



STUDY GUIDE

6 Ways to Recognize God's Voice: Accelerating Your Ability to Hear God Accurately

I. God's Voice

A. We can all learn to recognize and respond to the voice of God:

1. *"I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions."* (Joel 2:28, NIV)
2. **Story of a pre-believer: It's a VIP pass**, encountering God in a stressful time. <https://godisgoodstories.com/2021/11/23/it-was-a-vip-pass/>
3. In **Acts 2:14–21**, Peter explains what is occurring at Pentecost. It's what Joel said, *"Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you. Listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel.'" He goes on to quote Joel 2:28–32.*
4. **End of the story:** Her salvation. Anxiety left as she encountered God's Spirit. And just as Joel writes and Peter quotes, salvation came to her. *Salvation comes to those who call on the name of the Lord.*

B. Even pre-believers can encounter His Spirit.

1. How else would we come to salvation?
2. Salvation is by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We are wooed by God.

3. **“All people”** means **“all people.”**
4. **Story:** Beth’s desperation to know God and her encounter as a teenager—she needed someone to translate what was happening.

C. **What is prophecy? What is the prophetic gift?**

1. **Prophecy** is hearing God for yourself or for others. It is always encouraging, comforting, and strengthening. (1 Corinthians 14:3)
2. **A gift is something you give away.** It flows through you to someone else, or if it is prophetic intercession, through you and back to God, for **not all prophetic insights are to be shared.**
3. **Prophecy is not discernment of spirits.** That can lead to a prophetic word. Prophecy is not seeing the dirt and calling it out. It is our job as a prophetic people to call out the gold. It is God’s lovingkindness that leads people to repentance—a changing of their mind about Him. (Romans 2:4)
4. **Prophecy is not** understanding of all the problems someone has. It’s not calling out sin, but rather it is the encouragement, the solution, the comfort, and/or strengthening that God has for a situation. (1 Corinthians 14:3)
5. We are called to be Kingdom solutionaries.
6. Story: **He Discovered He Was Loved, Part 1 and 2.** We call out the gold:
<https://godisgoodstories.com/2022/05/10/he-discovered-he-was-loved/>
<https://godisgoodstories.com/2022/05/16/he-was-loved-pt-2/>
7. **God is love.** If the gift does not reflect the giver of the gift, it’s not to be released. Look to 1 Corinthians 13:4 and replace the word “love” with the word “prophecy” to catch what prophecy looks like.

D. **Prophecy is for everyone. We can all prophesy.**

1. **Joel** writes in a form of Hebraic poetry called parallelism in which the form of writing causes an inclusivity of topic:

“Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
Your old men will dream dreams,
Your young men will see visions.

Even on My servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.”

2. **So young, old, men, women**—all of us are included. The extremes are not exclusive, but inclusive in nature.
3. **Eagerly desire all gifts, but especially prophesy**—Paul’s writing.
(1 Corinthians 14:1)

E. **We are all new creations. We can trust that we all hear well.**

(2 Corinthians 5:17–18)

1. **My sheep hear My voice.** (Jesus, in John 10:27)
2. **God wants us to hear Him more than we want to hear Him**—it was His original intent (Exodus 20:19). The people sent Moses to speak with God.
3. **Be confident that we do.** Believe what Jesus says about us hearing His voice.
4. **Turn to see as we go about our day.** (Moses, in Exodus 3:3–5.)
5. **We can choose to believe.** It’s a choice.

“I believe. Help me in my disbelief.” (Mark 9:24)

F. **The challenge? Most people lack confidence in one or both of two areas:**

1. **Many lack confidence.** They are not confident that they do hear.
2. **Those that are confident often lack skills in processing.** Knowing what’s yours to do, what is his to do, and when to do it—this is a skill and can be taught. God wants you to know what to do. He is a good Father.
3. **Remember, we can all always grow,** even if we are confident that we hear well.
4. **If you are confident in hearing and in processing,** are you stepping out and doing what He says?

“Do not merely listen to the Word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” (James 1:22)

5. **Main two elements: Overcome these two elements and you will accelerate. Nothing will hold you back.**

II. Growing in Hearing God's Voice

A. **The solution to the first challenge**, learning to recognize His voice:

1. **We can learn and we are called to practice.** We are naturally hard-wired to hear God, but we have either stopped listening, or we have not been taught to listen, but we can re-sensitize our senses.
2. **Busy café example:** Turn to see/attune ear. E.g., newborn baby.
3. **We can train our senses** to discern good from evil. Learn to identify the voice of God from all the other voices in our world. (**Hebrews 5:14**)
4. That word "train," translated from the Greek word *gymnaso*, we can take our senses to the gym and train vulnerably with one another.
5. *"Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."* (**1 Timothy 4:7-8**)
6. *"Do not merely listen to the Word. Do what it says."* (**James 1:22**)
7. **We all naturally lean to a favorite way** of hearing Him, but we can all see, hear, feel, taste, smell—it's all available. He's already talking to you.
8. **We can all learn** about the many ways He speaks, and in doing so, we can intentionally develop our ability to recognize His voice.
9. **He loves it when we incline our ear.** He delights in us. His language of Love is multifaceted. In fact, the manifestation of each and every gift is an invitation to see Him with greater clarity.

