

Helping Our People to Recognize God's Voice

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- I. Jesus' Sheep Hear His Voice
 - A. John 10:27
 - B. Sheep—mainly adult sheep, but lambs can hear, too.
 1. One lamb, Samuel, heard God's voice *audibly* without recognizing Whom he heard. He needed instruction to understand and know how to respond.
 2. God's voice from the beginning:
 - a. "Be fruitful and multiply."
 - b. "Of every tree of the garden..."
 - c. They heard the *voice* of the Lord God walking...
 - d. "Hast thou...?"
 - e. Then began men to call upon the name of the Lord – because they no longer *heard*.
 3. The spiritual heroes we read about in the Old Testament are the ones who *heard* and responded.
 - C. Personal Stories
 1. Newly saved – heard the voice of God, but didn't know it.
 2. Costa Mesa vs. Dallas – "What do you mean, God told you...?"
 3. Pastoring in Costa Mesa – "judging prophecy"
 4. Pastoring in Syracuse – "What has the Lord shown you about this situation?"
 - D. A very important part of our ministry is to help Jesus' sheep recognize His voice
 1. First Century Christians didn't have a Bible (and certainly not a New Testament).
 2. First-Century Christians didn't have Christian TV, radio, tapes, CDs, DVDs, seminars, books, pamphlets, or all the other things we take for granted.
 3. What did they have? Intimate communion with the Holy Spirit.
 4. It's our job to work ourselves out of a job. We say that "God has no grandchildren," but it's also true that God wants no middle men in relationships with His children.
- II. What can we do to help them?
 - A. Tell them that it's normal and expected for God to communicate with them.
 1. How can they believe what they haven't heard?
 2. Faith comes by hearing
 3. Hearing comes by the rhema of God.
 - B. Ask them what they think the Lord is saying about their particular circumstance.
 1. My experience—80-90% of the time, they were correct, but they needed confirmation.
 2. Makes counseling more persuasive; you're not telling, merely confirming what they already know (and He gets the "blame").
 - C. Feedback, the Breakfast of Champions
 1. Confirm when they've heard the leading of the Lord.
 2. Offer the truth—in kindness and with encouragement—when they haven't

3. Be honest when you don't know. You might not know because:
 - a. It's none of your business; or,
 - b. It will force the sheep to step out in faith.
- D. Teach and Model what will improve their hearing.
 1. One-to-one correspondence between Bible readers and those who hear God.
 2. Prayer is two-way communion, not an order a drive-through order at MacDonald's. "Speak, Lord, for your servant heareth."
 3. QUIET! Those who hear shut up long enough to do so. They learn to be quiet. Just quiet. Not quiet + something else.
 4. Wait on God corporately – silently, without a sound track.
- E. Blockages:
 1. Sin and disobedience.
 2. Distraction and God's jealousy.
- III. The Goal – to be like John, helping others to recognize God's voice: "It is the Lord!"
 - A. Scripture passage—John 21
 1. Jesus speaks, but only the Apostle John discerns Who He is.
 2. Once John has helped Peter recognize Jesus' voice, Peter is in Jesus' presence and can receive healing from Him and future guidance.
 3. When a word from Jesus is misinterpreted, John can correct it.