



HEARING GOD'S VOICE
Retreat/ Group Companion WORKBOOK



HEARING GOD'S VOICE

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WORKBOOK

RICHARD T. CASE



Dedication

To my wife, Linda, who fully enjoys hearing God's Voice and encourages me and others to remain Abiding by hearing His voice—all the time, since apart from Him we can do nothing. She knows that God speaks all the time, and that we are then called to be in such intimacy with Him that we are hearing all the time—and that we receive that the God of the Universe speaks to us personally as He guides and directs us. She encourages all to learn to hear His voice, since we all are His sheep who hears the Shepherd's voice; and that this is a normal and beautiful spiritual characteristic of our life with God. And as we do, we too learn what she has learned—that God delights in this personal relationship as we learn to dialogue with Him on all elements of life.

We together also wish to honor our family who have all learned to hear His Voice—it makes for a vital life of sharing what we are hearing and then processing to Unity as He directs us into truth and His marvelous and supernatural will.

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LESSON 1

THE PRIVILEGE OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE



“We have resident within us the Holy Spirit who is given to guide and direct us, and all believers who seeks the truth will hear His voice.”

Read John 18:37:

³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose, I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”

Jesus made an interesting statement to Pilate as He was being put on trial before His crucifixion. Everyone who desires the truth, who has a heart for truth, does what?

Does He limit this to only some people?

LESSON 1

THE PRIVILEGE OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Read Hebrews 3:7–15; 4:12:

A Rest for the People of God

⁷ Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says,

“Today, if you hear his voice,

⁸ do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,
on the day of testing in the wilderness,

⁹ where your fathers put me to the test
and saw my works for forty years.

¹⁰ Therefore I was provoked with that generation,
and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart;
they have not known my ways.’

¹¹ As I swore in my wrath,
‘They shall not enter my rest.’”

¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart,
leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every
day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the
deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold
our original confidence firm to the end. ¹⁵ As it is said,

“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged
sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow,
and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

These verses clearly say that today, you will hear His voice. Today is now. When you hear His voice, what are you not to do?

LESSON 1

THE PRIVILEGE OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

What does it mean to harden your heart?

If your heart is hardened, where does your heart go? Where does your mind go?

Read Revelation 3:20–22:

²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. ²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

If you hear Him speaking, you are called to open the door, and He will establish intimate fellowship together. In this fellowship, we can then dialogue with Him and hear, understand, and receive His will. He does not say: If you follow all the law of the Scripture, you will be good. Rather, He says that the condition to receiving the life of relationship with Him is what?

LESSON 1

THE PRIVILEGE OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Read John 5:24:

²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

Read Mark 4:21–25; 33–34:

A Lamp Under a Basket

²¹ And he said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? ²² For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. ²³ If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." ²⁴ And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. ²⁵ For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴ He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

They asked for and received explanation, understanding, clarity of the truth.
How?

LESSON 1

THE PRIVILEGE OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Read Proverbs 23:12:

¹² Apply your heart to instruction
and your ear to words of knowledge.

This verse stated that we are to listen and receive knowledge. How do we get instruction?

Read Isaiah 30:18–21:

The Lord Will Be Gracious

¹⁸ Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you,
and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you.

For the Lord is a God of justice;
blessed are all those who wait for him.

¹⁹ For a people shall dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you. ²⁰ And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. ²¹ And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

He says He is waiting for us. What is He waiting for?

LESSON 1

THE PRIVILEGE OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Read Ezekiel 44:5:

⁵ And the Lord said to me, "Son of man, mark well, see with your eyes, and hear with your ears all that I shall tell you concerning all the statutes of the temple of the Lord and all its laws. And mark well the entrance to the temple and all the exits from the sanctuary.

Then, Psalm 107:19–21:

¹⁹ Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.

²⁰ He sent out his word and healed them,
and delivered them from their destruction.

²¹ Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of man!

Why are they calling out trouble?

LESSON 1

THE PRIVILEGE OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Read Colossians 3:16–17:

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

In John 15:1–5, Jesus reiterates that we are to abide in Him—remain in Him, which is the ongoing relationship where we always hear His voice. This is how we will experience the life of God in our life. This is the key to living in His name. What is He saying?

LESSON 1

THE PRIVILEGE OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Read John 8:31; 8:47; 10:16:

The Truth Will Set You Free

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,

⁴⁷ Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."

¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So, there will be one flock, one shepherd.

The difference between being a disciple and not being a disciple is what?
Hearing His voice.

Consider the example we have in Scripture: What did the disciples who were with Jesus do every day?

LESSON 1

THE PRIVILEGE OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Read John 10:27; 12:49–50; 17:8:

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

⁴⁹ For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰ And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”

⁸ For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

Read John 3:21; 8:12; 8:32; 8:37:

²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

I Am the Light of the World

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³⁷ I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you.

If we want the ability and freedom to walk in truth, what do we need to be doing?

LESSON 1

THE PRIVILEGE OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Read John 12:47–48:

⁴⁷ If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸ The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

Jesus said He did not come to judge us. What does judge us?

Read John 8:51–52:

⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." ⁵² The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.'

LESSON 1

THE PRIVILEGE OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Read John 15:13–15:

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants,[a] for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

Jesus said His role is to speak, make known to us truth and life. If we receive that, what does He call us?

Read John 14:7–11, 23:

⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also.^[a] From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

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Read Romans 8:12–17; 26–28:

Heirs with Christ

¹² So then, brothers,^[a] we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons^[b] of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because^[a] the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,^[b] for those who are called according to his purpose.

Then, John 16:13–15:

¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore, I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Let's put all this together. Who is resident in us?

LESSON 1

THE PRIVILEGE OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

When does the Holy Spirit receive God's will?

If the Holy Spirit is leading, then what are we doing?

How do we follow?



LESSON 2

THE PRACTICAL WAYS OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE



“God’s voice is personal, and spoken in a gentle, beautiful way.”

Read 1 Kings 19:11–13:

¹¹ And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. ¹² And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper.^[a] ¹³ And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

Where does Christ reside?

Read James 1:5–8:

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

LESSON 2

THE PRACTICAL WAYS OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

If you lack wisdom, what should you do?

What will He do?

Read Isaiah 30:18–22:

The Lord Will Be Gracious

¹⁸ Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you.

For the Lord is a God of justice;
blessed are all those who wait for him.

¹⁹ For a people shall dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you. ²⁰ And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. ²¹ And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. ²² Then you will defile your carved idols overlaid with silver and your gold-plated metal images. You will scatter them as unclean things. You will say to them, "Be gone!"

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THE PRACTICAL WAYS OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Read 2 Timothy 3:14–16:

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom^[a] you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

Read Matthew 5:17–20:

Christ Came to Fulfill the Law

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus healed a person on the Sabbath, how did the Pharisees respond?

LESSON 2

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Read 1 Corinthians 2:9–16:

⁹ But, as it is written,
“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.^[a]

¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶ “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

Read John 6:63:

⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

In 1 Corinthians 2, we learn that we cannot figure life out with our own thinking and logic. Rather, we are to live according to God's revelation, His disclosure to us. Why?

LESSON 2

THE PRACTICAL WAYS OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Read 2 Corinthians 3:4–6:

⁴ Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. ⁵ Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, ⁶ who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

What happens when you read the Bible as law?

Read John 10:3–5; 16:25–28; 16:13–15:

³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore, I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

LESSON 2

THE PRACTICAL WAYS OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

I Have Overcome the World

²⁵ "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶ In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷ for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.^[a] ²⁸ I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

Jesus said His sheep hear His voice. He will speak to you, too. As you walk through life being led by the Spirit, stay centered in the Word, applying the Word to your life. What does that mean, and how do I receive it?

Abraham: Read Genesis 12:1–2:

The Call of Abram

12 Now the Lord said^[a] to Abram, "Go from your country^[b] and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

In these verses, who spoke?

LESSON 2

THE PRACTICAL WAYS OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Who heard the Word of God?

Did he understand it?

Moses: Read Exodus 3:1–10:

The Burning Bush

3 Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." ⁴ When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

How specific was this exchange between God and Moses?

LESSON 2

THE PRACTICAL WAYS OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Read Jeremiah 1:3-11:

³ It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, and until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah, the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the captivity of Jerusalem in the fifth month.

The Call of Jeremiah

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

⁶ Then I said, "Ah, LORD God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth."⁷ But the LORD said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD."

⁹ Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me,

"Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

¹¹ And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see an almond^[a] branch."

