



If God is talking, how can I recognize his voice?

"Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways...  
But now in these final days, he has **spoken to us through his Son.**" (Hebrews 1:1)

## 1. Jesus Speaks To Me In Many Ways

### 1. Through the Holy Spirit

"the Holy Spirit — he **will teach you everything** and will remind you of everything I myself have told you" (John 14:26) "For his Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts" (Rom. 8:16)

### 2. Through His Word

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to **teach us what is true** and... teaches us to **do what is right**. It is God's way of **preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do.**" (2 Timothy 3:16,17)

### 3. Through His Church

"dear brothers and sisters, you...know these things so well that you are able to **teach others** all about them." (Romans 15:14)

### 4. Through Answered Prayer

"when you call, the LORD **will answer**. 'Yes, **I am here,**' he will quickly reply... The LORD **will guide** you continually...keeping you healthy" (Isaiah 58:8,11)

Gideon replied, "...show me a sign to prove that it is really the LORD speaking to me." (Judges 6:17)

## 2. Jesus Wants Me To Recognize His Voice

(Jesus) "a shepherd enters through the gate...the sheep hear his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep **by name**...and they follow him because **they recognize his voice**. They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't recognize his voice.

"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and **they know me**, just as my Father knows me and I know the Father...and they will listen to my voice... My sheep **recognize my voice**; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish." (John 10:2-5,14,15,27,28)

My recognition improves with experience

## I Can't Recognize God's Voice By:

### 1. Feelings

(Saul) "'I **felt obliged** to offer the burnt offering myself before you came.'  
'How foolish!' Samuel exclaimed.'" (1 Sam 13:12,13)

### 2. Circumstances

"Elijah stood there...a mighty windstorm hit the mountain...but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earth-quake. And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper" (1 Kings 19:11,12)

### 3. Religious Appearances

"Even Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light. So it is no wonder his servants can also do..." (2 Corinthians 11:14,15)

## I Can Recognize God's Voice By Asking:

### 1. Does The Content Match What God's Already Said?

"Oh that my actions would consistently reflect your decrees!...I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways...teach me your principles" (Psalm 119:5,15,26)

### 2. Does The Style Sound Like Jesus?

"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all **pure**. It is also **peace loving, gentle** at all times, and **willing to yield** to others. It is full of **mercy** and **good deeds**. It shows no partiality and is always **sincere**" (James 3:17)

"After Jesus finished speaking, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, for he taught as one who had **real authority**" (Matthew 7:28,29)

### 3. Is The Message Supported By Wisdom?

"My child, don't lose sight of common sense and discernment. Hang on to them" (Prov. 3:21)

"If you need wisdom—if you want to know what God wants you to do —ask him, and he will gladly tell you." (James 1:5)

### 4. Is My Analysis Confirmed By Consultation?

"with many counselors, there is safety." (Proverbs 11:14)

"People who despise advice will find themselves in trouble" (Proverbs 13:13)

### 5. Will This Draw Me Closer To Christ?

"My sheep recognize my voice...**and they follow me**" (John 10:27)