1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ioLTtQ2gD8&t=43s>

**How can we hear the Voice of God. (Based on a sermon by Charles Stanley)**

*After this sermon, you will have an understanding of why I have been so much focused on the person of the Holy Spirit in your lives.*

Communication is absolutely vital to all of us in everything we do.

Not only in our relationships with each other but also it is vital with our relationship to God.

Now, **communication** with the Lord involves both **speaking and listening**.

Most of us are much, much better at talking than listening.

What I would like to talk about is

**How to listen to God**. **How to listen** **to Him**. **How to be able to hear what God is saying**.

**And know** that you are **getting it right**, knowing that **God has spoken** and that **you know** you have **heard God** give you **direction or whatever** it is you need at that moment.

So Let’s turn to Isaiah Chapter 50 verse 4. Just the one verse

**Isaiah 50:4 New American Standard Bible (NASB)**

**4**The Lord [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+50%3A4&version=NASB#fen-NASB-18667a)]God has given Me the tongue of disciples, (or the learned)
That I may know how to speak or sustain the weary one with a word.
He awakens *Me* morning by morning,
He awakens My ear to listen, as a learner, as a discipler

**The Lord God** says that **He** has given me the **tongue of the learner and** That I may be of help to those who are weary

So how do I learn to be that helper?

By being willing to **listen as a learner**.

You can **learn how to listen to God**.

I want to look at this in 3 ways and the first is this.

1. **Our ability to listen to God**

When we think about our ability, our ability to **listen to God**, **is limited**.

It is **limited to believers only**.

The only way you and I can **hear from God** is to **hear through our spirit.**

Listen carefully - **A lost man** as well as **a believer** has **a mind**, so you **do not hear from God through your mind**.

And we **all** (believer and non-believer) have the **flesh and our emotions**.

We **do not listen to God** through **our mind our emotions**, **our feelings** **the flesh**.

**We hear from God through our spirit**.

God sent His **Holy Spirit** to **indwell** believers in order that we could receive from God.

For we are listening to Holy God, and so Holy God speaks to His **Spirit** that is **within us**. And **His Spirit conveys** to us, **the message of the Lord.**

So all **listening to God** begins with the **work of the Holy Spirit** **indwelling us** through the salvation experience.

Jesus also said Unless I go,The Comforter wont come.

The **Holy Spirit is Gods divine receiver**.

He is His **Earthly receiver** **implanted**, so to speak, in **every single believer**.

So our **ability** to even **listen to God begins** with the fullness of the **indwelling** of the **Holy Spirit** in **our** lives.

Now the **second thing** that I want us to look at is

1. **Our approach to listening to God**, now that we are capable of **hearing** Him

If I am going to be able to **listen to Him**, I must be able to **hear** what He’s saying with **clarity** if it’s going to have any effect upon me at all.

So here is what our approach should be.

We learn to **listen to God, by understanding how God speaks to us today.**

Life’s experience as a believer, will teach you that God speaks primarily in one of three ways.

**He speaks**

1. Through His word
2. Through other people
3. Through circumstances

The **Word of God** is His **written revelation** of His **message to Mankind**. (Man’s Manual)

And the primary way in which God speaks to us, is **through His Word**.

**The question here is**.

How is God going to speak to us through His Word?

Only if we are willing to spend enough time meditating on His Word.

God has given us the **Word**, as a means **of listening**, because that’s the **primary way through which He speaks**.

**Also**, God speaks **through other people**.

Everything someone tells you is not always the truth. You can’t always believe all suggestions and advice you get from others.

So God has not only given us **His Word** as a **book of instruction**.

*(Our Manual).*

He has given us the **Word of God** is a **safety check** for us to **discern the truthfulness** of what **is being told** to us **by others**, even when God speaks to **them** in order to **speak to us**.

There are times when you do not need to hear it, we need to hear God audibly.

How do you **know** and how can you **discern** whether it’s **from God or not?**

God’s Word is **His check valve**.

