

# Hearing God's Voice

## The Outpouring of the Spirit

The very first day of the Church wasn't well-mannered or quiet. It didn't look like a neatly planned service with announcements and an offering song. Acts 2 says it began with fire, wind, and tongues. Imagine being there: a prayer meeting suddenly interrupted by a sound like a hurricane ripping through the building. Tongues of fire settled on people's heads. Fishermen from Galilee suddenly speaking in languages they'd never studied.

God was making a point. From this moment on, His people would not be marked by rules written on stone tablets, but by a living conversation with His Spirit. Christianity was never meant to be silent. It was always meant to be explosive.

Peter, the same guy who not long before denied Jesus in front of a servant girl, suddenly stands up and preaches like a man on fire. And what's his explanation? ‘

*In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.  
Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.*

In other words: everybody gets in. Nobody is left out. If you belong to Jesus, you can be filled, and you can hear His voice. Period.

## Why Hearing His Voice Matters

Jesus made it simple: “*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*” (John 10:27). Notice what He didn't say: “*My sheep read My book and memorize My sermons.*” As important as those are, He said His sheep hear His voice.

But here's the problem: a lot of believers stopped expecting that. They'll read their Bible, they'll go to church, they'll listen to sermons on YouTube—but deep down, they've quietly given up on the idea that God would ever whisper something personal to them.

Yet Scripture refuses to let us separate being filled with the Spirit from hearing His voice. When the Spirit fell in Acts 19, people spoke in tongues and prophesied. Paul told the Corinthians to “*eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially prophecy.*” And then he defined prophecy: “*strengthening, encouragement, and comfort.*”

Let me translate: prophecy isn't spooky. It's not for a handful of “super Christians.” It's God talking through His kids, releasing His heart into the world.

## How to Hear God's Voice

First, believe it's for you. Pentecost included everyone—sons, daughters, old, young, servants. If you're in Christ, you're in the conversation. Stop thinking you're the exception. You're not.

Second, don't wait for thunder. Yes, God can split seas and shake mountains, but most of the time His voice sounds like a thought, a nudge, a peace in side you. Isaiah 30 says, “*Your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it.’*”

I'll be honest, sometimes it's not dramatic at all. Once, the Lord nudged the head of our mission organization with just a simple thought: “*Get them out of there, they might be dead.*” It wasn't shouted from the clouds. It was a whisper, but it carried weight. (And yes, acting on it probably saved our lives.)

Third, pay attention. God speaks, but most of us are too distracted to notice. We scroll through our phones. We watch YouTube videos. But if you set aside time, really listen, and actually write down what you sense, you'll be amazed how often God can talk to you. Keep a notebook by your Bible. When you pray, expect to jot things down.

Fourth, remember who you are. So many Christians think, “*God won't talk to me, I'm not good enough.*” But that's a lie. The prodigal son thought he had to crawl back as a servant. The Father ran to him, threw a robe on his shoulders, a ring on his hand, and threw a party. You are not a beggar hoping for crumbs. You are a child of God, clothed in Christ's righteousness. And because of that, He delights to speak to you.

Fifth, walk it out. It's hard to steer a parked car. Often God speaks when we're already moving. So take a step. Attempt something for God. Pray for your neighbor. You'll find the Spirit speaks more clearly when you're already leaning forward in faith.

## **The Better Portion**

Let's be honest: church culture often rewards Martha. Busy. Productive. Efficient. But heaven still celebrates Mary, who sat at Jesus' feet and listened. When we choose the better portion—relationship, not performance—fruit comes naturally. Miracles come. Courage comes. And ministry flows like an overflow, rather than an exhaustion.

The real question isn't, "How much can I do for God?" The real question is, "How can I fall in love with simply being with Jesus?"

## **Conclusion**

The Church was born in tongues, prophecy, visions, and dreams. That hasn't changed. God still speaks. He still intends for you to hear Him.

So set aside time. Pay attention. Believe you are worthy. Move forward in faith. Keep a notebook ready. And watch how the Spirit begins to whisper, nudge, and sometimes roar into your life.

Start with this prayer:

"Holy Spirit, open my ears. Teach me to value every whisper. Teach me to obey quickly. Let me live as a son, a daughter, who actually hears the voice of the Father. Amen."