

Hearing God's Voice

SPIRIT OF GOD, PT. 2

Anchor Text

Exodus 3:1–15 | 1 Kings 19:9–18 | 1 Samuel 3:1–21

What Is Prophecy?

“For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” — 2 Peter 1:21

Definition

Hearing God's voice and responding with obedient action.

Prophecy vs. Prophet

Prophecy — a gift available to all believers

Receiving and relaying what God says. Paul urges all believers to desire this gift (1 Cor. 14:1, 5, 39).

Prophet — an office or function

A distinctive calling to serve as God's messenger to His people. Both exist to edify — to encourage and build up others.

Why Prophecy Matters

“Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.” — Proverbs 29:18

Prophecy, when present, does one or more of the following:

Function	Key References
Encourage	1 Cor. 14:3–5, 31; 1 Pet. 4:10–11; Eph. 4:11–12
Correct & Convict	2 Tim. 3:16–17; Jer. 23:29; 1 Cor. 14:24–25
Foretell & Reveal	Acts 11:27–28; Dan. 2:27–28; Isaiah 44:28–45:1
Prompt Intercession	Rom. 8:26–27; Gen. 18; Exodus 32; Amos 7

7 Ways God Speaks

1. Scripture

The primary way. The more time you spend reading what God has already said, the more familiar His voice becomes.

2. Visions

An open vision or an image seen in the mind’s eye — images God places in your spirit by His Spirit.

3. Dreams

You will know when a dream carries significance. Document it and pray into it.

4. Audible Voice

Rarer, but real. It will strike the fear of God in you and call you to attention.

5. History

God is a God of patterns. Look back and you can often find Him in the future (e.g., the Exodus as a reference point).

6. Nature

Overwhelmed by a sunset. Stunned by the mountains. When creation moves you, pay attention.

7. Moral Conscience / Inner Voice

Outward-facing, generous, creative thoughts you know you wouldn't have thought on your own — that's often the Spirit.

Key Takeaway: Hearing God's voice is a **relationship**. The more time you spend with God, the easier it becomes to recognize His voice. He doesn't speak to you the way He speaks to anyone else.

4 Barriers to Hearing God's Voice

Barrier	What It Sounds Like	The Move
Disbelief	<i>"God doesn't speak to people like me."</i>	Worldview shift — start by believing God speaks to everyone.
Distractions	<i>Too much noise, too much hurry.</i>	Intentional attentiveness. Slow down. Meditate on the Word.
Deafness	<i>Passive. Waiting for God inside your parameters.</i>	Move to openness: "Speak, Lord, I'm listening."
Distortion	<i>"Only the gifted can hear from God."</i>	Tune to the right frequency. God speaks to everyone — a shepherd, a burned-out prophet, a young boy, a scared man in a winepress.

When You Hear — 3 Questions to Ask

1. WHO is this for?

Me / My Family / A Specific Person / The Room / The Community / Beyond

2. WHEN is this for?

Now / Later / Concealed for a season

3. WHAT should I do?

- ☐ Write it down
- ☐ Deliver the message
- ☐ Intercede
- ☐ Release it (prophetic song, declaration, creative act)

There is always an action required. Many times it will start in private before it ever moves to a public setting.

This Week's Application

God is not waiting for you to be impressive. He is waiting for you to be **available**.

Find time this week to sit uninterrupted, open your Bible, and say:

“Speak, Lord. I’m listening.”

Read His Word and take note of what begins to jump off the page. Follow the rabbit trail and see where He takes you.