If someone tells you that God has told them to tell you to do something,

you can always go back to the Word to see if what they are telling you is in **keeping with biblical principles**.

Or go talk with another believer.

Now you can only check that out if you **know** what the **Word of God** teaches you.

So we need to have an **ear** to **listen** to God.

If we’re going to learn how to **listen**.

We begin with understanding that our ability finds its source in **the indwelling** presence of the Holy Spirit

And… that our approach is to go to the **Word of God**. To **listen** to what God may **be saying** to us through others and/or our circumstances.

Now here’s a warning - Deliberate **willful sin** in the life of a believer is **problematic to our listening Spirit**. This can cause the **Spirit to grieve** causing **interference**, confusion and **deafness** and one will not be able to hear God as one should. **Sin Grieves the Spirit**.

**The third** thing for us to look at is this

The **attitude** we must have if we are going to develop the kind of person we are, to listen to what God wants us to have.

Here are some simple basic things that you could apply to your lives to learn to listen to God.

**Now here’s Gods, objective.**

**Gods objective** is that we will learn how to **listen,**

so that - we won’t always have to go off somewhere quietly with our bible to hear what He is saying..

*Of course there may be times that we will have to do that.*

God wants us to develop such a **listening heart**, a **listening Spirit**, that being able to **hear Him speak** to us is a way of life for us.

So that whenever God wants to say something, there will always be that sub-consciousness within us that is **always listening** --

to whatever God may want to say **at any time** of the day no matter where you are.

Always being **sensitiv**e to any moment that God may want to say something to you. **That’s Gods goal**.

So how do we develop the kind of lifestyle?

How do we develop the capacity to listen, whereby that’s possible, where we make the right decisions, the best decisions?

That when we face **difficulties and hardships**, we can **hear that still small** **quiet voice of God** within us, k**nowing** what to do and what not to do?

Here’s four words to write down, or remember, or put on your phone notes.

**How do I develop a listening spirit?**

1. **Priority**

If I’m going to listen to God, I must make that a **priority** in my relationship with Him.

Lord teach me how to hear what you say.

That needs to be a **priority**. When you open the word of God, to meditate upon it. Make it a **priority**.

Now Lord, speak to my heart, teach me how to **listen to what you say.**

1. **I must pursue that**

It can’t just be a priority. I **must** pursue it.

When I open the word, there must be a **desire within**, a **hunger**, a **thirst**, to be able to **really discern**, to **learn** how to **know** what God is **saying to me**

**So you study to learn, to listen to God.**

(We do this every Wednesday at Home Study)

You make it a **priority**. You **pursue it, study** it.

1. **To Persist in it**

Because the first time you begin to mediated upon the word of God, you going to say Lord I want to learn how to listen.

Well you’re not going to know what you need to know the first time, or the second time .

It may be months, or it may be years, but learning how to listen.

So Persist, don’t stop. Be **persistent** in your **desire** to have God **speak** to you and for you to **know** He is **speaking to you**.

Do **not** stop. **PERSIST**.

1. **Pray about it**

A wee point here:

If you don’t make it a **priority** or **pursue** it or **persist in it,** **praying** over it is useless.

Those four words,

 if you want to know how, to get on your face before God and know that God has spoken

or in the midst of your daily humdrum when you need to hear from something from God, the impression of the Spirit, you may not hear an audible voice. But its that strong impression, that check of the Spirit, You just know God has suddenly intervened in the midst of your affairs

Now with those four words in mind Lets look at

*five characteristics of a listening Spirit.*

**How do we Listen**

In order to listen we must develop this kind of Spirit

1. **A teachable Spirit**

A teachable Spirit is one that is open. That acknowledges that there is a need to learn.

A teachable Spirit is able to learn, Willing to learn, Open to learning.

Acknowledging that there’s something to learn.

Now I don’t mean an open mind to everything coming and going.

Im saying to be open to God to teach you how to listen to Him.

