

Discerning the Voice of God

What is God Saying

The Bible urges us not just to be hearers of the word but doers. After seven weeks talking about what it means to discern the voice of God (and perhaps hearing from God in the midst of that), we now look to action.

If you're looking for a practical 'next step' on your journey to learning how to discern the voice of God, you might consider the following.

Preparatory Habits

It is tough to hear the voice of God if we only draw near to God once or twice a year when we face a particular difficulty or curly decision. To hear God is to hear him constantly - year to year, month to month, day to day and moment to moment.

There are a few spiritual practises that Christians throughout the ages have found very helpful for learning how to recognise God's voice: daily prayer and Bible reading and weekly gathered worship and self-examination. You likely know about the first three; however, the final practise may be new to you. Self-examination is coming before God to examine your spirit (asking from where you are seeking your vindication and asking God to remind you that you are loved and forgiven), your mind (thinking through what God has taught you in the last week), your desires (thanking Him for how he has grown your desire for goodness, kindness and generosity and love and asking him to grow it further) and character.

Would you like to try prayer, Bible reading, gathered worship or self-examination?

Practises to Try

With these preparatory practises in place, you might like to try hearing from God. Throughout the course of this series, we've looked at three methods for hearing from God. (Of course, God can speak however He likes! And there isn't really a 'strategy' for hearing the voice of God. However, we need to start somewhere. As long as we don't cling to these strategies as 'gospel' they can be helpful.)

1. Examination of desire.

Seek out the desires in your spirit and discern which ones come God and his good gifts and seek after those. (For more on this, see the sermon 'Hearing the voice of God within')

2. Discerning the still small voice.

Ask God to speak to you, then read the Bible, pray, go for a walk or whatever else quietens your mind. Pay attention to the thoughts, words, images or senses that come into your mind. Ask God to help you see which thoughts are from Him and which are from you. (From more on this the sermon, 'Hearing the voice of God from without.')

3. Conversation

Try speaking to God (out loud or silently) as you would a respected friend. Imagine you're having a conversation and allow Him to lead you imagination.

Would you like to try examination of desire, discerning the still small voice or conversation with God?

Pitfalls to Avoid

As we seek to hear from God, there are some pitfalls to avoid. Firstly, we want to avoid over-confidence

What to do if God is Silent?