



GOD WANTS TO TALK WITH YOU

Hearing the Voice of God
Rick Warren

Jesus: "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear." Luke 8:8 (NIV)

WHY IS IT ESSENTIAL TO HEAR GOD?

- _____
Jesus: "My sheep recognize my voice . . . and . . . follow me." John 10:27 (TLB)
- _____
"Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track." Proverbs 3:6 (MSG)
- _____
"I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you." Psalm 32:8 (NLT)

HOW TO HEAR GOD

Luke 8:4-15

1. _____
"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up." Luke 8:5 (NIV)

"Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved."
Luke 8:12 (NIV)

The hardened soil = _____

3 causes: _____

"Get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls." James 1:21 (NLT)

2. _____
"Other seed fell on shallow soil with rock beneath. This seed began to grow, but soon withered and died for lack of moisture." Luke 8:6 (TLB)

"The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation." Luke 8:13 (NLT)

The shallow soil = _____

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together. . . . Instead, let us encourage one another." Hebrews 10:25 (GNT)

3. _____
"Other seed fell in the weeds; the weeds grew with it and strangled it."
Luke 8:7 (MSG)

"The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature." Luke 8:14 (NIV)

The soil with weeds = _____

"There was the sound of a gentle whisper." 1 Kings 19:12 (NLT)

4. _____
"The seeds that fell in good soil stand for those who hear the message and retain it in a good and obedient heart, and they persist until they bear fruit."
Luke 8:15 (GNT)

The good soil = _____

"They listen to God's words and cling to them and steadily spread them to others who also soon believe." Luke 8:15 (TLB)

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HOW GOD TALKS TO YOU

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Rick Warren & Tom Holladay

"God speaks in different ways, and we don't always recognize his voice."
Job 33:14 (CEV)

SIX OF THE WAYS GOD SPEAKS

1. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH _____

"Everything in the Scriptures is God's Word. All of it is useful for teaching and helping people and for correcting them and showing them how to live."

2 Timothy 3:16 (CEV)

"Your Word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path." Psalms 119:105 (GNT)

2. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH _____

"Christ chose some of us to be apostles, prophets, missionaries, pastors, and teachers, so his people would learn to serve and his body would grow strong."

Ephesians 4:11-12 (CEV)

"God in his kindness gave each of us different gifts. If your gift is speaking what God has revealed, make sure what you say agrees with the Christian faith."

Romans 12:6 (GW)

"We do not speak in words taught by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, as we explain spiritual truths to those who have the Spirit."

1 Corinthians 2:13 (GNT)

3. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH _____

"The godly give wise advice to their friends; the wicked lead them astray."

Proverbs 12:26 (NLT)

"Stupid people always think they are right. Wise people listen to advice."

Proverbs 12:15 (GNT)

"Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy."

Proverbs 27:6 (NLT)

4. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH _____

"The Holy Spirit . . . will be your teacher and will bring to your minds all that I have said to you." John 14:26 (PHILLIPS)

"For his Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we really are God's children." Romans 8:16 (TLB)

"God speaks again and again, in dreams, in visions of the night . . . as they lie on their beds. He opens their ears in times like that and gives them wisdom and instruction, causing them to change their minds, and keeping them from pride . . . and keeping them from falling into some trap." Job 33:14-17 (TLB)

Always test impressions by the Bible!
God never contradicts what he's already said.

5. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH _____

"Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways."

Proverbs 20:30 (GNT)

"My suffering was good for me, for it taught me to pay attention to your decrees."

Psalms 119:71 (NLT)

6. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH _____

"Saul prayed to GOD, but GOD didn't answer—neither by dream nor by sign nor by prophet." 1 Samuel 28:6 (MSG)

"If God is silent, what's that to you? If he turns his face away, what can you do about it? But whether silent or hidden, he's there, ruling." Job 34:29 (MSG)

"I want you to trust me in your times of trouble, so I can rescue you and you can give me glory." Psalms 50:14 (TLB)

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RECOGNIZING GOD'S VOICE

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"What you think is the right road may lead to death." Proverbs 14:12 (GNT)

"Don't always believe everything you hear just because someone says it is a message from God: test it first to see if it really is." 1 John 4:1 (TLB)

Jesus: "Anyone who wants to do [God's] will can test this teaching and know whether it's from God or whether I'm making it up." John 7:17 (MSG)

