

THE VOICE OF THE LORD

HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU HAVE HEARD FROM GOD?

Hearing from God requires that you stop and listen. Then you must be able to discern whether it is His voice or a voice you should not listen to. If you are unable to recognize His voice you will be vulnerable to those voices that mean to harm you, to misdirect you and to confuse you.

Hearing from God requires sensitivity and stillness. Sensitivity requires you to be familiar with the Lord's voice. Therefore, your attitude must be that you will sit at the feet of the Jesus and hear what the Master has to say. If you will make this a habit, you will be aware of His will for every situation you find yourself in, and will be able to respond. If you are always busy or in a hurry, you will inevitably miss the voice of God. We can learn from the examples of Mary and Martha, found in Luke 10:38-42.

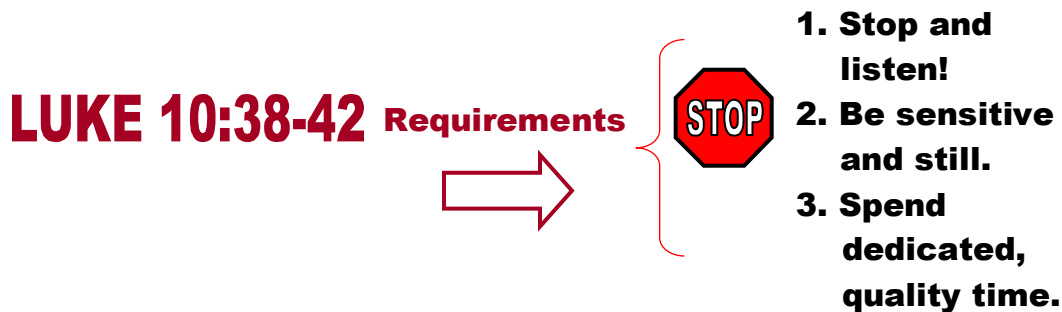
(Luke 10:38-42 NKJV) "Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. {39} And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. {40} But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." {41} And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. {42} But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.""

There is much to learn from this brief narrative. Martha was consumed with activity. She was always busy doing something. Mary, however, was quite different. She was eager to slow down and spend dedicated, quality time with Jesus. That is what Jesus meant when he told Martha that Mary had chosen "*the good part.*" Mary was always ready to stop, position herself at the Master's feet and listen. If you are always busy or always in a hurry, you will miss the voice of God.

It is evident that Martha was determined to be constantly busy. This prevented her from seeing beyond the scope of her busyness. Mary understood the value of spending time, coming aside to hear from Jesus. This is reminiscent of His own pattern of

coming aside and praying to the Father on a regular basis. It provided Jesus with input from above, as it gave Him a time of refreshing and reflection. This is an example we all should follow.

Consider this diagram.



**It takes effort. It takes practice.
It takes desire. It takes commitment.**

FOUR REASONS WE MISS THE VOICE OF GOD

- 1. We feel obligated toward being busy in those times when we should be obligated to sit at the feet of Christ.**

These feelings convince us to either do what God never told us to do, or to do it at times that rob us (and Him) from the fellowship we all need with Him.

- 2. We allow our sense of obligation to people (which can be perfectly legitimate) to rise above our obligations to God.**

This results in giving priority to the wrong voices as we make the wrong choices.

- 3. We surrender to the voices of others, that then manipulate and control us.**

They have no right to do so, but we have given them the right. So we find ourselves living without the freedom our salvation has given us.

- 4. We have an inappropriate concern for what the voices of people might say. We fear their judgment of our choices.**

This concern and even fear convinces us to stay so busy that we fail to hear the voice of God. When you do not hear His voice, you cannot heed it. We become people-pleasers instead of God-pleasers. This leads to taking ourselves away from His protective will and we then compromise and perhaps even miss our calling.

You cannot hear God through someone else's ears. You cannot test the spirit behind their words, unless you are attuned to the Holy Spirit. Test the words you hear. Are they life-giving words? Do they encourage. Is there compassion, caring and love in them?

WARNING →

Be very cautious when you hear someone say, "God told me to tell you that you are supposed to..."

← WARNING

- ☑ Never allow a prophetic sounding word to be the driving force that directs your decisions.
- ☑ Allow a prophetic sounding word to be the enlightening force that causes you to seek the voice of God, so you may confirm or deny for yourself what was said.

GIDEON - GOD'S MIGHTY MAN OF VALOR

God appeared to Gideon while he was hiding from the Midionites. He was fearful that they would steal and destroy all he had.

(He was hiding, threshing wheat in a winepress.)



(Judges 6:11-24 NKJV) "Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. {12} And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty

man of valor!" {13} Gideon said to Him, "O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites." {14} Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?" {15} So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." {16} And the LORD said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man." {17} Then he said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me. {18} Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You." And He said, "I will wait until you come back." {19} So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented them. {20} The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread

and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth.” And he did so. {21} Then the Angel of the LORD put out the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the LORD departed out of his sight. {22} Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the LORD. So Gideon said, “Alas, O Lord GOD! For I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face.” {23} Then the LORD said to him, “Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die.” {24} So Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, and called it The-LORD-Is-Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.”

God saw Gideon with different eyes than Gideon saw Gideon!

CHECKLIST: IS IT REALLY GOD’S VOICE?

- ✓ **Is the voice consistent with the Bible?**
- ✓ **Are there confirming signs following the voice you heard?**
- ✓ **Is the voice you heard full of common sense?**
- ✓ **Does the voice signal a direction that leads to compromise and sin, instead of blessings and righteousness? If so, beware!**
- ✓ **Do you have the peace of God in your heart?**

(Philippians 4:8-9 NKJV) “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy; meditate on these things. {9} The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”

(Psalms 46:10 NKJV) “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

ONCE YOU KNOW THE VOICE BELONGS TO GOD, WHAT DO YOU DO NEXT?

Wait and listen for divine direction. In the meantime, worship the Lord while you wait. Be patient and trusting in Him. The anointing and power will come. When you know you heard from God, then take action. Do what you heard His voice say, and do it with great Joy!



You can (and will) do all things through Christ. You are more than a conqueror. You are a winner and a champion for Jesus.