The entire book of Jeremiah is Jeremiah dialoguing with God. He heard God's voice and spoke what God spoke to him. Did Jeremiah dream it all up?

LESSON 2

THE PRACTICAL WAYS OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Paul and Ananias: Read Acts 9:1–6; 10–16:

The Conversion of Saul

9 But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. ⁴ And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵ And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

LESSON 2

THE PRACTICAL WAYS OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Read Acts 16:6–10:

The Macedonian Call

⁶ And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷ And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. ⁸ So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. ⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ And when Paul^[a] had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Read Malachi 3:16–18:

The Book of Remembrance

¹⁶ Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed his name. ¹⁷ "They shall be mine," says the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸ Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

LESSON 2

THE PRACTICAL WAYS OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Read 1 Samuel 25:10–13:

¹⁰ And Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants these days who are breaking away from their masters. ¹¹ Shall I take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers and give it to men who come from I do not know where?" ¹² So David's young men turned away and came back and told him all this. ¹³ And David said to his men, "Every man strap on his sword!" And every man of them strapped on his sword. David also strapped on his sword. And about four hundred men went up after David, while two hundred remained with the baggage.

Read 1 Samuel 25:20–26:

²⁰ And as she rode on the donkey and came down under cover of the mountain, behold, David and his men came down toward her, and she met them. ²¹ Now David had said, "Surely in vain have I guarded all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him, and he has returned me evil for good. ²² God do so to the enemies of David^[a] and more also, if by morning I leave so much as one male of all who belong to him."

²³ When Abigail saw David, she hurried and got down from the donkey and fell before David on her face and bowed to the ground. ²⁴ She fell at his feet and said, "On me alone, my lord, be the guilt. Please let your servant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your servant. ²⁵ Let not my lord regard this worthless fellow, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal^[b] is his name, and folly is with him. But I your servant did not see the young men of my lord, whom you sent. ²⁶ Now then, my lord, as the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, because the Lord has restrained you from bloodguilt and from saving with your own hand, now then let your enemies and those who seek to do evil to my lord be as Nabal.

LESSON 2

THE PRACTICAL WAYS OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Read 1 Samuel 25:32–35:

³² And David said to Abigail, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! ³³ Blessed be your discretion, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodguilt and from working salvation with my own hand! ³⁴ For as surely as the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, who has restrained me from hurting you, unless you had hurried and come to meet me, truly by morning there had not been left to Nabal so much as one male." ³⁵ Then David received from her hand what she had brought him. And he said to her, "Go up in peace to your house. See, I have obeyed your voice, and I have granted your petition."

Read Psalm 16:7–11:

⁷ I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.^[a]
⁸ I have set the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.
⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being^[b] rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.
¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.^[c]
¹¹ You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

While we sleep, what does God do?

LESSON 2

THE PRACTICAL WAYS OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Read Daniel 2:14–23:

¹⁴ Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon. ¹⁵ He declared^[a] to Arioch, the king's captain, "Why is the decree of the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel. ¹⁶ And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king.

God Reveals Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

¹⁷ Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, ¹⁸ and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. ¹⁹ Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. ²⁰ Daniel answered and said:

"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
to whom belong wisdom and might.

²¹ He changes times and seasons;
he removes kings and sets up kings;
he gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to those who have understanding;

²² he reveals deep and hidden things;
he knows what is in the darkness,
and the light dwells with him.

²³ To you, O God of my fathers,
I give thanks and praise,
for you have given me wisdom and might,
and have now made known to me what we asked of you,
for you have made known to us the king's matter."

LESSON 2

THE PRACTICAL WAYS OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

As soon as Daniel learned of the situation, he made an appointment with the king to tell him what his dream was, along with the interpretation. The king held off on the killing spree, and Daniel and his friends go directly to God to ask for the information they need to save themselves and their fellow wise men. What did God do?

Read Luke 11:9:

⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Then, John 10:1–5; 26–27:

I Am the Good Shepherd

10 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

LESSON 2

THE PRACTICAL WAYS OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

How do we know we are hearing His voice?





LESSON 3

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OBEDIENT AND EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS TO WHAT WE ARE HEARING



“You have the Holy Spirit within you, and His role is to speak to you. Our role is to hear and follow.”

Read Proverbs 15:29; 28:9:

²⁹ The Lord is far from the wicked,
but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

⁹ If one turns away his ear from hearing the law,
even his prayer is an abomination.

