



Trust GOD from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for GOD's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Proverbs 3:5-6 (MSG) But the Comforter (Counselor), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall everything I have told you. John 14:26 (AMP)

ACTS shows us:

- Acts shows us the difference between **religion** and **relationship**.

- You can't **walk** with God if not **listening** to God.

How I wish my people would listen to me; how I wish they would obey me! Psalm 81:13 (TEV)

The foundations of God speaking to us:

- He **loves** us and wants a **relationship** with us.
- Relationship requires **communication**.

What do we need to do to hear God:

- We need a **relationship** with Jesus.

My sheep recognize my voice. I know them, and they follow me. John 10:27 (MSG)

But the man who isn't a Christian can't understand and can't accept these thoughts from God, which the Holy Spirit teaches us. They sound foolish to him because only those who have the Holy Spirit within them can understand what the Holy Spirit means. Others just can't take it in. 1 Corinthians 2:14 (TLB)

And they said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen. But don't let God speak directly to us, or we will die!" Exodus 20:19 (NLT)

When we want others to hear from God for us:

- We **detach** ourselves from God.
- We **limit** what God can do in us.
- Our relationship becomes **religious**.

Hearing from God:

- It quiets our **fears**.
- It protects us from **discouragement**.
- It brings **guidance** to our lives.

The Lord says, "I will **guide you** along the **best pathway for your life**. I will advise you and watch over you. Psalm 32:8 (NLT)

The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and walk along beside the carriage." Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" Acts 8:27-31 (NLT)

The Holy Spirit usually gives us the **first** step to take, not a planned strategy.

"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. Acts 20:22-24 (NIV)

Listening to the Spirit means:

- We need to learn to respond to the Spirit's **promptings**.

And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem... Acts 20:22a

When the Spirit of God prompts you, it's always **important**.

- We need to learn to respond to steps of **uncertainty**.

I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. Acts 20:22b

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105

In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps. Proverbs 169 (NIV)

- We need to learn to accept times of **difficulties**.

I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. Acts 20:23 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Matthew 4:1

"This man is My chosen instrument to carry My name before the Gentiles and their kings, and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for My name." Act 9:15-16

- We need to learn to experience spiritual **confidence**.

I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. Acts 20:24

You may not be where you ultimately want to be,

but You can still be **WHO** God wants you to be.

How to hear God:

- Surrender my **life** and **plans** to God.
- I need to stop **talking** and **listen**.
- I need to **do** what He says.

Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts... Hebrews 3:15 (NLT)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- In your reading of Acts what has stood out to you? What has God said to you?
- How important is a Spirit led life?
- Can anyone hear the Holy Spirit? (Read 1 Corinthians 2:14)
- What are some other reasons why we need to hear from God?
- In your own words, what did Dave say it means to be prompted by the Spirit? Why are the promptings of the Spirit always important?
- Why is it important to listen to the Spirit during times of uncertainty? Why do we tend to want the detailed direction rather than only the first step?
- Read Acts 20:23, How would you feel if you were Paul and The Spirit just told you about the hardships to come?
- How does living for God's glory give us confidence for life?
- Talk through the points under the sub-heading: "How to hear God".

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Today's Talk..



A SPIRIT-LED LIFE