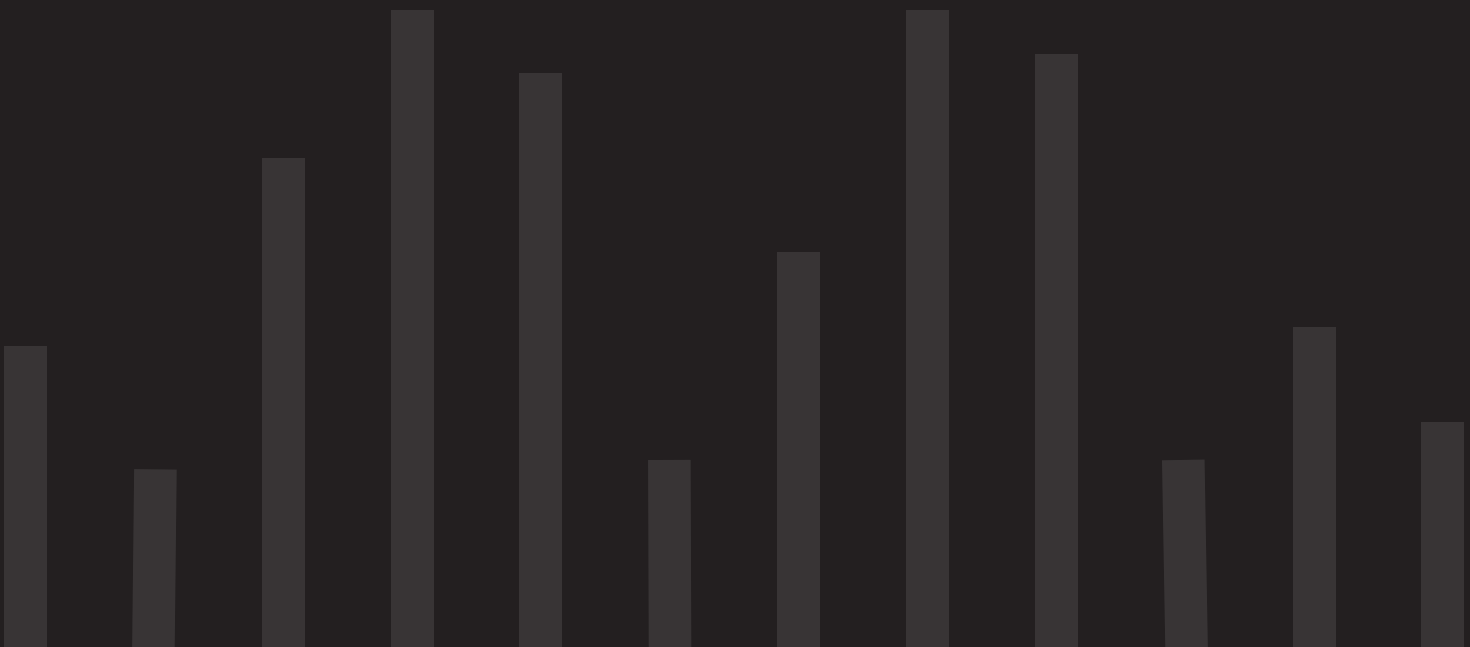




HEARING GOD

COURSE GUIDE





INTRODUCTION

Welcome! I'm thrilled that you've chosen to take this journey.

It's a wonderful privilege to engage with the Creator of the universe—the One who spoke our world into existence. Just like any meaningful relationship, this communion must be cultivated, for it is a garden of intimacy, protection, and refreshing.

As you journey through this study, you'll discover the various ways in which God speaks, and you'll learn ways to connect with Him on His frequency. In this guide, you'll find lesson summaries, reflective questions, devotional content, and space to journal your thoughts.

While each video lesson contains valuable teaching, this guide will help you practice and apply the truths to your everyday life.

This course is designed for just one lesson per week, so take your time. Of course, you can move faster if you wish. But don't forget that the goal is for you to connect with God and hear His voice, and intimacy shouldn't be rushed.

Are you ready to begin? I know God is ready to speak.



John Bevere



A WORD FROM RABBI BRIAN

Since the foundation of the world and the creation of humanity, God, who is altogether transcendent and beyond human comprehension, has initiated an intimate relationship with the people formed by His hands. The very first man, Adam, who was uniquely molded into a vessel that the God of the universe could use, was also perfectly created in His image. Eve, the woman created from his side, was the glorious reflection of that divine expression. Together, both the man and the woman had an awareness of their Creator's presence, as they walked with Him "in the cool of the day."

Our minds can only imagine how amazing this must have been to hear the voice of God in such a unique and intimate way. We can barely comprehend with our finite minds what this awe-inspiring connection was like, that God had with His creation. The real question that should be asked is, if this was a natural daily experience for Adam and Eve, why are we amazed when we think about them hearing the voice of God? Shouldn't this be an experience accessible to all of mankind? What happened to this lost art of hearing God's voice?

