

Does Hearing God Make Sense?

Sermon Notes

Many Western Christians subconsciously hold to a worldview known as 'Deism'. Deism assumes that one point in time, God created all matter and the laws of nature. Since then, the universe has run by itself, largely independent of God. Occasionally God has 'intervened' with miracles, signs, wonders and messages but other than that, the universe gets on with its own thing.

If this is what you believe about the world, then it is only possible to 'hear God' in the abnormal – the supernatural or impossible coincidences. If you think that you've 'heard God' through your reflection on nature or by examining your thoughts and desires, then you must be mistaken – reading something that isn't there into a mechanical system that was set up long ago and largely has no meaning.

Thankfully, Deism isn't true.

This universe doesn't run on its own independently of God. There is no reason why the universe should exist and there is no reason it should be this way given that it does. The universe isn't logically necessary, and it doesn't sustain itself. Everything that exists has being and functions the way that it does because God sustains it.

God is in everything.

He is in the normal as well as the abnormal.

Miracles and wonders – someone being healed, an impossible coincidence arising in response to prayer – are works of God. They are the times when God makes presence manifest – clear and obvious. (The best examples being Jesus and the Bible).

But the good 'natural order' – an immune system conquering a cold, or a friend showing kindness – are also works of God. In this case God is more hidden, he is acting in a different sort of way, but it is still him. These are works of God too.

And so, we don't just hear God in the abnormal.

Yes, God can be heard and has been heard in audible voices or signs, but he is also heard when we examine our thoughts and desires to discover which ones point to the God who is goodness and beauty themselves, and which ones point away from God. We can say we've heard from God with a humble confidence, when we learn to examine his still, small voice speaking to our Spirit.

Join our series 'What is God Saying?' to explore with us what that looks like.