



How to Discern the voice of God

Discuss – Do you believe God speaks today, if so How?
Why do you think it is so hard to hear the voice of God?

Scripture and Christian experience throughout the centuries testify to the fact that God is a personal Being, who is interested in every area of our lives. As a personal being He speaks to us and if we want to hear Him we need to learn how to recognise His personal prompting.

Split the group into two and get them to answer the following question from the passage

Q. In what way did God speak / or promise to speak to his people?

Genesis Ch 6 v 13 – 14 – Direct speech

Genesis Ch 37 v 5 – 11– Dreams

Judges Ch 6 v 11 – 12 – angels

Judges Ch 6 v 36 – 40 – signs

1 Samuel Ch 10 v 17 – 19 – Prophets

1 Kings Ch 19 v 11 – 13 – Still small voice

Acts Ch 2 v 17 – 21 – Through the Spirit – Prophecy , visions, dreams, Wonders and signs

2 Timothy Ch 3 v 15 – 17 – Holy Scripture

What all of this shows us is that throughout the history of God's people, He has been speaking to us in different ways, so that we might know His will and heart. Rarely does God speak to us through a audio voice but through circumstances, visions, prophecy, other Christians, the bible, your own thought processes, God makes His voice heard in our life. Real Christians yearn to hear God's voice so that they might know Him better and please Him more by doing His will. The problem is that it is not easy to hear God's voice clearly.

Discuss – What distracts you from hearing God's voice?
How do you think we can overcome these distractions?

Christian experience makes it clear that it is not easy to hear God's voice. When we try a lot of other voices crowd in and try to distract us. Some of these distracting voices are :- Inner self, World, Demons, as well as God.

So how do you know which voice is God's?

If we are to have the privilege of really hearing God speak then we need to be prepared to take risks and learn through failure as well as success. Discerning God's voice is a learning process that takes time to develop.

Discuss – What fears do we have about listening to God's voice wrong?
How can we overcome these fears?

One of the simple truths of hearing God is we come to know God's voice by coming to know God. When someone rings us up some voices we know straight away because we know them, other voices we have to ask, "who is it?" because we are not familiar with person. To grow closer to God and hear his voice we need to know what God is really like.

Discernment is to get to know the person of God and how He speaks. This is important because to discern God's voice is to make a simple judgement:- "What I am hearing is this God speaking or not?" Jesus made it clear in John Ch 10 v 2 – 5 that His true disciples will hear His voice and respond.

Some simple conditions that need to be met if you are to hear God's voice (Discuss)

- 1) You must have a desire to do God's will
- 2) You must live a life of openness so that you are ready for that moment of discernment. (means letting go of own will and preconceived ideas for the sake of hearing God.)
- 3) You must be a person who cultivates a close walk with God to learn what God is like. To know God is to hear His voice!
- 4) You must walk the path of obedience – God will stop speaking if you stop obeying. **Read 1 Samuel Ch 28 v 6 – 18**
- 5) You must know what God has spoken about previously. God never contradicts His word – He never changes His mind – He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Therefore whatever we hear today must be tested by scripture and other Christians, if it contradicts what God has already revealed then it is not of God!!

God has shown Himself to be a God who communicates with His people. The more we know Him and ourselves the more we are able to discern what is of us and what is of God. Discerning God's voice takes hard work, perseverance and a wiliness to learn from mistakes. But if we persevere we will have the privilege of hearing and being enriched by the voice of Almighty God. **Romans Ch 12 v 1 –2** Show us that the way of discernment is the way of Christian sacrifice!!