

Sermon Notes
Hearing God
Week 2

This Week's Big Idea→ **God is the one who Sees, We are the one who Hear.**

I want to take a different approach to this week's sermon notes. Instead of summarizing the sermon (you can check it out on our youtube/podcast if you want to hear it again), I want to take a moment to offer some reflections on something that is on my heart to share.

We are all approaching the topic of Hearing God from different angles. Different understandings, experiences, hurts and wounds. Some of us are eager to learn this and some of us are wary. I hope that all are trying to understand this so that they can learn to apply it and in my talking with our community I am being asked at least two different sets of questions.

Some are thinking this through and trying to have an honest intellectual struggle with this topic. The people asking this set of questions really want to understand this and so you're trying to think it all through. These are systematic questions. Some of these questions sound like this...

- How can we possibly have confidence that it's God I'm hearing?
- How can I be a good listener when I struggle to hear people right in front of me?
- Where do I begin?
- How long will it take for me to be able to hear Him?
- When I try I'm not "getting anything."
- Are there questions I should start with?
 - These are good questions to ask.

Some of us are going through the same exercise of trying to understand this topic but we have a lot of questions that are rooted in anxiety and fear. I believe that you're trying to understand and do your best but your pursuit may be rooted in fear of missing out. You might have some questions that look more like...

- How would I know I've heard Him?
- What if I'm missing something and can't hear him?
- What if I don't want to obey what I hear?
- How do I know the difference between His voice, my own desire, or an evil voice? (I want to note that this can be a non-anxious question too)
- What if I don't want to hear him?
- What if I can't hear Him because I'm not saved?
- What if I can't hear Him because He doesn't want to speak with me?
- What if other people can hear Him but I cannot?
 - I want to share peace with you if these sound more like the source of your questions.

First, I want to say that these questions are legitimate and if you would like to have a conversation about them we would have great conversation. Secondly, the purpose of this sermon note is to speak to both sets of questions by reminding all of us of one key thing...

Hearing is always done in relationship. I have no easy formula for us to follow on this topic. I've been saying so far that Hearing God is not just an activity to do but a posture to take on.

Hearing is developed over time and when time is paired with intentionality, care and attention the real important ingredients start to grow. Some of the most important ingredients are... **Trust & Familiarity**. There is no formula, script, playbook that replaces the importance of Trust & Familiarity when it comes to hearing in any relationship.

Often when I talk with people who are considering having kids the conversations often revolve around making plans or having enough money, but I like to remind people that the one thing no plan and no amount of money can ever take into account is the love that comes when you finally meet your kid. Your kid is no longer a concept or a well laid out plan but a real person right in front of you, a person who you instantly love and cannot wait to get to know. Being a good parent might be the hardest endeavor in life but the struggle pales in comparison when you get the privilege of learning this new person.

The same idea is true with Hearing God. In all of our attempts (our honest and our not so honest attempts) at understanding this topic, everything finds its rightful place when Hearing goes from being an activity and it becomes an important part of having a relationship with God. Scripture was originally put down on paper by people who were blown away that the God of the universe heard them and worked with them through their struggles.

- Psalm 3:4- "I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill."
- Psalm 40:1-6

1 I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. 2 He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. 3 He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD. 4 **Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust,** and who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie! 5 You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told. 6 **In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear...**

We learn to hear God over time and in relationship. Don't let worry, anxiety or performance discourage you as you build a relationship with God. Ask Him to teach you to hear His voice. Over time Trust grows and makes a way for more listening. Over time Familiarity with God's voice makes a way for more listening. In a few weeks we'll cover Jesus' words in John 10:3-5, 3 "To him the gatekeeper opens. **The sheep hear his voice,** and **he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.** 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, **and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.** 5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, **for they do not know the voice of strangers.**"

When it comes to hearing God there is no quick fix. No easy formula. It's about commitment, attention and the growth of trust & familiarity. God is a good God and there is no one more worthy of listening to. His harshest word is better than anything this world can offer you. I'll finish with just one more passage. Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Keep asking your questions because they can help you learn how to hear God's voice.

