

Hearing God

God is a **speaking** God: *John 1:1 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*

God speaks to men who care enough to hear.

AW Tozer said, “The Bible was written in tears and to tears it will yield its best treasures. God has nothing to say to the frivolous man.”

Before we can commit ourselves to hearing, we must come to faith about God’s propensity for speaking.

God is a **speaking** God.

- Believe that God has spoken.
- Believe that God is speaking.
- Believe that God enables our hearing.

God is a **present** God and He is a **speaking** God!

Hearing God depends.

1) Hearing God depends upon your assurance (Faith).

God speaks to those who believe.

It is in the nature of God to speak.

a) He speaks through creation.

- i) Self-expression is an ongoing desire of God. (NTS-seen in creation)
- ii) Creation exists because of God’s desire to be fully known.

Hebrews 11:3 – *“By faith we understand that the universe was created by the Word of God...”*

Psalms 33:8, 9 – *“Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him! For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm.”*

The voice of God is the most powerful force in nature! Everything exists only because of God’s **speaking voice**.

All energy, earthly and eternal energy, exists only because God’s power-filled Word has spoken and is still being spoken.

Romans 1:19, 20 NLT – *“They know the truth about God because He has made it obvious to them. ²⁰ For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see His invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.”*

God created the earth and sky as a revelation that He exists. Creation reveals His invisible qualities, eternal power, and divine nature.

- iii) The entire Bible supports the idea that God is speaking. Not that God once spoke and then went silent, but that God is speaking.
- b) He **speaks** through Christ Jesus the Son.
 - i) Jesus is called the Word (John 1:1).
 - ii) Christ Jesus is the most powerful manifestation of the living breathing full expression of God.
 - iii) He is not a man created by God! He is God and the full revelation of God.
- c) God **speaks** through the Bible.

Two wrong views of the Bible:

- i) ERROR ONE: The “once spoken” error.

This is a view held by most evangelical churches.

(1) A silent God suddenly began to speak in a book and when the book was finished God went quiet again, forever. Now we read the book as the record of what God said when He was, for a brief time, in a speaking mood.

(2) This is dangerous and damaging for 2 reasons:

- (a) It misleads God’s people into thinking that He does not speak to man any longer in His speaking voice.
- (b) It relegates man to understand God merely by our intellectual apprehension of the Scriptures, creating this weird evangelical rationalism which leads to strong debates across denominations and religious sects.

- ii) ERROR 2: The God is revealing “new truth” error.

(1) There are some who believe that the truth of the Bible was and is limited to traditions and the cultures of the day. Therefore, it is in many ways, out of date and lacking in the full revelation necessary to serve God in our modern times.

(a) They say a liberal view of the limited revelation must be taken in account when it comes to roles in marriage, homosexual lifestyles, and biblical attitudes toward genders.

(2) If God is still speaking, then we must keep our minds open to further revelation. Wherever new truth is discovered that matches the social climate of the day, we must accept that God's new speaking truth replaces or compliments the existing Scriptures.

(3) One thing must be settled in the mind of every Christian:

Whoever, for whatever reason, denies the finality of biblical revelation and insists upon a continuing revelation having the same authority as the sacred Scriptures, has shut himself out from the name of Christian.

He is simply not a Christian in the scriptural and historic meaning of the word.

d) THE TRUTH: The Bible is the written Word of God filled with power.

i) Jesus said, "... *The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life*" (John 6:63 NKJV).

ii) God's word in the Bible can have power only because it corresponds to the speaking words of the Son of God.

It is the present voice of God, which makes the written Word all-powerful.

e) When we approach our Bible, we must NOT read it only as a collection of words once spoken, but a book that is now still speaking.

"Open the Bible expecting it to speak to you. Do not come with the notion that it is a thing which you may push around at your convenience. It is more than a thing; it is a voice, a word, the very Word of the living God." -AW Tozer

2) Hearing God depends upon your attitude.

a) God speaks clearly to those who take time to listen. It is the man who cares who communes with the Most High and learns the secrets of the Lord.

i) Moses was a man who loved God's people so much that he once told God, "*If you are going to judge us for our rebellion then judge me too. If you are going to blot their names out of your book, then blot mine out too*"(Exodus 32:32).

ii) Daniel's long season of fasting and prayer brought the arch angel Gabriel from Heaven to tell him the secret of the centuries.

iii) John, in his Revelation, wept so much because no one could be found worthy to open the seven-sealed book. One of the elders comforted him with the joyous revelation that the Lion of the tribe of Judah had prevailed and He will open the book.

Attitudes = Passion, Sacrifice, Justice

b) Believers hear while resisters make excuses.

John 12:27-30 – *“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? “Father, save Me from this hour”? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify Your name.’ Then a voice came from Heaven: ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to Him.’ Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not Mine.”*

“It must have thundered”? “an angel has spoken to Him”?

- i) **“This voice was for your benefit, not mine.”** Jesus made it clear that **He** did not need this “voice,” the voice had come for the sake of the people. However, only a few (such as John who recorded this event) understood what was said and who said it. To the others, it was merely thunderous noise.
- ii) Many of us are like this crowd. We know God speaks but we cannot discern what is being said.

We are too easily satisfied to have God speak to others and then let others tell us what God has said.

We are more likely to explain, “It thundered,” and we go our earthly way.

Don’t be content with a little thunder now and then.

3) Hearing God depends upon your **availability**.

He speaks to those who are listening.

a) Psalm 46:10 – *“Be still and know that I am God.”*

- b) It is significant that the Psalm in which the words *“Be still”* occur is filled with noise and commotion.
 - i) The earth shakes, the waters roar and are troubled, the mountains threaten to tumble into the midst of the sea, the nations rage, the kingdoms are moved and the sound of war is heard throughout the land.
 - ii) Then a voice is heard out of the silence saying, *“Be still, and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10).

Conclusion: If ever there was a day when we need to hear the voice of the speaking God, it is this day. The Bible is not cherished, respected, and guarded much any longer.

God speaks, illuminating biblical truth but God does not speak changing truth to match popular beliefs.