1. **An Attentive Spirit**

Turn to Proverbs 4:20 – 22

**Proverbs 4:20-22 New American Standard Bible (NASB)**

**20**My son, give attention **to my words**;
**Incline your ear** to my sayings.
**21**Do not let them depart from your sight
Keep them in the midst of your heart.
**22**For they are life to those who find them
And health to all their body.

If you are going to develop a capacity to listen to God and to know that you have heard Him.

He says, first you must develop a **teachable Spirit**.

Second, you must have an **attentive Spirit**.

You’re willing to take the time and to concentrate on listening to God.

You can’t Listen to God in a hurry. You are going to take time to be **quiet**. And **get still and learn to listen** so that then in the rush of things you can still hear God because you’ve developed a listening Spirit.

Now notice what He says will happen to you when you learn to listen to God.

**20**My son, give attention to my words;
Incline your ear to my sayings.
**21**Do not let them depart from your sight Hes talking about Gods words
He says Keep them in the midst what….the midst of your heart. Your heart, your spirit
**22**For they are life to those who find them that is, spiritual life
And health to all their body. Here he is saying. That our physical health has a direct relationship to our capacity to listen to, and abide by the word of God.

**Meditation upon the word of God**.

Quiet meditation upon the word of God, not only settles my body it relaxes my emotion, and releases my tension and the stress drains out and my body is **renewed physically**.

He says when you and I are able to listen to God

**Meditating** upon the word. **Attentive to the word**. Our spirit is full of life and our body is going to be full of health.

1. **A Humble Spirit**

A humble spirit. Meaning simply this…. You acknowledge your need.

You acknowledge the needs you have to be able to listen to God

Lets turn to **Psalm 25:9** a simple but plain verse.

# **Psalm 25:9 New American Standard Bible (NASB)**

**9**He leads the humble in justice,
And He teaches the ]humble His way.

How do we learn anything…. We learn **by listening**.

He says He teaches the humble His way. So that you and I can listen. But in order to be able to learn to listen to God. We must have a **teachable Spirit**. Open to learn. We must have an **attentive Spirit**.

We must have **a humble Spirit** that is acknowledging our need to learn

**So lets just repeat that**

We must have a:

1. **Teachable Spirit**
2. **Attentive Spirit**
3. **A Humble Spirit**

The fourth is

1. **Submisive**

We must have a … **submissive Spirit**.

Why should God keep talking if we’re not going to submit and obey what we hear?

**Deuteronomy 11:13 New American Standard Bible (NASB)**

**13**“It shall come about, if you listen obediently to my commandments then he tells what will happen.

So that if I’m going to be able to learn how to listen. I must submit myself to God, to say Lord, whatever You say, Im going to be **obedient**.

Why should God keep talking if He knows im not going to do what He says?

**A submissive Spirit.**

OK there’s one more to go

1. **An expectant Spirit**

This simply means that you are anticipating that God is going to speak into your life.

You’re expecting Him to say something. Your anticipating what God is going to say.

**Proverbs 8:34 New American Standard Bible (NASB)**

**34**“Blessed is the man who listens to me,

**Does that stir up your anticipation**?

The person who listens to God is going to receive a message that they need from God. The person who listens to God is going to receive.

So how do we develop a listening Spirit? We must make it a **PRIORITY**

We must **PERSUE** it

WE must **PESIST** in it

And we must **Pray and ask God to teach us**.

Then. Our Spirit must be **characterized by five** different words.

By what??

1. A **TEACHABLE** Spirit
2. A **ATTENDIVE** Spirit
3. A **HUMBLE** Spirit
4. A **SUBMISIVE** Spirit
5. An **EXPECTANT** Spirit

WE are **anticipating God listening to us.**

The most important lesson you’ll learn in the life as a believer, is to learn how to **listen to God**

and if you will simply apply – what you have heard. Just these truths. They are not complicated.

God makes them simple so we can understand them. Write them down

Begin to apply them and allow God to work them miraculously in our lives. You’ll learn no greater lesson than **how to listen to God**