



November 9, 2019

God isn't Shy, Hearing from God: 1 Samuel 3



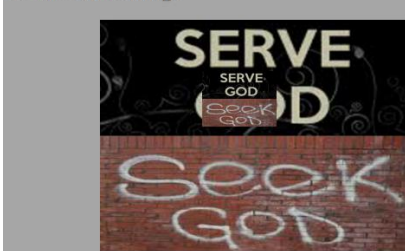
Would you like to hear from the Lord which direction to take? How do we hear God's voice? What's it sound like? When it comes to guiding and directing one who serves Him, God isn't shy. In this famous passage Samuel heard but didn't recognize God's voice. Does He still speak and can we expect to hear Him? One has to know God to recognize His voice. Be ready, He will talk every day, in one way or another, get what He has to say, the one who hears, has Spirit-trained ears, to hear His voice and make the choice.

1 Samuel 3 is about hearing God. **[4] Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" [5] and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again."... [7] Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. [8] And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. [9] Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. [10] And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears." [11] Then the LORD said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle..."**

He's not shied from us, He'll not hide from us, let him guide us, for He walks beside us! We need to recognize when God speaks.

1. We can hear God's voice when we're serving.

1. Do something!



In verse 1 Samuel was in the Lord's house, serving, yes, children can serve God (the word *ministering* means "serving"). Step 1 to hearing God's voice is to be in some kind of service. Do you serve yourself only, or do you have something you do for God? He was part of a team, Samuel wasn't alone. Though Eli had great flaws, Samuel needed him.

Often we're not busy serving Him, but ourselves. The first step in doing something for God is to form or join a team!

There's plenty to do *and if we do it*, we can anticipate that God will show us new things to do. What one does for God will usually be what the Bible calls, *work of ministry*, "**And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ**" (Ephesians 4:11-12). Usually helping the 5 ministries of Ephesians 4:11; apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher. Every believer should ask, "is 1 or more of the 5 ministries that God gave to the church equipping me for the work of ministry? It would mean helping to serve the missionary and church planting cause (apostle), get out His word (prophet), help people come to Christ (evangelist), care for people's spiritual, physical, financial, and emotional needs (pastor), or teach about the Lord (teacher) according to Ephesians 4:11. Look at opportunities God provides in church and outside, use your talents and spiritual gifts, *and dream of ways to do things that no one else is doing and do them.*

2. We need to be sure it's God speaking.

If you're serving and listening, and He's not talking it may mean He's happy where we are and will bless us there. But How *do* I hear God's voice? Samuel heard God's voice 4 times before he was sure only with Eli's help. We we need one another, even to hear God, no Lone Ranger Christians. But remember, God isn't shy. **There are things that keep us from hearing God.** One is that even if He did speak, we'd still **do our own will**. Balaam and the talking donkey is a scary warning cost Balaam his life. Dallas Willard said, "Our failure to hear His voice when we want to is due to the fact that we do not in general want to hear it, that we want it only when we think we need it." We also can mistake wrong thoughts and feelings for God's voice. Feelings are the soul rather than the Spirit. People say, "I have a peace about it." How does one know that feeling is God or one's own satisfaction? Hebrews 4:12 shows the way to discern the difference, through God's word. Another soul way instead of the Spirit is when we allow the world to think for us instead of scripture. And also beware of: bitterness, anger, and wanting our own way.

3 . Ways to Listen to God

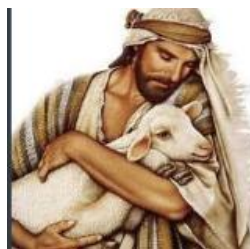
a) **Worship and fasting** are a way to hear God according to Acts 13:2.



b) We can hear Him anytime from the Bible, a "God talking, I'm listening" moment. From 2 Peter 1:19-20, the **"sure word of prophecy."** We can tell the difference between God's voice vs. feelings and wrong thoughts *by His word* (Hebrews 4:12), **Holy scripture**. Soul is our own thoughts, emotions, and will. Spirit is the part of us that connects to God our spiritual side. Looking at scripture helps us tell which we are

following. To put ourselves in a position to hear God speak: be in touch with our spiritual side and discern it from our soul. God doesn't guide against His word.

c) **God sometime speaks through prophecy.** **"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets" (Hebrews 1:1).** Prophecy comes to us in 3 ways: **(1) preaching-** Have you ever been zinged by something in a sermon, thinking, "That was for me!" That is a form of prophecy. **(2) Encouragement and counsel from wisdom, love, and concern-** as in Acts 21:4. Also, People prophesy by **(3) speaking in the name of the Lord directly to a person-** The NT says to follow 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21: **"Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast to what is good."** Listen to the words, as 1 Corinthians 14:3 teaches, **"...the one who prophesies speaks to people for their building up, encouragement, and consolation."** If a prophecy doesn't do one of these three; build up, encourage, and/or comfort, it isn't speaking from God. Also consider the prophet's life, **"You will know them by their fruits"** (Matthew 7:16).



d) **God speaks in our relationship with Jesus.** Hebrews 1:2 says, **"but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world."** Those who know Jesus know His voice according to John 10:27-28, 27 **"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand."** When He speaks this way, we just know it, either by calm assurance or intense conviction.

e) **God speaks through circumstances.** He also uses circumstances we can't change so that we to turn to Him. Will we listen with a **"not my will but Thine"** attitude? Often God arranges things, answers prayers, and opens doors that fit.

f) **Good Decision Making and Planning.** One who is yielded to the Lord, knows His word, and thinks in a Christian manner will make good and godly decisions and plan well. If God wants to change a person's direction He will, for He's not shy according to Proverbs 16:9, **"The mind of a man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps."**



When we know His will, immediate obedience is like a thermometer showing how we are yielded to Him. How yielded are we? We first follow His word,

serve, let Him guide us His way instead of our own. Is he speaking or has He spoken? Are we obeying?

4 People:

Everybody,
Somebody,
Anybody,
and Nobody.

In conclusion...Four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done. God guides in many ways.

He isn't shy and if you or I will get busy and serve Him He will guide by our side. **Listen for His Voice.** The greatest call to answer from God is to come to Christ for eternal life! Samuel heard something he didn't recognize but because he didn't know God, he didn't know how to respond. It's time to dedicate our lives to knowing God. Like Samuel, you may have heard it several times, not realizing God Himself speaks to you. It's time to obey. He's speaking to some today to believe that Jesus died for sins and rose again to set us free.