

Many people struggle to hear the voice of God in their lives. This often happens because they don't truly know the One they are praying to or perhaps because of how they were taught by their spiritual leaders.

Some have been told that when God speaks, it will sound like another person's voice inside them, giving instructions and that this experience only comes once someone reaches a certain "spiritual level."

Because of this, many people strive and struggle to reach that point trying to hear the Holy Spirit as if He were speaking audibly within them. But sadly, most end up hearing nothing, grow discouraged, and conclude that God doesn't speak to them or that He is difficult to reach.

Yet the Lord reminds us in His Word:

Isaiah 65:12 (NIV)

"For when I called, you did not answer; when I spoke, you did not listen. You did evil in my sight and chose what displeases me."

Do you see that?

God speaks to everyone He calls, but we don't respond. The problem isn't that God is silent; it's that we don't recognize His voice. We want God to speak on *our* terms how *we* expect Him to but we aren't willing to listen on *His* terms. And that's where we miss Him.

The primary way God speaks to His people is through His Word. If the Word of God doesn't live in you, it will be difficult to recognize His voice. He may speak but you won't understand.

That's why the first thing God does in someone's life is to fill them with His Word so that when He speaks, they can hear and understand clearly.

Let's look at a few examples from everyday life.

Example 1: Rachel's Story

Imagine a woman named Rachel. She has worked faithfully in the same position for years, yet she's often overlooked, criticized, and treated unfairly. She prays with tears, asking God to promote her to lift her higher.

But soon after praying, things at work get even worse. The mistreatment increases, her workload doubles, her boss dislikes her more, and yet her salary stays the same. Rachel begins to think, "God hasn't heard my prayers." Discouraged, she gives up.

But what was God's plan for Rachel?

At home, Rachel is a married Christian woman with two children and a housemaid who helps with household chores. Rachel loves her family—but she treats her maid harshly. She wakes her up very early, gives her too much work, scolds her often, and never appreciates her efforts. The maid works late into the night but never receives extra pay or rest.

Now notice: the same way Rachel treats her maid is exactly how she is being treated at work.

When Rachel prayed, God answered but not in the way she expected. He allowed her to experience what her maid experiences, so that she might learn through His Word.

If Rachel had paused to reflect on Scripture, she might have heard God saying:

Matthew 7:12 (NIV)

"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you."

Luke 6:38 (NIV)

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

That was God's voice to Rachel. Because He loved her, He answered her prayer according to His Word.

If she had recognized His voice, she would have repented treated her maid kindly, allowed her time to rest, and raised her pay. And without striving or struggling, she would have soon seen transformation at work: favor with her boss, promotion, peace, and blessing.

God's Word proves true:

"For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Example 2: The Single Woman

Another woman prays earnestly for a husband someone who is loving, God-fearing, and mature. Shortly after, she hears a sermon about how Christian women should dress modestly, in a way that pleases God. The preacher reads:

1 Timothy 2:9-10 (NIV)

"I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God."

But she brushes it off, thinking, "That's old-fashioned."

What she doesn't realize is that God is speaking to her preparing her heart and character to become the kind of woman a godly man is praying for.

Meanwhile, somewhere else, a man of God is praying for a modest, humble woman who lives in holiness. Because she ignores God's gentle correction, she misses that opportunity and continues to struggle in singleness—or ends up with the wrong partner.

The problem isn't that God didn't answer; it's that she didn't recognize His voice when He spoke.

Example 3: The Sick Man

A man is suffering from a chronic illness say HIV. He prays in faith, goes from one preacher to another, even travels to different countries seeking healing but nothing happens. Eventually he loses hope and thinks, "God isn't listening."

But soon after he first prayed, he heard a sermon on the radio that said, "The root of all suffering is sin. The root of sickness is sin." The preacher urged repentance and holiness, encouraging people to turn from sin and surrender their lives fully to Jesus Christ.

That message stirred his heart but he dismissed it as just another "religious talk," not realizing that it was God's voice calling him to

repentance, which was the doorway to his healing.

If he had known God's Word, he might have remembered:

Proverbs 3:7-8 (NIV)

"Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones."

Jeremiah 30:17 (NIV)

"But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds," declares the Lord.

Sometimes illnesses are tied to spiritual covenants that can only be broken through the new covenant in the blood of Jesus. Many people ask God for healing, deliverance, or success—but they ignore the way He speaks. They want Him to respond according to *their* ways, not *His*.

But God always works according to His Word.

Unless you are a true follower of Christ one who stands firmly in His Word you will not recognize His voice. You may pray daily, fast, and cry, yet receive nothing. The issue isn't with God it's with you.

Listen again to what God says:

Isaiah 66:4 (NIV)

"I also will choose harsh treatment for them and will bring on them what they dread. For when I called, no one answered, when I spoke, no one listened. They did evil in my sight and chose what displeases me."

A Call to You

Dear friend, hear the voice of God speaking to you today.

Do you want to be part of the Rapture? Repent! Let your sins be washed by the blood of Jesus and live a holy life.

Do you want healing? Turn away from sin!

Do you want deliverance? Abandon fornication, pornography, drunkenness, gossip, bribery, theft, and immodest dressing!

Stop filling your life with things that don't build your spirit. Instead, start studying God's Word so that when He speaks, you can recognize His voice and understand His answers.

Remember this truth:

Prayers are not answered through anointing oil, water, or salt God answers only through His Word.

May God bless you richly.

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