



Some of the Ways God Speaks:

First of all, if you're a Christian, then you have already heard God's voice:

John 6:44-45—No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught of God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me."(NAS)

Hearing God's voice is amazingly simple! He is constantly speaking—it's just up to us to pay attention. The following list of "ways God speaks" is not exhaustive—you may discover more ways as you go through life. What matters is that we are constantly looking for His voice in all situations!

Here are Some of the Ways God Speaks to Us:

I. Externally

- a. Circumstances (Hebrews 12:7-11) *Hardship*
- b. Creation (Romans 1:20)
- c. Through others
 - i. Word of Knowledge *— revelation*
 - ii. Word of Wisdom
 - iii. Prophecy
 - iv. Tongues and Interpretation
 - v. Preaching & Teaching
 - vi. Music
- d. Signs and wonders (Hebrews 2:4) *miracles - G. H. 8/18/18*
- e. The Bible (2 Peter 1:20,21) *through Revelation words the Canon*
- f. The Church (Ephesians 3:10-11) *Discern or judge*
- g. Angels (Angelic encounters were very common throughout the whole Bible.)
- h. Audible Voice (John 12:29) *miraculous Rod*

II. Personally

- a. Still, small voice (1 Kings 19:12)
- b. Impressions, sensing, or perception (Acts 27:10)
- c. Physical Sensations (Luke 8:46)
- d. Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12-14)
 - i. Spontaneous Prophetic Word
 - ii. Word of Knowledge
 - iii. Word of Wisdom
 - iv. Tongues and Interpretation
- e. Visions
 - i. "Closed Visions" - *a picture in the mind (whether symbolic or literal)*
 - ii. "Open Visions" - *perceived as being part of your natural surroundings*
- f. Dreams (Job 33:14-16)
- g. Trances (Acts 10:9-17)
- h. Divine Encounters (Numbers 12:7-8)

Discerning God's Voice:

Was it Really God's Voice?

- Does it line up with **Scripture**?
 - If **yes**: Keep going.
 - If **no**:
 - Is it because this isn't something that could be found in Scripture? (Keep going)
 - Or is it because it contradicts Scripture? (Toss it out)
- Does it **sound** like Jesus?
- Does it **feel** like Jesus?
- Does it produce immediate **good fruit**?
 - Peace
 - Joy
 - Hope
 - Drawing near to God
 - Repentance
- Was the message spoken **externally** or **personally**? (See other handout)
 - **Externally**: Does it confirm something God has spoken to you before?
 - **Personally**: Has it ever been confirmed?

Note: This particular point isn't necessary, but it does help add weight to the likelihood that the message came from God.
- Do **other Christians** believe that the message came from God?
- Hindsight**: When you acted on it, did it produce the good fruit that was promised?

Consider the Risk-Factor Involved in Obeying:

- Low Risk**:
 - **Examples**:
 - Practicing spiritual gifts in a church setting
 - Offering to pray for someone in public
 - Engaging in evangelism
 - Giving a word of encouragement
 - **Action Steps**:
 - Give it a shot!
- Moderate Risk**:
 - **Examples**:
 - Practicing spiritual gifts in a public setting
 - Bringing a corrective word to someone
 - Speaking a word to an emotionally wounded person
 - **Action Steps**:
 - Take a moment to discern
 - If helpful, mention it to a Christian friend who will encourage you to either act or reconsider
- High Risk**:
 - **Examples**:
 - Missions work in foreign countries (without a church-led team)
 - Words about dates, mates, babies, or other emotionally-charged topics
 - **Action Steps**:
 - Share with some other seasoned Christians and ask them to help discern
 - Pray and fast until you have clarity

As you walk with the Lord and learn His voice consistently over time, your "risk tolerance" will change. Things that used to seem like high-risk matters may become moderate risks or even low risks if history has proven that God often speaks to you accurately in these ways. Always be aware of your personal faith level so that you can prophesy "in proportion" to your faith. (See Romans 12:6.)