

My Sheep Listen To My Voice

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

John 10:27



Scriptural validation that God's redeemed children in Christ can know His voice.

_____The New Covenant Jesus died to give us includes the promise of being taught by God, according to Hebrews 8:10-11. If people in Old Testament times heard God's voice, how much more should we!

_____Before he was crucified, Jesus taught his disciples what the role of the Holy Spirit would be when He was given to us: "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come." (John 16:13)

_____In the Old Testament, anointed men of God recorded their experiences of being personally taught by him: "The Sovereign Lord has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught." (Isaiah 50:4).

_____King David recorded that the Lord said to him in Psalm 32:8-9: "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you." In fact, the Lord will be called the Wonderful Counselor! (Isaiah 9:6, plus various verses in John Chapters 14 and 15).

_____We are commanded: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Philippians 4:6); and to pray continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

_____We are told to "find out what pleases the Lord" (Ephesians 5:10) and to "understand what the Lord's will is." (Ephesians 5:17)

_____Colossians 2:3 says Jesus is the one "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." If Jesus is the personification of Wisdom, then he is the one speaking as the voice of wisdom in Proverbs: "If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you ... but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm." (Proverbs 1:23 & 33)

_____Proverbs 8:32-36 says, "Now then, my sons, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not ignore it. Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the Lord. But whoever fails to find me harms himself; all who hate me love death." In fact, Jesus complained to the religious experts, "You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life." (John 5:38-40)

_____ Jesus said: "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear. Consider carefully what you hear," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you — and even more. Whoever has [ears to hear] will be given more; whoever does not have [ears to hear], even what he has will be taken from him." (Mark 4:23-25).

_____ James says to us: "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord." (James 1:5-7).

_____ Moses said to the Hebrews at Mount Sinai: "Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, 'Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so that we may obey it?' Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, 'Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so that we may obey it?' No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so that you may obey it... that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life..." (Deuteronomy 30:11-14 &20)

This is only a partial list. The Bible is chock full of validations and illustrations of the fact that the Holy Spirit has a voice, made known to those who are joined to Him. By the Spirit, the thoughts of Christ are revealed, indeed, God's wisdom **freely given**, as the Apostle Paul assures us in 1 Corinthians 2:7-16:

We declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written:

"What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"— the things God has prepared for those who love him — these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, for,

"Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

In short, the thoughts and words of God are His generous gift to His children, by the Spirit.