Read Isaiah 59:1–2:

Evil and Oppression

59 Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,

or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;

² but your iniquities have made a separation
between you and your God,
and your sins have hidden his face from you
so that he does not hear.

Read Mark 11:25–26:

²⁵ And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.^[a]

LESSON 3

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OBEDIENT AND EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS TO WHAT WE ARE HEARING

What has Christ done with our sins?

If we are in unforgiveness toward our brothers and sisters and other people, why are we not offering the same forgiveness that Jesus gave to us?

Read Hebrews 3:15–19:

¹⁵ As it is said,

“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

¹⁶ For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? ¹⁷ And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? ¹⁹ So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

LESSON 3

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OBEDIENT AND EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS TO WHAT WE ARE HEARING

Read 1 John 5:14–15:

¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

If we pray according to His will, by definition, what must be true?

Read Matthew 6:6–8:

⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁷ “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Where you can be quiet? Do you have a place that is good and pleasant that will give you the calm and peace needed to dialogue with God?

LESSON 3

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OBEDIENT AND EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS TO WHAT WE ARE HEARING

Will God speak to you if you are not in your chosen quiet spot?

Read John 4:34; 6:38:

³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.

³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.

Read Matthew 16:21–25:

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord!^[a] This shall never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance^[b] to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life^[c] will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

LESSON 3

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OBEDIENT AND EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS TO WHAT WE ARE HEARING

Peter went from being holy to satanic in 20 minutes. What was the sudden change?

Why did Jesus respond this way?

Read Deuteronomy 28:1-2:

Blessings for Obedience

28 "And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God.

LESSON 3

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OBEDIENT AND EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS TO WHAT WE ARE HEARING

Read Romans 8:28–29:

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,^[a] for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

All things work together for what?

How many things?

LESSON 3

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OBEDIENT AND EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS TO WHAT WE ARE HEARING

Read Psalm 65:4–5; 11–13:

⁴ Blessed is the one you choose and bring near,
to dwell in your courts!

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
the holiness of your temple!

⁵ By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness,
O God of our salvation,
the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas;

¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

¹² The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,

¹³ the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.

What is our role?

If we have a heart to hear and follow, are we telling God what to do and how to do it?

LESSON 3

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OBEDIENT AND EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS TO WHAT WE ARE HEARING

Read Proverbs 1:2–7; 2:1–5:

- ² To know wisdom and instruction,
to understand words of insight,
³ to receive instruction in wise dealing,
in righteousness, justice, and equity;
⁴ to give prudence to the simple,
knowledge and discretion to the youth—
⁵ Let the wise hear and increase in learning,
and the one who understands obtain guidance,
⁶ to understand a proverb and a saying,
the words of the wise and their riddles.
⁷ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

The Value of Wisdom

- 2** My son, if you receive my words
and treasure up my commandments with you,
² making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to understanding;
³ yes, if you call out for insight
and raise your voice for understanding,
⁴ if you seek it like silver
and search for it as for hidden treasures,
⁵ then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.

LESSON 3

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OBEDIENT AND EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS TO WHAT WE ARE HEARING

Read Psalm 25:1–6:

Teach Me Your Paths

^[a] Of David.

25 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

² O my God, in you I trust;

let me not be put to shame;

let not my enemies exult over me.

³ Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;

they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴ Make me to know your ways, O Lord;

teach me your paths.

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all the day long.

⁶ Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

Read Psalm 37:23; 16:9:

²³ The steps of a man are established by the Lord,

when he delights in his way;

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being^[a] rejoices;

my flesh also dwells secure.

Read Isaiah 55:8–9:

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways

and my thoughts than your thoughts.

LESSON 3

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OBEDIENT AND EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS TO WHAT WE ARE HEARING

Read Luke 1:18, 34:

¹⁸ And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"^[a]

The angel spoke to Zechariah and told him that his wife was going to have a baby. How did Zechariah respond?

Read Matthew 17:24–27:

The Temple Tax

²⁴ When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax went up to Peter and said, "Does your teacher not pay the tax?"²⁵ He said, "Yes." And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tax? From their sons or from others?"²⁶ And when he said, "From others," Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free.²⁷ However, not to give offense to them, go to the sea and cast a hook and take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth you will find a shekel.^[a] Take that and give it to them for me and for yourself."