1. _____
"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."
Luke 21:33 (NIV)

"Truth stands the test of time." Proverbs 12:19 (TLB)

"Let God's curses fall on anyone, including myself, who preaches any other way to be saved than the one we told you about; yes, if an angel comes from heaven and preaches any other message, let him be forever cursed." Galatians 1:8 (TLB)

2. _____
"In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:5 (NCV)
"We take every thought captive so that it is obedient to Christ."
2 Corinthians 10:5 (GW)

"If you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition . . . Such 'wisdom' does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. . . . But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere." James 3: 14-15, 17 (NIV)

3. _____
"[God's] intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known." Ephesians 3:10 (NIV)
"The wisdom of the righteous can save you." Proverbs 11:9 (GNT)
"In the multitude of counsellors there is safety." Proverbs 11:14 (KJV)

4. _____

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

"God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well." Romans 12:6 (TLB)

5. _____
Jesus: "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me." John 21:22 (NIV)

"Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand."
Romans 14:4 (NIV)

"We shall all be judged one day, not by each other's standards or even our own, but by the standard of Christ. . . . It is to God alone that we have to answer for our actions." Romans 14:10, 12 (PHILLIPS)

6. _____
CONVICTION (from God) VS. CONDEMNATION (from Satan)
Exposes what's wrong Attacks your value
"This needs to change" "You're worthless"

"There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus."
Romans 8:1 (NLT)

"Those whom I [dearly and tenderly] love, I rebuke and discipline. . . . so be enthusiastic and repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, your sinful behavior—seek God's will]." Revelation 3:19 (AMP)

"[Satan] stood before our God and accused believers day and night."
Revelation 12:10 (GNT)

7. _____
"God is not the author of confusion." 1 Corinthians 14:33 (NKJV)

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

"Listen to this wise advice; follow it closely, for it will do you good, and you can pass it on to others." Proverbs 22:17 (TLB)

"Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God." John 8:47 (NIV)

GETTING GOD'S VISION FOR MY LIFE

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"I will climb my watchtower now and wait to see what answer God will give to my complaint. And the Lord said to me, 'Write my answer on a billboard, large and clear, so that anyone can read it at a glance and rush to tell the others. But these things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day!'" Habakkuk 2:1-2 (TLB)

1. _____
"I want to hear what God the LORD says." Psalm 85:8 (GW)

"My God, I want to do what you want." Psalm 40:8 (NCV)

"What I want most and at all times is to honor your laws."
Psalm 119:20 (CEV)

"If you search for [God] with all your heart and soul, you will find him."
Deuteronomy 4:29 (NLT)

2. _____
"I will climb up to my watchtower." Habakkuk 2:1 (NLT)

"Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." Luke 5:16 (NIV)

"Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace." Matthew 6:6 (MSG)

• **REMEMBER** _____
"Don't worry and say, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' . . . your Father in heaven knows you need [these things]."
Matthew 6:31-32 (NCV)

3. _____
"I will wait." Habakkuk 2:1 (NLT)

"I will station myself." Habakkuk 2:1 (NIV)

"Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10 (NIV)

• _____
"Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him."
Psalm 62:5 (NLT)

• _____
"Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for him to act."
Psalm 37:7 (NLT)

• _____
"I wait expectantly, trusting God to help, for he has promised."
Psalm 130:5 (TLB)

4. _____
"I will look to see what he will say to me." Habakkuk 2:1 (NIV)

"When I tried to figure it out, all I got was a splitting headache . . . Until I entered the sanctuary of God. Then I saw the whole picture."
Psalm 73:16-17 (MSG)

• **ASK GOD A** _____
"If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you, for he is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask him . . . But when you ask him, be sure that you really expect him to tell you." James 1:5-6 (TLB)

• **LOOK** _____
"Open my eyes, so that I may see the wonderful truths in your law."
Psalm 119:18 (GNT)

5. _____
"The LORD gave me this answer: 'Write down clearly . . . what I reveal to you.'" Habakkuk 2:2 (GNT)

"Write these things for the future so that people who are not yet born will praise the LORD." Psalm 102:18 (NCV)

6. _____
"O Lord, now I have heard your report, and I worship you in awe."
Habakkuk 3:2 (TLB)

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