

How to Listen to the Voice of God and Lead from it

As leaders, one of our primary responsibilities is to discern the voice of God for our lives and for what He has entrusted us to lead. Jesus promises that his sheep listen to his voice. But how do we actually do that? How can we know that is the shepherd's voice and not our own? This workshop will explore this vital topic of the art of discernment looking at Scripture, personal and leadership experience.

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INTRO:

"We tend to become what the most important person in our life thinks we will become."
John Maxwell

I. Voice of God in Scripture

- A. John 10:1-5 – "his sheep follow him because they know his voice."
 - 1. Personal stories

- B. Psalm 29: 3-9 – The voice of the Lord is "powerful, majestic, breaks the cedars."

- C. Deuteronomy 5:22-27 – the voice of the Lord is so potent, that the only ones who listen directly thought they would die

- D. Genesis 1 – one word out His mouth is still making galaxies

- E. "Sound of many waters" – Revelation 14:12

II. Jesus lives out of the Father's voice

- A. Jesus' baptism:
 - "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Mt 3:17

- B. Enemy attacks what Jesus just heard, and also in the garden
 - "If you are the Son of God" Mt 4:3 and 6
 - "Who told you that you were naked" Gen 3:11

- C. Jesus' response:
"but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." Mt 4:3
- D. Only does what He sees His father doing - John 5:19

III. Living out the Father's voice

- A. Personal stories: husband, calling my kids, conversation with mother
- B. Story of being middle child – longing revelation for ourselves
- C. Scene from 'This Is Us' – how her father sees her
- D. How does God see us personally? What does He say about us?
- E. Leaving from God's pleasure instead of for God's pleasure – small shift, big difference
- F. God speak through other believers in our lives – Proverbs 2:1-6; Proverbs 5:11-13

IV. Journaling the Father's voice

- A. What He is saying in Scripture – what the Holy Spirit is highlighting when we read it
- B. Prayer is a two-way conversation, not only one person talking
- C. God has many thoughts about us (Psalm 139:17-18)
- D. "Remember who you are." – Lion King scene
- E. Examples of God's voice from my journal

V. 5 Practical barriers/questions:

1. “This is just me thinking these things”
2. “Journaling God’s voice diminish the Bible?”
3. “It is too good to be true”
4. “I should hear God perfect in the first time”
5. “I’m afraid to hear God’s voice because He will punish, condemn me”

Stories and practical exercise. “*Speak to me, I’m listening.*” 1 Samuel 3

Discussion and Q&A time

Suggested Readings:

Gordon T. Smith –

Listening to God in Times of Choice: the art of Discerning God’s will.