

## 10 Things About Hearing God's Voice Study Guide

Prayer is just a conversation with God. We talk to Him and He talks to us. It's that second part we have a lot of problems with.

What does it look like to hear from God and how do we know when we've heard from Him?

We talk way too much in prayer. We think the conversation is pretty much a one way conversation because God's not sitting across from us. I can't see Him. I cant touch Him. Is He really listening or not?

If we are always talking and not listening, we will not hear from God.

When we wonder why He's not answering our prayers it's because we are always talking and not allowing Him to talk or even reveal to us the answers we're seeking. We don't give Him a chance. I sometimes feel He's just waiting for me to stop talking so He can get a word in edgewise.

My husband is an introvert and doesn't talk nonstop like I do. I think that's why I love video! I can talk all I want. My husband, though, is like EF Hutton. When he speaks you want to listen because his words are few but powerful. So I've had to learn that in order to carry on a conversation with him, I need to put one thought out there and then stop. Because He's processing what I said and when he speaks it's going to be important and I will want to hear it. Sometimes he's ascertaining the deeper question behind the surface question I asked.

I saw a post on Facebook that listed why introverts don't talk much. One said, "I had something to say about what you just said a few minutes ago, but you've moved on to a different topic now."

We have to stop and be quiet and wait for others to answer us. We have to stop and wait for God to answer us and really listen for what He is telling us. Sometimes we are just ranting and we don't really want to hear what He has to say. So He will wait to talk to us when we are listening. That's why I love my pool time. He always speaks to me there.

God wants us to think about what we've been asking Him or talking to Him about. Then He will drop a truth into our lives. He may drop it into many different ways. It may be a still, small voice, it may not be a booming answer.

Let's talk about this. How does God speak to me. What does He say? How does He say it?

## Ten Things About God's Voice

### 1. He will lead me to the whole truth, not a half-truth.

Satan always pulls out a half-truth. Look at what He did with Eve in the garden. Half-truth. He said, "You won't die." She wouldn't at the moment but she was bringing death into the world but she didn't understand that. God leads us to the whole truth.

### 2. He will not violate scripture, but fulfill it.

Anything He shares with me will be based in scripture. If I write down what God is saying to me and then go and research it in Scripture and see that what I thought God was saying was violating Scripture then, it is not God speaking.

One person said they thought it was God's will for her to divorce her husband and marry this other man. Her husband had done nothing wrong and was a pastor. The other man she hadn't seen in years and didn't even know if he was single or not. I told her she should really investigate whether the Scriptures agreed with her or not. She said she didn't have to because she knew that's what God said to her. See that's what she said to herself and she wanted to think it was from God because she was mad at her husband and thought this would be an easier solution.

It may not be that clear of a scriptural violation to you, but you can go and research the Scriptures and find principles that will guide you in understanding if this is the way God operates or not.

Have you had a situation where you knew what you thought God was saying was not because it violated Scripture?

### 3. He will lead me towards my destiny, not away from it.

He is always directing us forward to what we are uniquely designed to do. What He designed for us to do before the foundation of the world.

**Ephesians 2:10 TPT**—Even before we were born God planned our destiny and the good works I would do to fulfill it.

I may not know my destiny, but if it's really leading me off course and isn't anything that I have been designed to do, then I need to examine that.

### 4. He will redirect me according to His ultimate will.

God's ultimate will is for all people to come to a knowledge of Him. So He will direct me. It will be towards fulfilling my little piece of His ultimate will. My little

piece, I've come to understand, is to help those who in food addiction or any addiction issues to come out of that to be able to be used in Kingdom work. Sugar, food addiction, alcohol, drugs, finances, relationships, sexual, pornography all those kinds of things.

How does your piece fit into the ultimate will of God? Your piece might be being a Mom or Grandma. How does that fit into God's ultimate will? It very definitely does. Any time you are affecting another person's life, encouraging, inspiring, leading, helping definitely is part of His will. Raising children or grandchildren is one way.

### **5. He will cause me to think rather than act on impulse.**

I know this because of How God leads me when I am about to succumb to a temptation. Listen to the story about the conference and cookies. Think about how the devil tempted me and what he said to me.

God simply asks me, "What are you doing?" He makes me think rather than commands me. Do you know how the devil is likely to tempt you and how to put him in his place?

What excuses do you use when you want to give in to temptation?

How does God remind you when you are going astray?

### **6. He will lead me away from fulfilling fleshly desires and towards fulfilling my ultimate Kingdom purpose.**

**Luke 9:23 AMP** — "And He was saying to them all, 'If anyone wishes to follow Me as My disciple, he must deny himself, set aside selfish interests, and take up his cross daily, expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come, and follow Me, believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me.'"

We steer away from selfish carnal fleshly desires. When we see His leading in our lives in regard to weight loss or anything we are doing and see that it has to do with laying down some of our desires then that's where we need to go. The "I want" is not fulfilling kingdom purpose. Not at all. Just today my pastor had a great quote. He said "The call of Christ is always to serve—to move away from "I want" to "I will".

