

Title: **Hearing God's Voice!**



Introduction

Are you frustrated because you are not certain about God's will for you? Are you hearing His voice about your will from Him?

Oswald Chamber writes in 'My utmost for His highest', "A warning which needs to be reiterated is that the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lust of other things entering in, will choke all that God puts in. We are never free from the recurring tides of this encroachment. If it does not come on the line of clothes and food, it will come on the line of money or lack of money; of friends or lack of friends; or on the line of difficult circumstances. It is one steady encroachment all the time, and unless we allow the Spirit of God (Holy Spirit) to raise up the standard against it, these things will come in like a flood. "Take no thought for your life." "Be careful about one thing only," says our Lord (Jesus) – "your relationship to Me."

Matt. 6:24-26, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, **Take no thought for your life**, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"

Col. 1:9 in King James Version:

"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will (God's will) in all wisdom and spiritual understanding"

'Will' in Greek:

2307. thel'-ay-mah; from the prolonged form of 2309; a determination (properly, the thing), i.e. (actively) choice (specially, purpose, decree; abstractly, volition) or (passively) inclination: — desire, pleasure, will.

Col. 1:9 in Bob Oh Version:

"We do not cease to pray for you and desire that you might know God's pleasure for you in all wisdom and spiritual understanding!

Pt: God's will vs. Self-will

"(your) self-will will always stab Jesus Christ. It may hurt no one else, but it wounds His Spirit. Whenever we are obstinate and self-willed and set upon our own ambitions, we are hurting Jesus. Every time we stand on our rights and insist that this is what we intend to do, we are persecuting Jesus. Whenever we stand on our dignity we systematically vex and grieve His Spirit" - Oswald Chamber

Pt: Question, "Who is the Holy Spirit?"

A.W. Tozer said, "Spell this out in capital letters: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON. He is not enthusiasm. He is not courage. He is not energy. He is not the personification of all good qualities, like Jack Frost is the personification of cold weather. Actually, the Holy Spirit is not the personification of anything. He has individuality. He is one being and not another. He has will and intelligence. He has hearing. He has knowledge and sympathy and ability to love and see and think. He can hear, speak, desire, grieve and rejoice. He is a Person."

Evidence of the Holy Spirit is found throughout Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. He is not simply a force nor an energy, nor is He merely the mind of God, nor the presence of God, but He is actually a Divine Person.

In John 16:13, Jesus promised, "When the Spirit of truth has come He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is mine and declare it to you." And again, in John 15:26 He said, "When the Helper (*parakletos*) comes whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me."

ΠΑΡΑΚΛΗΤΟΣ

Personal Attributes

The Holy Spirit has many personal attributes. He is not an impersonal force. All of these attributes are evidence of His personal nature.

- He has insight (1 Corinthians 2:10-11). This means that He knows things. For example, He knows the thoughts of God. It requires intellect in order to know things.
- He has a will (1 Corinthians 12:11)
- He convicts of sin (John 16:8)
- He performs miracles (Acts 8:39)
- He guides (John 16:13)
- He intercedes between persons (Romans 8:26)
- He is to be obeyed (Acts 10:19-20)
- He can be lied to (Acts 5:3)
- He can be resisted (Acts 7:51)
- He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30)
- He can be blasphemed (Matthew 12:31)
- He can be insulted (Hebrews 10:29)
- He relates to the disciples of Christ (Acts 15:28)
- He relates to Jesus and the Heavenly Father (John 16:14; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

Amazingly, there are **over a hundred names** and emblems representing the Holy Spirit in the Bible. Here is a list of His names, titles and emblems, created by Elmer Towns:

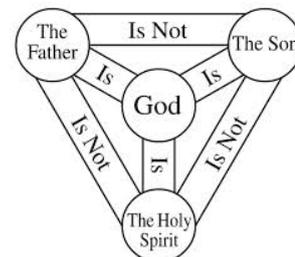
The Anointing (1 John 2:27)
My Blessing (Isa. 44:3)
O Breath (Ezek. 37:9)
The Breath of the Almighty (Job 33:4)
The Breath of God (Job 27:3)
The Breath of Life (Rev. 11:11)

The Breath of the LORD (Isa. 40:7) So on and so forth.

