

DISCERNING THE VOICE OF GOD

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Have you ever wondered if you are in alignment with God's instruction? Have you wondered if that little voice in your head was the devil or God? Have you heard something in your spirit, then second-guessed whether or not it was God? Or maybe you've wondered whether or not you were in God's will in your life.

Some of us have even cried out to God in our journey with questions like, *"Where are you? Do you hear me? Do you even care?"*

Today, I want to give you nine principles of learning to truly hear God's voice in your life. To walk out your Christian journey successfully, you must understand how to hear from God and be in His will. These nine tips will help you hear from Him more clearly.

1. DON'T BE DOUBLE-MINDED.

"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, who will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do."

JAMES 1:5-8

Your faith cannot be in your job, relationship status, parents, grandparents, the pastor, or your church, and then expect to be able to sit and hear the voice of God. Your faith must stand in God alone. He knows your heart. He knows when you desire to please him and want wisdom about a matter. God will not withhold good gifts from his children. He wants you to seek Him and trust Him. He wants to talk to you, so do not be double-minded. Do not be a fair-weather Christian. *Do not simply seek God's voice and attempt to honor him when it's convenient or easy.* Seek to honor and obey him, even when you have to stand against the crowd or even when it means you will have to walk out an increased measure of faith. This is especially true when God is asking for your obedience when it seems to make no sense in the natural.

2. PRACTICE OBEDIENCE.

There are two components of practicing obedience:

The first component is in laying down sin. Obey what God has said to do in His written Word - what He laid out long ago. *The Bible instructs us what is pleasing to the Lord and what dishonors Him. If we don't lay down sin, it clouds our view. It muddles what we can actually hear. To hear clearly, we must remove any barriers of sin in our lives.*

The second component of obedience is obeying the Holy Spirit's new instruction. This means not only practicing what the Word has told us but also following the prompting of the Holy Spirit through our own life when we are asked to do something.

There is instruction from the written Word of God (known as Logos), e.g., do not commit adultery. Likewise, there is instruction through the Spirit of God (known as a Rhema word), e.g., don't go to Sarah's house tonight. Both logos and rhema are the Word of God, but the former is



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God's Word recorded in the Bible, while the latter is the Word of God spoken to us at a specific occasion. It gives us specific instructions through the Holy Spirit. *We must practice obedience.* We must follow what both the written Word of God and the spoken Word of God prompt.

3. PRACTICE LISTENING.

John 10:27 says, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." The more you hear someone's voice, the more you begin to recognize them. The more time you spend with them, the more you get to know them. Develop space in your life to listen. *God speaks to those who are willing to listen. Listening is done when you are not talking.* You cannot talk and listen at the same time. In the same way, you cannot hear the voice of God while you are talking. Prayer time should consist of you praying to the Lord – honoring, worshiping, adoring - AND being quiet and hearing what He drops in your spirit.

4. PRACTICE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES.

Prayer. Fasting. Praise. Worship. Tithes and offerings. Church attendance. Read Mark 9:14-29.

We are able to hear more clearly from the Lord as we engage with our spiritual disciplines.

5. TEST THE VOICE AGAINST THE SCRIPTURES.

Test the voice against the Scriptures. God speaks the way He writes. *If what you hear does not align with God's Word, it is likely a lying spirit, a tactic of the enemy to keep you confused.* For example, a woman is living with her non-believing boyfriend. She says, "Well, God told me that I was put into his life to minister to him, to help get him saved." Yet, we know God's Word says for us not to be unequally yoked, as well as to not live in [sexual sin](#). This could be an example of her hearing what she wants to hear instead of truly seeking the Lord.

6. HUMBLE YOURSELF.

Live a fully surrendered life to the Lord. Live in child-like faith. Do not operate with a religious spirit. Do not think you know everything. Do not think you have arrived on your Christian journey. Do not think you have heard it all. We are all growing. The ways of God are mysterious. God is always moving in new ways. We must humble ourselves before the Lord and lay down all pride, self-righteousness, and piety.

7. PRAY FOR INCREASE OF THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

Ask the Lord to increase in you a discerning of spirits and wisdom. This will allow you to know when a lying spirit or a spirit of fear is present. This will allow you to operate in wisdom beyond your years, education, or knowledge. This will allow you to know things you couldn't have known otherwise but through the gifts of the spirit. *The more we use and sharpen our gifts, the more clearly we'll discern God's voice.*

8. FOLLOW PEACE.

God is a god of order, not chaos. Now, let me be clear. God will speak to you to do uncomfortable things. I did not say follow comfort. [Peace](#) is in knowing that even though you don't understand the instruction, how it will work out, or why you've been asked to do something, there is an unexplainable peace in your spirit man.

9. WHERE THE SPIRIT IS, THE FRUITS ARE.

[Galatians 5:22-23](#) says, *"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy,*



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peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!” This lets us know that when God speaks, His fruits will flow. There will be peace. There will be kindness. There will be patience.

Practice listening to God.

- Wait and be still, removing all distractions.
- Listen.
- Be specific about the sin that the Lord reveals.
- Ask forgiveness.
- Write down what the Lord says.

MEET THE AUTHOR

JENNIFER MAGGIO

Jennifer Maggio is an award-winning author and speaker, whose personal journey through homelessness, abuse, and single parenting is leaving audiences around the globe riveted. At 19, Maggio was raising two children, while living in government housing on food stamps and welfare. She shares with great openness her pain, mistakes, and journey to find hope in Christ. She ultimately became an 11-time Circle of Excellence winner in Corporate America. She left her corporate successes behind to launch a global initiative to see single moms living a life of total freedom from financial failures, parenting woes, and emotional issues. Her passion is contagious and her story has been used to inspire thousands around the globe. For more info, visit her website at jennifermaggio.com.

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