



August Development Guide

SUBJECT: HOW TO HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD



Hearing the voice of God ties directly in with two core values of Victory Family Church: ***Take Faith Risks and Surrender to the Holy Spirit.***

The more we're tuned in to hearing God's voice, the more apt we are to step out in faith—taking risks we'd probably never dream of taking without having peace in our hearts and an inward witness. And as we become more familiar with hearing God the Holy Spirit, we learn to surrender to Him and trust in His leading.

Proverbs 3:5-6 - *“Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, and lean not on your own understanding, acknowledge Him in all of your ways, He will make your paths straight.”*

Hearing the voice of God really should be one of the basic principles of our Christian faith.

Jesus said it Himself in **John 10:27-28** (NKJV), *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow, Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”*

And yet, hearing God's voice is something many believers struggle with. Why is that? It's certainly not because God is hiding from us; He wants us to hear Him. **James 10:7** tells us to draw near to God, and He will draw near to us.

In his book, *Whisper - How to Hear God's Voice*, Pastor Mark Batterson writes about the Tomatis effect, a condition named after Dr. Alfred Tomatis. It's a phenomenon where an individual's voice is so loud that it damages their own ear drum and causes loss of hearing.

Is it possible that what we perceive to be relational, emotional, and spiritual problems are actually hearing problems—ears that have been deafened to the voice of God?

If your life is off-key, so to speak, could it be because you've been deafened by the negative self-talk that doesn't let God get a word in edgewise? Or maybe you've listened to the voice of criticism for so long you can't believe anything else about yourself. Perhaps it's the enemy's voice of condemnation that speaks lies about who you really are.

Here's what I know. If you don't silence those competing voices, they'll eventually deafen you.





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What if you **aren't** dealing with negative self-talk, criticism, or the lies of the enemy, but still find it challenging to hear God's voice? I've found this to be the case in various seasons of my life.

God's Word holds another key as to why believers may have become tone deaf to God's voice.

Luke 10:38-42 – *Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."*

And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Many believers are so preoccupied with doing, or the *Martha syndrome*, that we find it nearly impossible to live out **Psalms 46:10**, "*Be still and know that I am God.*"

Let's take a moment to slowly break this verse down.

- *Be . . .*
 - Allow yourself to simply be, nothing more, just be.
- *Be still . . .*
 - No activity, no movement, no doing, just be still.
- *Be still and know . . .*
 - Know you are His, not for what you do, but for what He did.
- *Be still and know that I am God.*
 - Know He is God of all creation, and He loves you.

Could it be possible that we aren't clearly hearing God's voice because there's so much happening in our lives? Maybe, just maybe, we've become tone deaf to the voice of God?





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In **1 Kings 19:11-12**, God reveals Himself to the prophet Elijah. It reads:

Then He (God) said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

I so appreciate the imagery God uses to describe this encounter. I imagine many believers expect God to be revealed in spectacular occurrences or phenomenal events, but He is found in a still, small voice—a whisper. A voice so small that if we don't silence ourselves in His presence, we can easily miss it.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Is God's voice the loudest voice in your life?
 - a. If not, what other voices are overpowering His?
 - b. What changes can you start making today to allow yourself to hear God's voice?
2. What are the things in our day to day lives that catch our attention, but God is not in?
3. Henri Nowan said, *“Silence is an active war against the competing voices within us and around us.”* How would you say you're faring in that active war?
4. Begin taking two minutes twice a day to be silent in His presence and expect to hear His still, small voice.

