

TALK IT OVER

Voice Check

BOTTOM LINE

Discernment isn't knowing more – it is knowing God more deeply.

CONVERSATION STARTER

Your opinion: What is the most annoying sound in the world? What celebrity (newscaster, politician, actor) do you think has the most recognizable speaking voice?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily:
newpointe.org/thedaily
- [How to Discern the Voice of God](#) by Priscilla Shirer (40 min.)

KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.

John 10:3-4 NIV

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God. 1 John 4:1 NIV

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12 NIV

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. Ephesians 1:17 NIV

“Jesus paints a picture of deep intimacy – a shepherd who calls each sheep by name, and sheep who know the distinct sound of their shepherd's voice. That's the kind of relationship God desires with us – not distant, mechanical, or occasional, but personal, familiar, and daily.” – Dwight Mason

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God wants to speak to us, and we can hear Him. But there are other voices too: the world's voice, the Enemy's voice, your own voice. Have you experienced hearing a voice that seemed right but turned out to be wrong? Explain. Through what avenues does the voice of the world speak? It prioritizes feelings over what God says. A key question to ask to discover if this is the world's voice is, “Would this still make sense if the Bible didn't exist?” How does that help you decide? The Enemy's voice is deception and accusation. A key question to ask is, “Does this voice tear me down or draw me near to God?” How do you stop the downward spiral when you are fed deception from the Enemy's voice? Your own voice comes from your stored experiences and thoughts. It is concerned with self-preservation, comfort, and ease, and tends to reflect your own wishes and desires. I need to ask, “Is this what I want or what God wants?” How do you keep yourself honest when you ask this hardest question? God's voice aligns with Scripture and God's character and most often is clear. The question is, “Does this sound like something Jesus would say?” How do you measure this? How does discernment (understanding wisdom in your life) work? How do you see the gift of the discernment everyone gets differing from the spiritual gift only some have? What can you do to increase His wisdom in your life?

ACTION STEP

I want to recognize and follow God's voice. I will cultivate my ability by ...