Let me add that we will see immediate answers to our prayers if they are more about what I am willing to do than what I want God to do.

In what ways do you need to do that in your life?

## **7. He is loving, kind, understanding, soft and gentle.**

Knowing His nature is really important. The more we read Scripture, the more we are going to understand the true nature of God and how He leads us. When we hear His voice, we understand it's God's voice because He is sharing with us a truth. Know who He is and what He is doing in my life. Know His voice. The sound of His voice is not accusatory, not angry, not shaming or infusing guilt.

## **8. When I argue with Him, He doesn't argue back. He simply states a truth.**

Have you ever argued with God? Like God that's not going to work. Listen to my 1977 answer. I disagreed with Him and tried my own way and it didn't work. The next time I pray about it, He gives me the same answer. It may not be truth for someone else, but it's truth for me. He's very consistent.

Luke 9:23 is a verification verse for that. I need to deny myself and take up my cross. My cross can be my mission, it can be walking out my journey. I deny myself that's owning and accepting where I'm out and I take up my cross that's walking out my journey by following Him daily all the time. That's our journey in summary.

## **9. He is always speaking to me and speaks my language.**

He is not going to speak to me in Japanese or thees and thous. He's not going to speak to me in hip hop. I like LeCrae and Toby Mack. I can't understand Tedashai. I like the sound but I don't understand. God will not speak to me that way. He will speak out of my experience and my life so I can understand Him.

## **10. I know His voice.**

I know His voice and so do you. We know His voice. We argue against it, but we know it. We rebel against it, but we know it. We know what He's leading us to do. It's hard. It's difficult and we are not sure we can do it.

When I began to fulfill my destiny, it really started with taking care of my body. This was the thing God had talked to me about. This was the thing he had showed me, I had asked Him about, this was the thing He was leading me in, when I started doing what He showed me to do this is when I started to go forward with the purpose and plan He had for my life.

His desire for me was to become healthy so I could move to the next part of His plan for my life. The deal is that Satan knows this. HE is always going to hit at our weakness, try to attack us with some fleshly desire.

**John 10:10 TPT**—"A thief has only one thing in mind—he wants to steal, kill and destroy. But my desire is to give you everything in abundance, more than you expect, life in its fullness, until it overflows."

Satan's number one mission is to steal, kill and destroy my destiny. So if he can he will lead me off course. The way he was stealing, destroying and trying to kill me was by saying I needed the sugar and comfort food to get through the next day. It was a half-truth. I agreed with him because it was the only thing I was using to get through the day. I wasn't learning another way to comfort my issues.

I want you to understand the truth about who God is and how He speaks to you in your life. I think you know some things He's told you about your weight loss journey. Back in 1977 I knew it was God speaking to me. First of all I was reading Scripture. Jesus answers the disciples' questions about why they couldn't heal the demon-possessed boy.

**Matthew 17:20 NLT**—"You don't have enough faith," Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible."

I realized this was speaking to my journey and I told God I had a little faith so what do I have to do to get my mountain of flesh to move?

God answered me quickly in His calm, reassuring voice. I knew it was his voice. The voice of Satan is sly, cunning. It tries to sound nice sometimes but it is always manipulative. There is always a questionable aspect to Him.

He simply said, "Stop eating sugar. Eat more meats, fruits and vegetables and stop eating so much bread."

I knew it was God's answer, but I didn't think I could do it. So I tried in my own strength to make it happen. God never expects us to implement our own plans, only His.

It would be 30 years before I would really do what HE told me to do. In the meantime I went through hell trying to do it my own way.

I've learned when I ask the almighty God of the universe a question, He always answers me in some way. For me it's usually a thought or picture dropped into my mind. If I'm in the right place at the right time and am receptive He will show me then. If not, He will show me when I'm ready. My goal is to always be ready.

I've also learned to not assume I know how to implement His plan. He wants connection with me, so my next question must always be, "Show me what You want me to do, Lord." And if I don't understand those instructions, I ask more questions.

We are learning how to have conversations with the most powerful Being in the universe, who personally lives inside of us. It's beyond comprehension, but He's right there waiting for us to talk to Him.

Hearing from God and believing you CAN hear from God is going to be important on this journey we will be taking. That's why we are addressing this issue now.

**Action Step:**

Find a quiet time and place. You may have to create that for yourself. Set that appointment with God. Ask Him a question. Any question. Make be about what you need Him to show you to do rather than about what you want for Him to do.

If it's your weight loss journey, ask God's advise what He wants you to do on this journey?

You can ask specific questions like:

- What foods do you want me to eat?
- What foods do you not want me to eat?
- If I stop drinking diet soda, what should I do in its place?

Those are just examples.

Ask Him, converse with Him about what He shows you.

Write down what you learn!