

How to Hear from God – Part 6

Dr. Joshua D. Smith

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Ways that God Speaks Individually

1. The Bible

- a. **2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV)** - ¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2. The Inward Witness

a. Humans as Tri-Part Beings

- i. **1 Thessalonians 5:23 (ESV)** - ²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ii. Physical, Mental (Mind, Will, Emotions), Spiritual
- iii. **2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)** - ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
- iv. What part of us is new instantly?
 1. Not Our Bodies: **2 Corinthians 4:16 (ESV)** - ¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.
 2. Not Our Minds: **Romans 12:2 (ESV)** - ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
 3. Our Spirits: John 3:6–8 (ESV) - ⁶**That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.** ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

v. Our reborn spirits resonate with the Spirit of God

1. Like when two identical tuning forks begin vibrating at the same frequency after one of them is struck.
2. **1 Corinthians 2:6–14 (ESV)** - ⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”— ¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

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For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

3. **Romans 8:16 (ESV)** - ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

- b. The Inward Witness is the resonance of the Holy Spirit with our spirit
 - i. Something inside of us giving us a non-verbal yay, nay or maybe.
 - ii. When something is affirmative, it is like a non-verbal amen.

3. The Still Small Voice

- a. Only mentioned Once in Scripture explicitly: **1 Kings 19:9–12 (ESV)** - ⁹There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰He said, “I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.” ¹¹And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks 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.¹² And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper.
- b. Some believe that in the New Testament that the still small voice is the voice of our human spirit resonating with the Holy Spirit
 - i. **1 Corinthians 14:14–15 (ESV)** - ¹⁴For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful.¹⁵ What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.

4. The Voice of the Holy Spirit

- a. Whether you think God speaks through our human Spirit or just through the Holy Spirit, God has a voice:

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- i. **Proverbs 2:6** - ⁶For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;
 - ii. **Matthew 4:4 (ESV)** - ⁴But he answered, “It is written, “ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”
 - iii. **Hebrews 3:7–8 (ESV)** - ⁷Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, “Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness,
 - iv. **Acts 13:2 (ESV)** - ²While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”
5. Speaking in Tongues
- a. **1 Corinthians 14:2 (ESV)** - ²For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.
 - b. We sow in tongues and reap in understanding, often with a harvest big enough to share.
 - i. **1 Corinthians 14:6 (ESV)** - ⁶Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?