

## Listening to God's Voice

*It is great to have a guide for our lives?* If you're dating, it is great to have a guide who could walk you through the dating process? If you get in an argument with your spouse, it is great to be reminded that telling her that she is just like her mother is a bad idea. We make key decisions all the time, and some bad decisions are more damaging than others. It is a great idea to have an expert guide to guide us through all the twists and turns of life?

The Bible says we do have a guide. It calls Him the Redeemer, the Creator, the Father, the Guide. God came to Abram and said, "**Leave your country, your people, and your father's household, and go to the land I will show you.**" God guided him to the Promised Land, and he got there safely.

When it was time for Israel to leave Egypt, God trained Moses for 40 years to guide Israel out of Egypt. God also went before them as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. **Proverbs 3:5-6** says, "**Trust the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.**"

The most famous psalm in the Bible talks about God as Guide. **Psalm 23: "The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside quiet waters."** If you need life wisdom **James 1:5** says: "... ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault."

Our God is a guiding God. The problem is that we don't hear God's voice to be guided. There is a minority of people who feel very comfortable to say: "**The Lord told me to do this. God spoke to me about this. God put this burden on my heart. God showed me this way.**" Then, there is the majority of us who are God's loving people, faithful and willing, but who wonder: "**Am I hearing God speak? Is there a secret on how to hear God?**" Yes, the secret is in the Bible. The main lesson is that **We need to learn how to recognize God's voice.**

Samuel's story in 1 Samuel 3 is a great story to learn to recognize God's voice.

Because we're finite or limited creatures, we use finite means to guide each other's thoughts. We make sounds. By speaking I am making you think right now. We also write symbols. When you look at symbols, you read them and think and act on that. This is how we communicate as finite, limited beings.

God is infinite and He can guide our thoughts directly. He doesn't have to use sounds or symbols. He can, but he doesn't have to. He has direct access to our minds. He can simply guide a thought without using any other means at all. But again, how do I recognize that that is God's voice?

We must train in understanding God's voice. We pray, we think about God, we meditate; we read God-appropriate literature, and we start distinguishing His voice. **Jesus said of the Good Shepherd that he goes on ahead of the sheep and they follow him because they know his voice.** To have a personal relationship with God means that we must open our mind.

None of us has this science of recognizing God's voice. But there is some practical understanding on how God speaks in our minds and thoughts. In doing so, please stay clear of these myths about God's voice and his guidance.

1. God will only speak and give guidance to spiritual giants.
2. A spiritual person will be guided by God in all decisions, and he never has to make decisions on his own
3. God guides in big waves and with major issues only.

### Conclusion:

God still speaks. The Spirit still guides. The world still gets changed. People still get blessed. If you're a follower of Jesus, the Spirit is in you already, and that is part of your adventure. Our God, the redeeming, creating, judging, comforting Father, is a guiding God. Can you hear Him? I hope you do.