The National Association of Evangelicals' (founded in 1942) - The List of "Mere Evangelicalism":

- We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
- We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is God because He is co-equal, co-existent, and co-eternal with the Father and the Son. (1 John 5)



In I Corinthians 3:17 the word "Lord" is used to reference Yahweh. It says, "The Lord is the Spirit." So the Holy Spirit is a person and He is God.

Pt: Holy Spirit is a person and He speaks –

- 2 Sam. 23:2, "The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me; his word was on my tongue."
- Acts 8:29, "And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot."
- Acts 10:19, "And while Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you."
- Acts 11:12, "And the Spirit told me to go with them without misgivings. And these six brethren also went with me, and we entered the man's house."
- Acts 13:2, "And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."
- Acts 21:11, "And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands, and said, "This is what the Holy Spirit says: 'In this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"

Are you listening to Him (the Holy Spirit)?

In Mark 4:9, Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him **hear!**" And said, "My sheep **hear** My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me (John 10:27)."



In Chinese, the word 'listen' involves ears, eyes, mind, heart and undivided attention. What a wonderful way to explain what we must do as we 'listen' and 'hear' from the Holy Spirit.

Jesus explains, "Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to **listen (hear, KJV)** to My word (John 8:43, NKJV)." The word, 'hear' is mentioned 538 times in the Bible (NKJV). And the Greek word for 'hear, 'ak-oo'-o', means to give (in the) audience (of), come (to the ears), and to understand. ἀκούω

Perhaps that is why this statement, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches," is mentioned over and over again in the book of Revelation. And James challenges us, "My beloved brethren, let every man be swift to **hear...** (James 1:19)."

Key Pt: Gal. 6:14 – We do not brag about ‘hearing the Lord’ but on the ‘Lord’ Himself only! “But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

Prayer: Pray together so all can ‘Hear’ from the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you are already a disciple of Christ, I encourage you to take a few moments to ask the Heavenly Father to fill you with His Spirit. Then wait upon the Holy Spirit to come with all His omnipotent and enabling power.

The Holy Spirit is speaking!

John 8:47 states that, “He who is of God hears God’s words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.” The key to hearing God’s words is ‘relationship’.

Aiden Wilson Tozer said, “Holy Spirit is a person!”, so we have to address and talk to the Holy Spirit as person to person, and build relationship with the Holy Spirit as such. In a person to person relationship, one speak and listen to the other and repeat the process. Same thing happens with the Holy Spirit. First, He speaks to us so we must listen and then in response to His words, we speak.

But the question is, “How does the Holy Spirit speaks to us?” There are at least five ways in which He speaks to us. First, through the word of God. Second, through the church of our Lord Jesus Christ. Third, through His voice. Fourth, through dreams. And fifth, through vision.

First, through the word of God.

Pt: Not as a Biblicist who thinks the Bible is a person.

Pt: Difference between Logos vs Rhema observed.

An Example of how LOGOS becomes RHEMA:

Heb. 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

First we must look up the word in its original form.

‘brightness’ in Greek:

541. ap-ow'-gas-mah; from a compound of 575 and 826; an off-flash, i.e. effulgence: — brightness.

575. apo, apo'; a primary particle; “off,” i.e. away (from something near)

826. ow-gad'-zo; from 827; to beam forth (figuratively): — shine.

827. owg'-ay; of uncertain derivation; a ray of light, i.e. (by implication) radiance, dawn: — break of day.

So putting them together, “A ray of light, beaming forth from something near”.

