



Ready to Hear From God: Three Principles

(adapted from *Hearing From God*, by Phil Largent)

Main Idea: Through faith, God is now our Daddy, and He desires to commune and communicate with us.

Scripture

Divide up these references among your group and have each person read them individually.

- John 1:12
- Galatians 3:26
- 1 Peter 1:23
- 1 John 3:1

Principle 1: *God speaks to His children.*

Let's look at John chapter 10, focusing on verses 2–4, 16, and 27. There are three principles we need to see. Jesus is speaking and He says the sheep hear His voice. It says in verse 4 that “when He brings out His own sheep, He goes before them; and the sheep follow Him, for they know His voice.” And then in verse 16, “other sheep I have which are not of this fold...they will hear My voice and there will be one flock and one Shepherd.” And then in verse 27 of John 10, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”

- How do “the sheep” know His voice?
- Are only a select few able to hear His voice?
- How have you been made a child of God?
- How does God instruct His children?

Some would tell us since we have the Word in our hands, God is now silent. This idea, however, is not supported biblically or experientially. The Father still communicates with His children today. He has much to say to all of us.

Principle 2: *God wants His children to know what He is saying to them.*

There's no point in God speaking to us if we don't understand what He is saying, right? Why would God speak to us but hide what He is saying? That is not His character. He will not hide what He wants us to know. Scripture impresses upon us that God has something personal to say to us. That's why the primary issue is not, "Does God have something to say?" The primary issue is, "Do I hear and understand what He is saying to me?"

- What are the obstacles to understanding God?
- What was the last thing you understood clearly from God?

Principle 3: *God wants His children to have an abundant life.*

Many times we will be heard to quote John 10:10, but we do not keep it in context to what Jesus is saying. He is in a conversation where He is teaching about being a shepherd to the sheep. Hearing from the Lord and following the Lord is what leads to an abundant life. An abundant life is full of purpose and meaning. When we hear from Him and do what He says, we will find our purpose and meaning.

- What kind of life would children have in a home never hearing from their father?
- How does hearing from God lead to an abundant life?

Closing

In the original language, the word translated as "abundant" in John 10 means to overflow, have a surplus, or be non-restricted (wide open). This kind of life is visualized for us in Psalm 1.

Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with scoffers.

But they delight in doing everything the LORD wants; day and night they think about his law.

They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season without fail. ☞Their leaves never wither, ☞and in all they do, they prosper.

But this is not true of the wicked. ☞They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.

They will be condemned at the time of judgment. Sinners will have no place among the godly.

For the LORD watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction. (NLT)

The one who is taking in and meditating on God's Word will prosper in whatever he does. To prosper as it is used in this Scripture means to "push forward or advance." Taking in what God says puts one in position to know and do God's will, resulting in the prosperity associated with God's plan and purpose.