



The TRUTH About – Hearing God 12th September 2021 Mark Wiltshire

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

1. The **Truth** gives **confidence** in decision making and **trust** in circumstances.
2. Hearing God: Some may ridicule it, some don't realise it and others just don't want it.
3. Some religions say you can't hear directly from God, others say you must empty yourself. But Christianity gives direct access to God.
4. Why is hearing God important?

"I am not a product of my circumstances. I am a product of my decisions."
Stephen Covey

Engage:

5. How do you make decisions?

"When making a decision, we form opinions and choose actions via mental processes which are influenced by biases, reason, emotions, and memories. The simple act of deciding supports the notion that we have free will. We weigh the benefits and costs of our choice, and then we cope with the consequences."
Psychology Today

6. What about spiritual influences?
 - Human factors limit the ability to make good decisions. These include pre-conceptions, incomplete information, urgent deadlines, limited physical or emotional resources and difficult past.
7. What does this say to us about the concept of 'free will'?
8. Read [Genesis 2:15-17](#)
9. Read [Genesis 3:1](#)
10. Have you ever been tempted to do something wrong? How?
 - Temptation causes us think, consider and do it
 - The same pattern occurs with the way God communicates

"The voice you believe will determine the future you experience."
Pastor Steven Furtick

11. The TRUTH about hearing God is that He speaks to us long before we choose to respond to His call (Salvation). Then the exciting journey begins; with new discoveries to make.
12. Is your journey strongly guided by God or do you feel stuck?
13. Why does hearing God speak matter?
14. "And God spoke" (or similar) is referenced many times in the Bible:
 - **Shows I Truly Know Him** - In His Family
[John 10:27](#) "My sheep listen to my voice, I know them... they follow me."
 - **Stops me Making Unnecessary Mistakes** - 'Best' Route forward
[Psalm 32:8](#) "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life..."
 - **Strengthens Everything I Do** - Helps me Learn: Successful and Safe
[Psalm 32:8](#) "...I will advise you and watch over you."
15. **If necessary, God speaks in different and unusual ways:**
 - [Romans 1:20](#) - God through Creation speaks to **the whole world**
 - [Genesis 41:1-7](#) - God spoke to **pharaoh in dreams** (pagan kings)
 - [Daniel 5:5-6](#) - God spoke in **handwriting on the wall** to Belshazzar
 - [Exodus 3:2-3](#) - God spoke to Moses in a **burning bush** (Prince of Egypt)
 - [Numbers 22:28](#) - God even spoke through a **donkey** to Balaam

Framework:

Learning to Hear God Speak – The General Rule:
 "The Cleaner MY life, the Clearer I'll HEAR God Speak"
Pastor Mark Wiltshire

16. Read [1 Samuel 3:1-5](#)
17. When God spoke to Elijah (in a cave on Mount Sinai, Egypt), He spoke not in a mighty wind, earthquake or fire, but in 'the sound of a gentle whisper...' (1 Kings 19:11-13)
18. How does God speak today?
19. **Work of God's Holy Spirit** (examples in scriptures):
 - God's Word (Bible) [2 Timothy 3:16](#)
 - Prayer/Worship (Whisper) [1 Kings 19](#)
 - Visions/Pictures [Jeremiah 1:11](#)
 - Dreams [Genesis 31:24](#)
 - Through someone else [1 Thessalonians 5:11](#)
 - Impression in your Spirit [John 16:13](#)
 - Spiritual gifts [1 Corinthians 12](#)
20. Have you or someone you know experienced any of these different ways?
21. What impact did it have?
22. How do you know it's really God speaking?
23. **3 key tests to know if it's really God speaking:**
 - **"Scripture" Test** - Does what you hear agree with God's written word? Does it honour Him?
 - **"Peace" Test** - Does what you hear take you to a place of confidence, trust, and peace?

- **“Fruitfulness” Test** - When you act on what you hear, do you see the positive Kingdom outcomes you expected?
24. Read [Philippians 4:6-7](#)
 25. What other ways can you have confidence that you are hearing God speak?
 26. What changes when you hear God speak?
 27. Read [Psalm 99:6](#)
 - **Samuel learned to hear and when to ask for help**
 28. Do you give up too soon? (God’s ways are often not our ways)
 - **Samuel became a priest after Eli** - God trusts us with leadership
 - **He was appointed as a Judge to the Nation** - God gives greater responsibilities (Anointed the first 2 Kings – Saul and David)
 - **Prophet to the Nation** (reliable and trusted, even after his death)
 29. What could God do in your life when you learn to really hear Him?
 30. Do you feel unsatisfied or disillusioned at times?
 31. ***The TRUTH about hearing God, is that it is available to all who will listen.***