HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD

Every follower of Jesus desires to hear the voice of God. Unfortunately, the topic of listening to His voice can be tricky because we are imperfect humans trying to hear, discern, and interpret a perfect God. Also, many of us have had bad experiences (within ourselves or others) related to "hearing the voice of God." However, despite our personal experiences, we want to know what the Word of God says about hearing His voice. If it is true that He does still speak today, it is commendable for us to know how to hear Him.

Below are some answers to common questions around this topic that help give us some biblical handrails and insights that will help us stay on the right path as we pursue hearing God's voice.

Does God still speak?

- Yes He does! There are many OT/NT examples of Him speaking & no verses indicating that He will stop speaking.
- God spoke the world into existence (Genesis 1:3)
- God spoke to Elijah in a still small voice (1 Kings 19:11-13)
- JESUS. He is the Word of God. Everything He spoke is the true, perfect, infallible voice of God. (the gospels)
- When Jesus was baptized, God spoke identity over Him (Matthew 3:17)
- After Jesus death/resurrection, God spoke to Saul at his conversion and Ananias to baptize him (Acts 9)
- God spoke to the leaders of the church at Antioch to set apart and send out missionaries (Acts 13:2-3)

Who does God speak to?

- His creation, prophets, His Son, kings, a persecutor of the church (Saul), His faithful followers, leaders in the church, three wise men looking for a baby, and more.
- In summary…God speaks to anyone He wants to. More specifically, those that are listening to Him.
- "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." (John 10:27)

How does God speak?

- His written Word, the voice of the Holy Spirit, His people, dreams/visions, life events/circumstances
- Please note: He is God, so we need to be careful not to limit the ways He can speak. Other than what was listed above, He can speak in any other way He wants to ☺

How do I practically listen to God's voice?

- Stop talking, be silent, focus your mind on Him, and listen!
- Ask God a specific question, then pause and listen. Write down anything that comes to your mind.
- Psalm 46:10, 1 Kings 19:11-13, Psalm 27:14, 1 Samuel 3:10

When you hear something, how can you know it's truly God's voice?

- This is a great question. The bible is clear that "we see in part, and we hear in part" (1 Cor. 13:9). Also, the bible instructs us to test the prophecies that are given to us (1 Thess. 5:19-21). If you hear something that you think could be from God, we encourage everyone to test it with the following 3 things:

1) The Word of God 2) The Character of God 3) The People of God

Additionally, if what you or someone else has heard is "prophetic" in nature, involving specific detail and measurable outcomes, you can test its legitimacy by watching what happens and the fruit it produces. If what was "heard/spoken" comes to pass and bears good fruit, then we can be confident that it was God speaking. If what was "heard/spoken" does not come to pass or doesn't bear good fruit, then we can conclude that it was not God speaking.