement from the Psalms	3
Everlasting Life	4
Called Home	8

the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left” (Isaiah 30:21). “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:” (Hebrews 8:10). Learning to discern God’s voice speaking to our hearts is an acquired skill. It is something we can learn as we mature spiritually. I am sure that God has spoken to us on many occasions, but we did not have the maturity to discern that it was the Lord speaking. This comes with time and experience. “For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Hebrews 5:13-14). “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers” (John 10:1-5).

The Lord called young Samuel three times before he recognised that it was the Lord speaking. “And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep; That the Lord called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I. And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down. And the Lord called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again. Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed unto him. And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child. Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth” (1 Samuel 3:3-10).

Let us all pray that the Lord will give us a greater sensitivity to hear and discern His voice.

We can hear the voice of the Lord through the prophecies that went before us as individuals.

In this last revival, which is but a stair step towards the finished work of God in the Church, the Lord in an unusual way has blessed the truth of gifts and ministries to the individual, which are given through prophecy and the laying on of the hands of the presbytery (group of elders). Through the years, we can look back at the

multitude of prophecies given over individuals and see that these have been accurate in a miraculous way. These prophecies given over the individuals, as God indicated, have proven to be absolutely astonishingly, amazingly, and miraculously accurate. What we have experienced through the laying on of hands, and what we can continue to experience on a regular basis, cannot be summed up by any word short of “a miracle.”

No man can know the heart of man, yet through the laying on of hands by the presbytery (which for safety is always more than one person), truths have been revealed, gifts and power endued, and with much detail, a person’s ministry has been revealed. “Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21). “This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;” (1 Timothy 1:18-19).

“Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery (which means a group of elders). “Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all” (1 Timothy 4:14-15).

If you have had the privilege of being prayed over and set in your work for the Lord, it is good to review what the Lord said from time to time. God will use these prophecies to confirm His Word. If you have not been prayed over, then please seek the Lord for His timing and opportunity.

God speaks through godly counsel.

“Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety” (Proverbs 11:14). “For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety” (Proverbs 24:6). “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise” (Proverbs 12:15). “Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war” (Proverbs 20:18). “He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered” (Proverbs 28:26).

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1).

God has a way of confirming His voice through the counsel of the godly. Often, when we have questions regarding following the will of God, it is good to talk to our local elders, to get a confirmation. If we “feel” that we have “heard from God,” and are afraid to talk to those over us such as our elders because we are concerned the answer won’t be what we like, then something is wrong. Acts 15 is an account of how the new Jewish elders were convinced that the Gentiles must follow the physical requirements given by Moses in order to be saved. There was much disagreement among all; but after they contacted the apostles, and had a long discussion, the Lord gave a clear answer through godly counsel.

When in doubt-- ask!

God speaks through confirmation.

“But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established “(Matthew 18:16).

After the great debate in Acts 15, a debate that could have split the Church before it had even had time to become established, by godly counsel and then confirmation, God gave clarity.

The confirmation was so great, the following letters were written and sent:

“Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren: And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia: Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment: It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul” (Acts 15:22-25). “For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;” (Acts 15:28).

God speaks through circumstances and timing.

“After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; and found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome;) and came unto them, and because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers” (Acts 18:1-3). This relationship between Paul, Aquilla, and Priscilla, which happened as a result of circumstances, became one of the most important strategic partnerships in the book of Acts.

God speaks through His peace.

When a person has followed the voice of God, and has allowed His will to be confirmed by a number of methods outlined above (more than one), then the Lord allows a “peace” to wash over our souls with the great comfort of knowing we are in His will.

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful” (Colossians 3:15). “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).

Encouragement from the Psalms

By David Cotcher

We can find a lot of encouragement in the Psalms as we do throughout the Scriptures. The Psalmist, David, had times when he was discouraged, or fearful, or feeling overwhelmed, and we can see in the Psalms how he found encouragement. We can have the same feelings at times, and the Psalms are a wonderful source of encouragement.

David cried unto the Lord in prayer at a time when he was feeling overwhelmed. “Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto Thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For Thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. I will abide in Thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of Thy wings” (Psalm 61:1 - 4). David prayed that God would lead him to that stability in the solid rock, and know the calm assurance of His protection. He was reminded that God has been a shelter, and a strong tower to protect him the enemy. When David was feeling overwhelmed, he reminded himself to fully put his trust in God and abide under His covering. As David does in many of the Psalms, he first confesses his own weakness and then declares His trust in God’s protection and strength.

Many times David was under attack from his enemies, and he learned to trust in God’s protection. This is expressed in Psalm 91 in wonderful promises that we can claim for ourselves. “He that dwelleth in the secret

place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust. Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler” (Psalm 91: 1 - 4). Praise God! We can dwell in the secret place of the Most High, and fully trust Him under His covering.

David asked his own soul, “Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance” (Psalm 42:5). David was feeling unrest or turmoil in his soul, and later in the psalm he repeats this again “Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God” (v11). He asked himself, “Why are you feeling down and in turmoil?” He reminded himself to put his hope in God, and to keep praising Him for His help and strength. Again, he repeats this in the next Psalm, as well, (Psalm 43:5) to really get the message into his heart and soul. We are the same as David, and we often need to be reminded again to really receive the truth deep in our hearts. David encouraged himself, and wrote this in the Psalms as a testimony to encourage others. If we feel disquieted or experience unrest in our souls, let us say as