And then look it up on other translations -

American Standard Version:

“Who being the effulgence of his glory”

Bible in Basic English:

“Who, being the outshining of his glory”

Common English Bible:

“The Son is the light of God's glory”

Complete Jewish Bible, Hebrew Names Version, Holman Christian Standard, New American Standard:

“This Son is the radiance of the Sh'khinah”

King James Version, Douay-Rheims, Good News Translation, Young's Literal Translation:

“Who being the brightness of his glory”

GOD'S WORD Translation, New Living Translation, New Revised Standard, Revised Standard Version, Weymouth New Testament:

“His Son is the reflection (reflects) of God's glory”

So applying ‘reflection’ in the original Greek context, “A ray of light, beaming forth from something near”.

Eugene Peterson’s ‘The Message’, "This Son perfectly mirrors God," makes sense.

Then compare other commentaries:

Hebrews 1 Commentary - Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible: brightness of his glory--Greek, the effulgence of His glory. "Light of (from) light" [Nicene Creed]. "The sun is never seen without effulgence, nor the Father without the son.

We have to focus on “reflection / mirroring” aspect of ‘brightness’.

So, out of LOGOS of Hebrews 1:3, my personal RHEMA for today is,

“Lord, as Jesus perfectly mirrored and reflected your glory, how can I reflect you and your glory today?”

Pt: Romans 10:17 “So then faith comes by **hearing**, and hearing by the word of God.” (NKJV)

Apostle Paul states in Phil. 4:9, “Those things, which ye have both **learned**, and **received**, and **heard**, and **seen** in me, **do**: and the God of peace shall be with you. (KJV).”

H: Hearing

E: Examining

A: Applying

R: Receiving - the Word of God.

Second, through the church of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pt: Local church & universal church.

“Christians do have direct access to God. They only need to go through Christ as their Mediator. I can, through the work of the Holy Spirit, understand the Word of God for myself. However, God created the church as His redemptive agent in the world. He has a purpose for the church. God places every member in a church to accomplish His redemptive purposes through that church. So, though each believer has direct access to God and is personally accountable for himself to God; we each, nevertheless, have a connection to one another and a responsibility for one another in the body of Christ. Rather than being independent, God has made us mutually interdependent.”

- Dave Mcfadden, First Baptist Church of Portales, New Mexico

But Pastor How?

- * Join a local church.
- * Become part of a small group.
- * Be clear on your spiritual covering.



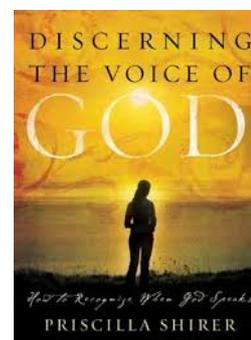
Third, through His voice.

God spoke to King David in a tangible words and voice. As stated in II Sam. 2:1, “It happened after this that David inquired of the LORD, saying, “Shall I go up to any of the cities of Judah?” And the LORD **said** to him, “**Go up.**” David said, “Where shall I go up?” And He **said**, “**To Hebron.**”

“Hearing God’s voice is not a mystical experience for the “super-spiritual.” It’s a natural dynamic of being in relationship. And in this relationship, God is speaking, He hears us, and He wants us to know and follow His voice.” - By Jeff Symons, Bedford, TX

Ask yourself a set of Q’s:

1. Does it contradict the Biblical principles?
If YES, then it is not from the Lord.
2. Does it always benefit me?
If YES, then double check and see if it is in fact from the Lord.
2. Does it always hurt me or others?
If YES, then triple check...
3. Is there ‘Peace’ that surpasses all understanding?
There should be.
4. Is there witness (conviction) in the spirit?
There should be.
5. Does it require faith?
God’s work always requires ‘faith.’



Fourth, through dreams

In the Old Testament, God spoke to Joseph in a dream, “Now Joseph had a dream, and he told *it* to his brothers; and they hated him even more.” (Genesis 37:5)

In the New Testament, God spoke to Joseph in a dream, “But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.” (Matt. 1:20)

Acts 2:17: “And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.”

