

God's Voice Sounds Like?

Jesus: "My sheep hear My voice." (John 10:27)

- **The Triune God speaks words to people --**
 - **The Father has a voice--** "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matt. 3:17)
 - **The Spirit has a voice--** "Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go up and join this chariot.' (Acts 8:29); And: "...the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'" (Acts 13:2)
 - **Jesus has a voice--** "And Saul fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' And he said, 'Who are You, Lord?' "And He said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.'" (Acts 9:4-6)
 - Note: This text is a paradigm for God's voice to us.
 1. This is a **dialogue**.
 2. **Jesus initiates**.
 3. **God asks a question**.
 4. **Saul asks God a question and an answer is immediately given**.
 5. **God answers by giving direction--**He "leads" us. ("Those who are being led by the Spirit, these are the sons/daughters of God."--Ro. 8:14)

The voice of God sounds like:

- **Spiritual feelings -- impressions:** intuitive (non-cognitive) inner promptings, nudges, drawings --

- **Spiritual thoughts -- A downloading of “you are being spoken to” God thoughts flowing into your heart and mind -- “Many--too many to count--are Your thoughts to us, Lord.” (Ps. 40:5)**

- **Qualities of God’s thoughts to us:**

- They “arrive” as spontaneous and intuitive knowledge, not from cognitive or analytical exertion.
- You feel you are being gently but clearly spoken to by God, in first person speech.
- His words come in your own thought-forms and style of speech.
- His thoughts are clear, to the point, definite (not doubtful) and authoritative; and line up with the names and character of the Spirit-- love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness...
- His thoughts are never like the nature of Satan: accuser, condemner, threatener, liar, hater, sadist, destroyer, and murderer (releaser of violence and pain).
- Your spirit will confirm His thoughts in the form of excitement, contentment (peace), a “settled” and “certain” (faith) feeling, and an uprushing of “life.”
- Testing of major leadings will result in 2-3 confirming witnesses.

- **Spiritual Visions** (waking/day visions) **and Dreams** (night visions)--
 - **most frequent-- a “still” image** seen in the sanctified imagination -- projected on the screen of the mind
 - **“moving” images** watched on the screen of the mind
 - **external (open) visions**
 - **both visions and dreams need to be interpreted by the Spirit and (if major) confirmed by 2-3 witnesses**
 - **kinds of dreams: from self, from demons, from God** (pizza dreams--your spirit processing daily activity); from demons (nature of dreams clearly satanic--bloodshed, violence, sin, death: response: rebuke demonic source and cancel all assignments in the dream); from God-- can be rare, can be frequent; imagery requires Spirit-led interpretation--ask the Spirit and consult those gifted to interpret dreams-- test and confirm with 2-3 witnesses)

Personal Principles of Wisdom in Hearing God’s Voice--

- 1. His voice will never contradict the plain instruction of the scriptures;** when there is a conflict, the scriptures are always right.

2. **His voice will never contradict the qualities of the character of Jesus;** urgency and firmness must not be mistaken for condemnation or domination.
3. **We must test and confirm *major* leadings by His voice through 2-3 witnesses.** (“There is wisdom in a multitude of counselors”) Why? Because though we are careful, *we can be mistaken* in hearing, interpreting, or applying what He says to us -- important not to claim infallibility in hearing His voice; we must be open to adjustment and correction by God through others who have a good track record in hearing His voice.
4. When others are involved in decision-making-- marriage/ministry teams/multiple leaders-- individual “hearings” are to be submitted to and adjusted by one another until “agreement” is reached --**God speaks “plurally” when the context is corporate. (Corporate Agreement Guidance)**
5. Sometimes He truly leads us to one “place” that appears to be “dead end,” but is really a step that leads to the next “place” etc. --**God’s words sometimes provide only a step along the way to His ultimate solution. (One Thing Leading to Another Guidance)**
6. **Self-desires can distort communication--** you can “hear” what you want to hear, not God’s pure voice.

- 7. Either God or we can initiate communication.**
- 8. God may be silent if He has spoken before and we haven't obeyed.** If God has repeatedly spoken to you clearly about something and you seek His voice again, He may not speak at all or He may simply say, "I have spoken to you already about that." He will normally speak at least twice about the same subject, and in His mercy perhaps more often, but He will not continue to speak repeatedly if we will not receive and/or obey what He says.
- 9. Unless He speaks a time element along with His communication to you, there is a usually a short window of opportunity to act on (obey) what He says.** Example: "Go up and ask that person if you can pray healing for him." Or "I will bring you a spouse but only after you and she have been trained and prepared by Me to be marriage with blessing."
- 10. Act only when you have clarity, peace, and certainty (faith) about what you have heard.** Do not act until you reach that place of faith (certainty). Unrest-- do not proceed!
"Whatever does not proceed from faith is sin." (Romans 14:23) Instead, continue to wait on the Lord and seek His will until that certainly, clarity, and peace comes.
- 11. God responds well to questions and often provides immediate answers.** (The first thing heard is usually the Lord's words to us.) -- Example: "Lord, what do You want to say to me today?" Or-- "Lord, would You show me what

you want me to see today in Your word?" Not Siri
or Alexis, but similar!