

One of the greatest days in your prayer life is the day you realize that not only do you have the privilege to speak to Jesus and He hears, but Jesus also desires to speak to you.

One day, we will finally stop talking long enough to listen, and then we will hear that the Spirit of God is actually speaking to us!

God is not mute. He speaks, He talks, and He communicates to us through His Holy Spirit. It's our responsibility to ask, listen, learn, and obey.

### 1. The Holy Spirit Speaks

**Acts 8:29** The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

**Romans 8:16** The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

(KJV) "The Spirit bears witness," He talks to us. He bears witness with my Spirit...

**EX:** "This is where you are supposed to be." Not audible, but loud and clear.

#### Audible voices of God

**To Jesus: At Jesus' Baptism** **Matthew 3:17** This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

**To Jesus: At the Transfiguration** **Matthew 17:5** "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

**To Jesus: Just before the Cross** **John 12:28-29** Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."

**Old Testament: Moses, Noah, and others.** *Why doesn't God speak audibly to us all the time?*

*As a rule, the clearer the revelation, the harder the task.*

**Saul/Paul on the Damascus road:** **Acts 9:3-6** As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. 6 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

**Ananias sent to minister to Paul:** **Acts 9:10-11** "...The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. 11 The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying.

**Acts 9:15-16** But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! ...

**Peter sent to the Gentiles:** **Acts 10:13-16** 13 Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." **Acts 10:15-16** The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." 16 This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

**The Revelation to John:** **Revelation 1:10** On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

#### Prayer and Hearing God's Voice

The Gospel of Luke points out that the three audible voice occurrences about Jesus happen *while Jesus was praying*. I'm not saying that you must be praying to hear the voice of God, but I'm saying prayer creates an atmosphere that is conducive to hearing the voice of God.

Jesus' Baptism: **Luke 3:21-22** When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

The Transfiguration: **Luke 9:29** As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.

The same is true for Paul (Acts 22:17-21) and Peter (Acts 10:9-16).

Just before the Cross: Jesus was praying to the Father **John 12:27-29** "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." 29 The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

**Why didn't everyone understand the voice of God?** The hearing and understanding of the voice of God was not a physical or an intellectual issue, it was a heart issue.

## 2. The Holy Spirit Guides

**John 16:13-14** But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.

When we surrender our lives to Christ Jesus, He leads us and guides us. But can you imagine taking a journey or safari with a "guide" yet never communicating with the guide?

**EX:** White water trip on mine and Janet's honeymoon.

- The Holy Spirit will guide you and lead you. **Matthew 4:1** Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

**EX:** I may have not heard the Holy Spirit say "this is where you are supposed to be" until 2001, but the Holy Spirit had been guiding me in the right direction for years.

- Seven Yrs. Old, Sunday Night, Norwich Street Baptist Church, I think that's what God wants me to do.
- Sixteen years old, Youth Bible Study, "He turned the water into wine." I experienced the Holy Spirit's anointing on me to teach.

**Psalms 37:23 (NLT)** The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. That includes timing as well. I always pray for *clarity and timing*.

**EX:** Divine appointment days.

## 3. The Holy Spirit Teaches

**John 14:26** But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

**1 Corinthians 2:13-14** This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. 14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

**EX:** Throughout my life, the Holy Spirit has been teaching me. "Yes, this is good." "No, never do things that way." As I said before when we started the church, I didn't have big "how to do it list." But, I had a huge "never do it that way" list.

#### 4. The Holy Spirit Prohibits or Forbids

**Acts 16:6-7 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. 7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.**

**EX:** Hilton Head Island Draftsman for a major home builder.

**EX:** Different church opportunities became available, but I would get a check on my Spirit, saying NO.

#### **Speak To Me and I Will Obey**

**Hebrews 3:7-8 So, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the wilderness,**

I believe that not only are we desiring for God to “Speak to Us”, but He desires to speak to us as well. However, in order to hear the Holy Spirit of God, we must always be listening.

- Cultivate a desire to not only hear the voice of God, but obey the voice of God.
- Sometimes, God may not speak out of mercy, so that we won’t be walking in direct disobedience.

Hearing and obeying are the difference in a sand foundation or a rock solid foundation.

**Matthew 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice (NKJ Does Them) (acts upon them) is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.**

**Matthew 7:26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice (NKJ Does Not Do Them) is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.**

#### **Speak, Lord, for Your Servant is Listening**

**Hebrews 5:11 “I have a lot more to say about this, but it is hard to get it across to you since you've picked up this bad habit of not listening” The Message Bible**

I pray we get in the good habit of always listening.

Pray the Life Changing Seven Word Prayer of young Samuel in the Temple.

**“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.” (1 Samuel 3:9)**

**Today’s Next Step: I will pray the Seven Word Prayer that changes everything. “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.” (1 Samuel 3:9)**