

# Hearing God

## Part 1

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### Main Truth

The first step toward hearing God is to stop and listen.

### Scripture

Deuteronomy 5:27 (NIV): “Go near and listen to all that the LORD our God says. Then tell us whatever the LORD our God tells you. We will listen and obey.”

### Context

Moses is relating and reaffirming the Law of God to the Israelites. He invites them to think back to when God first gave them the Ten Commandments at Mount Horeb. He reminds the people that during their encounter with God they became fearful of His voice and requested Moses to speak to God on their behalf. Their response was to be twofold: listen and obey.

- Describe a time when you have felt God’s clear instruction.
- Why were the Israelites fearful of “God’s voice”?
- Does God still speak today? If so, how?
- Does God speak today as He did in scripture? Explain.

### Making It Personal

My husband and I were considering a move to Phoenix. He had gone through a few phone interviews, and events seemed to be coming together. Rather rapidly, I might add, and being a girl who isn’t big on change, it was all happening much faster than my methodical mind wanted to go. As I searched to know if this was the right move for us, my thoughts were going in a million directions. Intellectually, I knew that a move with my husband could be a great adventure, a new beginning in a new land. But my heart was solidly planted in Colorado. I would look out to the west and see those mountains and to my very core, I was home. How could I ever embrace...the desert? How could I say yes to that? And besides that, what if we were wrong? What if we were pursuing a way that proved only to be a tangent, a wild rabbit trail, and it wasn’t God’s way at all? I panicked.

One afternoon, the panic got the best of me and I dropped to my knees. Beside my couch, I poured out my heart to God, telling Him how scared I was, and that I desperately needed Him to show me something in His Word. As I stilled my mind to listen, the first word that came to mind was “Isaiah,” which was soon followed by “43.” The words were so clear that I grabbed my Bible with incredible anticipation, turning quickly to Isaiah 43. As I began to read, I felt as if God Himself was calmly whispering to my frightened heart, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name; you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; you are precious in My sight, I love you; do not call to mind the former things, behold I will do something new; I will even make a roadway

in the wilderness, and **rivers in the desert** to give drink to My chosen people. The people whom I formed for Myself will declare My praise.”

I was speechless. God through His Word completely overwhelmed my heart with a message of His certain presence for our future and assured me that He would make a new way, in the desert of Phoenix, Arizona, of all places, and His people would praise Him. Wrapped in His presence by the intimacy of His words, there on my knees, I quietly and joyfully said, “yes.”

## Reflect

- What was the attitude the writer took toward God?
- How did the writer prepare for God’s leading?
- What was the writer’s response to God’s communication?
- What role does our response to God play in His future communication with us?

## *What We Can Expect From God*

- Intimacy with Him—why we were created.
- Two-way communication—it wouldn’t be intimacy if it was one-way.
- Conversation—it’s available...and normal.
- He speaks more than we realize.

## *What Is Required Of Us*

- Quietness—we must consciously choose to still our hearts and minds.
- Attentiveness—be present to His Spirit.
- Surrender—let go of an agenda.

## Wrapping It Up

What needs to change in your life to allow you to stop and listen to God?

What do you stand to gain by making those changes?

How does it impact your times of prayer if you are expecting a response?

## Application

- Set aside 30 minutes this week to stop and listen to God.
- Write down what you hear and share it with someone close.