Discerning the voice of God

# 1 Samuel, chapter 3

* *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. John 10:27*
* *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.*

*Psalms 32:8*

* *Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left. Isaiah 30:21*

Christianity is the only religion in the world that offers a relationship with the true God. In all other religions, their god is unknowable. In a real relationship, conversation is not just a one-sided monologue, it is a dialogue. We talk to God and He talks back to us.

1) Sin obscures God’s voice vs.1-2

*Behold, the Lord ’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear. Isaiah 59:1-2*

A bible and headphones on a wood floor

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2) Samuel was diligent and submissive vs.3-10

* Hearing the voice of the Lord is equated with knowing God vs.7
* You must hear God’s voice to become a Christian - Matt.16:13-19, John 6:44-45

3) Five main ways that God guides us (the five CSs) – Acts 16:6-10

1. Commanding Scripture – Isaiah 8:19-22, Proverbs 30:5-6
2. Compelling Spirit – Romans 8:14-16, Colossians 3:16-17
3. Counsel of the Saints – The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise. Proverbs 12:15
4. Common Sense/Reason – Deuteronomy 32:28-29
5. Circumstantial Signs – Deuteronomy 13:1-5, 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21

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| 3 voices | 3 levels of hearing God’s voice |
| You/your flesh | Inner witness |
| Holy Spirit/Bible | Inner audible voice |
| The demonic/the world culture | God’s audible voice |

4) Two ways to grow in hearing and discerning God’s voice

* Read and study your Bible – Hebrews 5:12-14
* Be obedient to what he tells you.
* *Isaiah 1:19 - If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land.*
* *Isaiah 48:17-18 - Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, Who teaches you to profit, Who leads you by the way you should go. Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea.”*