B. **How do we grow in our confidence and ability to accurately discern the Lord's voice?**

1. **We learn the ways He speaks** (how He speaks) and we practice listening in those ways with intentionality.
2. **We develop our recognition. As in the natural, so too in the spiritual.** E.g., in the natural we can develop our hearing by closing our eyes. We can

develop our sense of taste as we focus on what we eat. We develop our seeing through intentionality of looking.

3. **Habakkuk stations himself** to look to see what the Lord will say. (**Habakkuk 2:1**) He was **looking** to **see** what God would **say**—it's a mindset.
4. **We practice in a safe environment** where we can grow before we take it out. E.g., my son is learning to drive. He is responding to the voice of his father. He is practicing in the safety of local community. He will practice before he takes the car out to the highways and the byways, but at some stage he will drive beyond the safety of where he lives.

C. **We are a diverse and wonderful people.** (1 Peter 4:10)

1. We understand that we all have different primary ways of hearing God.
2. Some of the basic ways are: See, hear, feel, perceive/know (including our sense of smell and taste). We call them prophetic receptors. It's the ways we receive information from God, if we will lean in and look to see. Ask Him, "What are You saying to me, Lord?"
3. People can see through the created realm, internally through dreams and in their mind's eye (their imaginations and memory) or they might even see in mysterious ways—angels, etc. Remember, the Bible is littered with angelic encounters.
4. There is no hierarchy in the Kingdom. People who see, hear, etc. the angelic realm are not more mature or more holy. We are all simply different.
5. I have a special regard for those raised in the tradition forms of church. They are often exceptional at perceiving, especially through the Word. Some of the most profound conversations and prophetic words I have received are from Anglican Church leaders and members. I love these quiet achievers, and honor them.

D. The purpose of training is to grow into the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:13)

E. We see Jesus using many of His senses in His ministry. Our senses are not just so we can relate to the physical realm, but also as a tool of communication with God:

1. **Jesus sees.** "*I do what I see the Father doing.*" (John 5:19)

2. **Jesus hears.** *“The words you hear are not My own; they belong to the Father who sent Me.” (John 14:24)*
3. **Jesus feels.** *“When He saw a great crowd, He was ... moved with compassion toward them, and He healed their sick.” (Matthew 14:14)*
4. **Jesus perceives/knows.** When Jesus forgives the paralyzed man, the Pharisees begin to question Him. Jesus *perceives/knows* their thoughts and addresses them: *“Why do you question in your hearts?” (Luke 5:22, KJV)*

You can see the senses being utilized by God to communicate with His Son. By extension, we can also taste and/or smell a prophetic encouragement from God.

5. **Taste.** We are told to **taste** and see that the Lord is good. (**Psalm 34:8**)
6. **Smell.** We see Isaac smelling Jacob, who has dressed in Esau’s clothing, which smelt like Esau. Jacob smells the fragrance, and it is the prompt from which he prophesies a blessing. He says, “See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field that the Lord has blessed.” From this fragrance, he prophesies over Jacob, who had intentionally dressed as his brother Esau.

Examples of these are throughout the Old and New Testaments. We explore many of these in our teaching and training sessions.

F. As we learn about the various ways God can speak to us, we become more aware and attuned to His voice:

1. A **bank teller** learns to recognize a fraudulent dollar bill by repeatedly seeing the genuine. So too can we attune our senses to discern a fraudulent voice from a godly encouragement.
2. We do this by exposure to His Word, exposure to good quality teaching.
3. We do this by being in community where we can practice, be accountable, and ask questions.
4. We do this by being around healthy mentors with healthy prophetic values and protocols.

5. **I practice every week in community.** I want to continue to grow, and it's fun.

G. **How did I learn?**

1. I read the Word.
2. I attended as many live trainings as I could.
3. I read books.
4. I listened to teachings.
5. I sought mentors.
6. The time and place when I really grew quickly: Stopping for the stranger on the street in response to God's leading as I went about my day. (I stopped for over 1000 people in a year. That's only three on average per day, for a year.)
7. **Story: He is the God Who Sees, Part 2:**
<https://godisgoodstories.com/2021/04/13/the-god-who-sees-part-2/>
8. Ideally we join a local prophetic community where questions and mistakes are okay, where growth and encouragement are the norm, where you have permission to grow and shine.

III. In Summary

- A. We can all hear Him.
- B. It's a matter of recognizing the various ways He speaks.
- C. We are all encouraged to train: Take it to the gym and practice.
- D. We train not *for* acceptance or love, but *from the place of* love and acceptance.
- E. As we practice, we grow in our ability to discern with accuracy.
- F. We lean in, listen, and respond.
- G. Most importantly, it's really all about relationship—with Him.
- H. Relationship is about time spent hanging out, chatting to one another as you go about your day, doing things together.
- I. As we lean into the heartbeat of heaven, we grow in our awareness of Him and His extraordinary love for us.
- J. As we get to know Him better, we learn how to respond to what He is saying.

- K. Jump into the car with Him and let your Father guide you. He will steer you towards your prophetic Kingdom purpose, and I promise you that as you travel through life, you will *taste and see* that God is Good!