

He Is Not Silent 2018-06-10

John 10:27

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

One of the greatest privileges of Christian life...fellowship with God.

- Prayer is key to intimate relationship with God, who is spirit. Jn 4:24
But many approach prayer too one-dimensionally, like a monologue.

- Worship, confess sins, express gratefulness and ask for help/direction.
 - But little time listening to Lord.
 - In loving relationship there is two-way communication.

God did not “go dark” or silent after Acts (not in scripture) because He did not stop using people to accomplish His will on earth.

- Hearing God in order to love and serve God is Biblical pattern. Acts 8:29; 13:2, 9:11, “Lord said” 275x
- We need Holy Spirit to teach/ guide as much as the disciples, Peter, early church did.
 - So God continues to communicate to individuals and churches specifically what He desires them to do to bring Him most glory.
- To hear God’s direction/will, we must be still and listen in prayer. 1 Kgs 19:13
 - Hebrew is 3 words: voice/sound +still/quiet +small/thin= still small voice

Bible is the most certain voice of God so scripture must be part of our prayer time. 2 Tim 3:16 Heb 4:12

- God primarily reveals His ways, character, will through His word.
 - Bible first & foremost way God speaks but it’s not only way.
 - God communicates through both His Word & His Spirit.

Holy Spirit indwells Christians, so shouldn’t surprise us if “have a sense” when God speaking to us. Rom 8:14, Jn 14:26, 16:13, 10:27 Acts 15:28

- Not audible but “hearing in spirit” and understanding what God saying.
 - God never contradicts what He already said in Word.
 - So Scripture is an objective filter for discerning all subjective communication with God.

An example of Christian “hearing in spirit” the inaudible voice of God is when understand & know how to apply spiritual truth. 1 Cor 2:10-13

- Spiritual truth (Gospel) is not discovered, but revealed by Holy Spirit.
 - 1st time REALIZED (not 1st time) God communicating to me. Lk 8:26-39
 - Not coincidence, my intellect/intuition but my loving God.

Holy Spirit is our Counselor: He’ll not give same counsel to everyone but specific, individual counsel/direction based on Biblical principles.

- The more you know the Word, the more you can trust subjective ways
God desires to reveal His will for you and lead you. Col 3:15-17, Phil 4:7
God is living, loving personal Father who communicates with His children.

- Through combination of Word and His Spirit, Jesus leads/guides Christians toward specific ways He desires to glorify His name in/through each of us.
 - God has a will for you and it's knowable if you take time to listen.
Jn 10:27, Jer 33:3, Ps 46:10, 17:6, Is 58:11a, 30:21, Gal 5:25
 - Challenge: spend time quietly listening to Holy Spirit in Word and prayer.
- Infinite wisdom is available to you because Jesus Christ is, and He is not silent.