LESSON 3

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OBEDIENT AND EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS TO WHAT WE ARE HEARING

Read Ephesians 1:17–23:

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Read Psalm 133:

When Brothers Dwell in Unity

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

133 Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity!^[a]

² It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down on the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down on the collar of his robes!

³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion!

For there the Lord has commanded the blessing,
life forevermore.

LESSON 3

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OBEDIENT AND EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS TO WHAT WE ARE HEARING

When we live in unity—with each other and the Holy Spirit—He commands blessing. He commands the Covenant blessing with power so that we can join Him in His great work. He gives us unity through confirmation in a spiritual depth that we—our spouse, our friends, our inner circle—also receive. How is this possible?

Read Romans 14:17:

¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

What is the Kingdom?

LESSON 3

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OBEDIENT AND EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS TO WHAT WE ARE HEARING

Read Proverbs 3:1–4:

Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart

3 My son, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my commandments,

² for length of days and years of life
and peace they will add to you.

³ Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you;
bind them around your neck;
write them on the tablet of your heart.

⁴ So you will find favor and good success^[a]
in the sight of God and man.

As we abide in Him and hear His voice, write down what you hear Him say. If there are questions, write them out and consult with your spouse, your family, or your inner circle. Confirm what you heard. Trust what you heard. Listen, pray, spend time with Him in quietness—and write down what you hear.

When you put pen to paper, something remarkable happens: You are able to process further as additional questions arise: How are you responding to what He has spoken?

Do you understand it?

Do you need further clarity?

LESSON 3

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OBEDIENT AND EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS TO WHAT WE ARE HEARING

Have you been obedient to what He has instructed? What other questions do you have?

What other insight do you have?

What else is God adding to what you understand already?

LESSON 3

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OBEDIENT AND EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS TO WHAT WE ARE HEARING

Read John 5:16–23, 30:

¹⁶ And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”

Jesus Is Equal with God

¹⁸ This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

The Authority of the Son

¹⁹ So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father[a] does, that the Son does likewise. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. ²¹ For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. ²² For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

Witnesses to Jesus

³⁰ “I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

If we are not hearing God’s voice, where does the problem lie?

LESSON 3

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OBEDIENT AND EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS TO WHAT WE ARE HEARING

When was the last time you abided with Christ?

Read 2 Peter 1:16–21:

Christ's Glory and the Prophetic Word

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son,[a] with whom I am well pleased," ¹⁸ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

LESSON 3

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OBEDIENT AND EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS TO WHAT WE ARE HEARING

Read Luke 8:49–56:

⁴⁹ While he was still speaking, someone from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more."⁵⁰ But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well."⁵¹ And when he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child.⁵² And all were weeping and mourning for her, but he said, "Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping."⁵³ And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead.⁵⁴ But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise."⁵⁵ And her spirit returned, and she got up at once. And he directed that something should be given her to eat.⁵⁶ And her parents were amazed, but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.

Jesus said He would come and heal the girl, but she died. What did Christ do?

Why?

LESSON 3

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OBEDIENT AND EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS TO WHAT WE ARE HEARING

Read Acts 15:1–6:

The Jerusalem Council

15 But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”² And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.³ So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers.^[a]⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them.⁵ But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.”

⁶The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter.

Is it ok to have disagreement with others?

Do you give in or cave to avoid conflict?

LESSON 3

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OBEDIENT AND EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS TO WHAT WE ARE HEARING

Do you argue and fight until you persuade the other party that you are right?

Read 1 John 4:1–6:

Test the Spirits

4 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world; therefore, they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

As we process differences and disagreements, we are called to test the spirits. What does that mean?

LESSON 3

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OBEDIENT AND EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS TO WHAT WE ARE HEARING

Read Philippians 3:10–13:

¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Straining Toward the Goal

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,

Then, 1 Samuel 22:1–5:

David at the Cave of Adullam

22 David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. ² And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul,^[a] gathered to him. And he became commander over them. And there were with him about four hundred men.

³ And David went from there to Mizpeh of Moab. And he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and my mother stay^[b] with you, till I know what God will do for me."⁴ And he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold. ⁵ Then the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not remain in the stronghold; depart, and go into the land of Judah." So, David departed and went into the forest of Hereth.

