

Spirit-Filled Life: Hearing from God

Knowing God's and recognizing God's voice comes from an intimate love relationship with Him. Those who do not have the relationship do not hear what God is saying (John 8:47). God will uniquely communicate with you in your walk with Him so your relationship with Him is very importance.

You become familiar with God's voice as you experience Him. As God speaks and you respond, you will recognize His voice more readily. He wants you to recognize His voice and know His will. Your relationship to Him is the key to hearing when God speaks to you.

God has always spoken to His people. Today He communicates by the Holy Spirit. He is the One who guides you into all truth and teaches you all things (John 16:13). You understand spiritual truth because the Holy Spirit is working in your life. As He speaks to us, He reveals His nature, so we can have faith to trust Him in the assignment He calls us to do. He reveals His purposes, so we will become involved in His work. God reveals His ways, so He will accomplish His work through us in a manner that gives Him glory and shows that He is God.

Scripture

Through the Bible, you can hear the living voice of God Himself (Hebrews 4:12). A person cannot understand spiritual truth unless the Spirit of God reveals it (John 14:16-17). When you understand the spiritual meaning and application of a Scripture passage, God's Holy Spirit has been at work.

The Spirit uses the Word of God to reveal God and His purposes and to instruct us in the ways of God. On our own, we cannot understand the truths of God (1 Corinthians 2:14-15). Unaided by the Holy Spirit, the ways of God will appear foolish to us. Aided by the Spirit, we can understand all things. When God reveals spiritual truth to you through a passage of Scripture, you are experiencing God Himself working in your life.

As you spend time in a love relationship with God, you'll come to know His voice. God has already given many messages and commands in the Bible. As you read Scripture, the Holy Spirit will be working to reveal truth about God, His purposes, and His ways. When He speaks, you must adjust yourself to the truth revealed and obey God. When you obey, you will experience Him working in and through you to accomplish His work.

Prayer

It's crucial to know when the Holy Spirit is speaking. You will know His voice when He speaks (John 10:4). Prayer is not a one-way conversation. It is not a religious activity. It is two-way fellowship and communication. What God says to you in prayer is far more important than what you say to Him.

When you pray, the Holy Spirit helps you know what to pray and how to pray (Romans 8:26-27). He guides your praying according to the will of God because He already knows what God wants to give you or to do in your life. His job is to guide your praying in that direction. He reveals God's will to you. When the Holy Spirit reveals a truth to you in prayer, He is present and actively working in your life. You adjust your thinking and attitudes to God's truth (Philippians 2:13). You look and listen for confirmation or further direction from the Bible, circumstances, and the church. You obey. God works in and through you to accomplish His purposes.

Summary

Sin has affected us so deeply (Romans 3:10-11) that we cannot understand the truth of God unless the Holy Spirit reveals it to us. As you read your Bible, be open to the Spirit as He teaches you the Word of God. As you pray, watch how the Holy Spirit uses Scripture to confirm in your heart what God is saying. The God who is speaking to you as you pray and the God who is speaking to you in the Scriptures is the same God who is at work around you daily.

Exercise:

Read 1 John 5

What has God been saying to you through His Word? What was your response?

What has God been saying to you in your prayer times?