Testimony: Other's dream for me – Sis. Wong – ‘The world is your district!’ Since 2000, avg. of 10 – 15 countries a year; By 2014, 52 countries were visited.



Fifth, through vision.

In Genesis 15:1, God spoke to Abram in a vision, “After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I *am* your shield, your exceedingly great reward.”

The word, ‘Vison’ is mentioned 79 times in KJV.

Pt: Apostle Paul's life led by Holy Spirit's vision - Acts 9:10, 12; 10:3, 17, 19; 11:5; 12:9; 16:9, 10; 18:9; 26:19

Pt: Apostle Paul confesses in Acts 26:19, “I was not disobedient unto the heavenly **vision**” (KJV).

Reasons why we do not hear from the Holy Spirit:

Question: We serve ‘speking God’ who speaks through the Holy Spirit – then why aren't more people hearing from the Lord?

Oswald Chamber, Jan. 14th entry in ‘My utmost for His highest’:

I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."—Isaiah 6:8

God did not direct His call to Isaiah— Isaiah overheard God saying, “...who will go for Us?” The call of God is not just for a select few but for everyone. **Whether I hear God's call or not depends on the condition of my ears, and exactly what I hear depends upon my spiritual attitude.** ... those who have come into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ and have had their spiritual condition changed and their ears opened. Then they hear “the voice of the Lord” continually asking, “...who will go for Us?” However, God doesn't single out someone and say, “Now, *you* go.” He did not force His will on Isaiah. Isaiah was in the presence of God, and he overheard the call. His response, performed in complete freedom, could only be to say, “Here am I! Send me.”

Answer: There seems to be at least six reasons why - First, unbelief. Second, Unclean sinful heart. Third, disobedience. Fourth, critical spirit. Fifth, fear. Sixth, spiritual warfare.

First, unbelief.

Pt: Due to wrong theological training and up brining – Mostly misinformation.

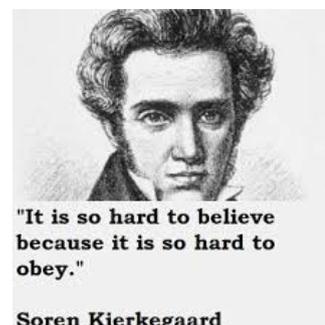
Second, Unclean sinful heart.

Ref: Titus 1:15, "To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled."

Ref: Luke 8:14, "Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity."

Third, disobedience.

Ref: I Sam. 15:22-23, "So Samuel said: "Has the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *And* to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from *being king*."

**Fourth, critical spirit.**

Ref: I Cor. 1:21, "For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe."

Pt: Critical mind vs. Critical spirit

Fifth, fear.

Ref: I John 4:18, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."

Quote: "Fear will rob of your destiny if you give yourself to it!"

**Sixth, spiritual warfare.**

Pt: football – QB throws and the opposing team tries to block and steal the ball.

1. Absalom spirit – Challenging the authority.
2. Judas spirit –

Ref: Matt. 26:15-16, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?"
" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him."

Q: What is your 30 silver coin?

3. Isabel spirit - Idol worship and spirit of lust.

Ref: II Cor. 10:4-5, "For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ"

KEY POINT: Hear & Obey!

Obeidient Hearing.

Ref: Matt 21:28-31 -

"But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of *his* father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.

"You obey God, that is the sign that you have been crucified with Christ." - Oswald Chamber

Pt: 'ASAYH' (As soon as you hear)

Ref: Isaiah 1:19

"If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land"

Deut. 30:2

"and you return to the LORD your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul"

John 14:23

"Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

Luke 11:28

"But He said, "More than that, blessed *are* those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Conclusion:

What is God's will for you? Listen to the Holy Spirit! Then Obey and live out God's pleasure in your life!