



ACTS



**HOW DO WE LISTEN FOR
GOD'S VOICE TOGETHER?**



CONTEXT

Assumptions driving this text:

- God is always speaking to His people
- The basic posture of a disciple is a listener
- Quality of listening will determine quality of love

An aerial photograph of a city grid, overlaid with a semi-transparent light green filter. A thick white horizontal bar runs across the middle of the image, containing the text.

HOW DID GOD SPEAK?

Throughout the Old and New Testaments God employs an impressive arsenal of communication tools: words spoken from heaven, words written on tablets, preaching and prophetic words, answered prayer, visual demonstrations, counsels and consensus, thoughts, dreams, visions, symbols, words from others, signs in creation, music and song, spiritual gifts, the breaking of bread and immersion in river water, common sense, conviction of sin, impressions on the conscience, and of course, a chatty donkey. The Bible does not offer a systematic treatment for how God speaks and how to recognize his voice. It assumes that God speaks in manifold and mysterious and unexpected ways.

Adam McHugh

How God speaks to his people:

- Scripture (Psa 19; 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:21; Heb 4:12)
- Internal promptings in our thoughts, feelings, desires, spirits, or guts (Psa 37:4; Neh 7:5; Mark 2:6-8; Jn. 16:18; Acts 14:9; 2 Pet. 1:17-18)
- Dreams (Gen. 40-41; Num. 12:6; Jer. 23:28; Matt. 2:13, 19)
- Visions & Images (Gen. 15:3-5; Isa. 6:1-8; Ezek. 40:3; Dan. 10:5-6; Acts 10:9-14)
- Everyday life experiences (Jer. 18:1-6; Prov. 24:30-34; 1 Sam. 15:27-28)

How God speaks in the Spirit:

- Nature (Job 38:8-11; Psa. 8:3-4; Isa. 40:12; Matt. 6:26-28)
- Books, Movies, Songs, Art (Psalms and Parables)
- Angels (Psa. 34:11; Matt. 2:13; Luke 1:30; Heb 1:14)
- Bodily Sensations (Luke 8:45-46)
- Other people (2 Sam. 12)

The background of the image is a faded, light-colored aerial photograph of a city street grid. A semi-transparent teal overlay covers the entire image. Two thin white horizontal lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges of the frame. Centered in the middle of the image is the text "God speaks in Scripture" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

God speaks in Scripture

The background of the image is a semi-transparent teal overlay on top of a detailed aerial map of a city. The map shows a grid of streets, buildings, and some green spaces. The text is centered horizontally and vertically on the teal overlay.

God speaks in the Spirit



God speaks in the Church

The background of the image is a faded, light-colored aerial photograph of a city street grid. A semi-transparent teal overlay covers the entire image. Two thin white horizontal lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges of the frame. Centered in the middle of the image is the text "God speaks in our Circumstances" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

God speaks in our Circumstances

The background of the image is a faded, light-colored aerial map of a city, showing street grids and building footprints. A semi-transparent teal overlay covers the entire map. Two horizontal white lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges of the image, framing the central text.

WHY IS IT SO HARD TO LISTEN?

An aerial photograph of a city grid, overlaid with semi-transparent noise contours in shades of orange and yellow. The contours represent noise levels emanating from various sources, likely major roads or industrial areas. The word "Noise" is centered in white text.

Noise

The background is a faded aerial photograph of a city grid, overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color. Two horizontal white lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges of the image. Centered in the middle is the text "Competing Voices" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Competing Voices

The background is a faded aerial photograph of a city grid, overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color. Two horizontal white lines are positioned near the top and bottom of the image, framing the central text.

Flesh, World, and Devil

Many voices ask for our attention. There is a voice that says, “Prove that you are a good person.” Another voice says, “You’d better be ashamed of yourself.” There also is a voice that says, “Nobody really cares about you,” and one that says, “Be sure to become successful, popular, and powerful.” But underneath all these often very noisy voices is a still, small voice that says, “You are my Beloved, my favor rests on you.” That’s the voice we need most of all to hear. To hear that voice, however, requires special effort; it requires solitude, silence, and a strong determination to listen. That’s what prayer is. It is listening to the voice that calls us “my Beloved.”

Henri Nouwen

**HOW CAN WE LEARN TO LISTEN
FOR GOD'S VOICE?**

The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. The doorkeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought all his own outside, he goes ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they recognize his voice. They will never follow a stranger; instead they will run away from him, because they don't recognize the voice of strangers.

John 10:2-5

The background of the slide is a faded, light teal aerial photograph of a city street grid. Two horizontal white lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges of the image, framing the central text.

Intimacy & Maturity

The background is a semi-transparent teal aerial map of a city, showing a grid of streets and various urban structures. Two horizontal white lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges of the image, framing the central text.

Harmony

The image features a background of a faded aerial map of a city, showing a grid of streets and various urban structures. A semi-transparent teal layer is overlaid on the map. The word "Community" is centered in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Two thin white horizontal lines are positioned above and below the teal area, framing the central text.

Community