Well, it doesn't take very long before questions are answered in the early chapters of Genesis before we discover the most tragic decline of mankind. Sin is the separation that seals our ears shut from hearing His sovereign voice. As man hid from God's presence—cold, naked, and ashamed—His voice seemed distant and His tone questioning: *Where are you, Adam?*

Or maybe this beckons more profound questions such as, "Why aren't you positioned in the place where you can hear My voice? Why are you hiding in shame when I created and crowned you with My glory and honor?" Why did Adam and Eve hide this time when they heard the voice of God?

It is crystal clear that God wants to have an intimate and personal relationship with His children. There is also no doubt that our Father in Heaven spoke to His creation. In fact, it was through His divine voice that the world, and all that is in it, was brought into existence by His spoken word. Every book of the Bible, from one chapter to another, draws us into the Father's ultimate plan.

He created us and knows us, and He desires to affectionately love and bless us. All of this is dependent on the level of intimacy we endeavor to have with Him. If we draw close to Him, He promises in turn to draw near to us (James 4:8). How do we bridge this devastating gap that separates us from our Father, or break the silence from hearing His voice? Is it even possible for believers today to listen to the voice of the Almighty?

Since the Fall of humanity in the Garden of Eden, every generation has longed to hear God speak again. Not the words of judgment that God pronounced on the seducing serpent, Satan himself. Definitely not the words of exile that God decreed to Adam and Eve in their disobedience, as they were expelled from Paradise. Or even the voice that questioned Adam's firstborn, Cain, when he killed his brother, Abel.

Man wanted to hear the sound of approval again as they craved the Father's voice of affirmation as His beloved children. Noah, Abraham, Moses, and King David are just a few examples of men who heard God and experienced God's loving voice. If these people of faith heard God's voice under the covenants of the Old Testament, how much more should we today desire and devote ourselves to experience this same joy?

The solution to man's separation was also spoken by God in the Old Testament and was prophesied by holy men who discerned God's prophetic voice. The Lord promised a "Messiah," or "Anointed One," that would come to His people and redeem them from sin. Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of David and descendant of Abraham, broke the silence and reconciled mankind back to God. To as many as received Him, their right of sonship was restored as children of God.

There is still an important question that must be asked. We know that the Scriptures reveal that the patriarchs, prophets, and kings of Israel often heard His voice. Even simple men and women, who lacked royal rank or title, heard God speak in the stories of the Old Testament—but does God still speak today? Can His voice be heard in such a modern civilization? Aren't we too advanced with technology to even desire such an experience? No matter how advanced or technical our society becomes, we still need to hear the voice of God Himself.

This study will not only create an awareness of hearing God that is both attainable and accessible, but it will also arouse a desire to seek His face so that we can listen to what He desires to communicate with us. Because of the finished work of Jesus on the cross, our sins are forgiven, and we can experience eternal fellowship with our Heavenly Father again. Yes, God still speaks, and even more importantly, He desperately wants to share His heart with us, as His children.



LESSON 1

DOES GOD STILL SPEAK?

Does God still speak? Perhaps you've asked this question many times. Sure, God spoke to the heroes of the faith—the ones we read about in the Bible. But does God speak personally to us today?

Some believe that God is silent and has said all that needs to be said once the Bible was completed. However, we want you to have confidence that nothing could be further from the truth. If you have been trying to follow God without hearing His voice on a regular basis, you are missing out on a profound aspect of knowing Him.

Hearing God's voice is vital to sustaining a life-giving relationship with Him. Like Paul wrote to the Corinthians, our God is unlike mute idols; we follow a God who speaks to us and leads us with His Word.

God is speaking to you, and He wants you to discern His voice.



REFLECT

1. Why is it important to hear God's voice?
2. How will your life be different as you become more confident that you can hear God's voice?
3. What are some experiences that caused you to doubt whether God speaks to you?



YOU'VE GOT MAIL

God desires to be known and recognized. Consider the prophet Samuel, who as a young man served the high priest Eli and his sons. One evening, while Samuel lay in bed near the Ark of the Covenant, he heard a voice calling, "Samuel! Samuel!" (1 Samuel 3:1–14).

Samuel immediately thought that Eli called for him. When he approached the high priest, he learned that it was not he who called him. Samuel returned to bed and heard his name called a second time and again ran to Eli, only to get the same response. This occurred three times, and finally Eli realized that God was trying to get Samuel's attention; therefore, he instructed the boy how to respond.

The fourth time Samuel heard his name called, he responded, "Speak, for Your servant hears." Then the Lord spoke to him and disclosed His plans concerning Israel. God waited patiently for Samuel to recognize His voice. He waits patiently for you, too. God is speaking. Just like Samuel, we must learn to discern His voice and respond accordingly.



LOST IN TRANSLATION

To hear the Creator speak, Moses taught Israel an important Hebrew concept. The word is *shema* (שמע), which refers to hearing and obeying. The Old English word used to describe this verb of action is "heed," as in "heeding the Word of the Lord."

This heeding is not just a function of the outer ear, but rather the operation of the inner ear—enabling us to attentively hear and understand God's Word, with the corresponding action of obedience to what has been spoken. If the Father in heaven asks us if we have heard His voice, what He is really looking for is for His children to respond with action to what He has spoken.

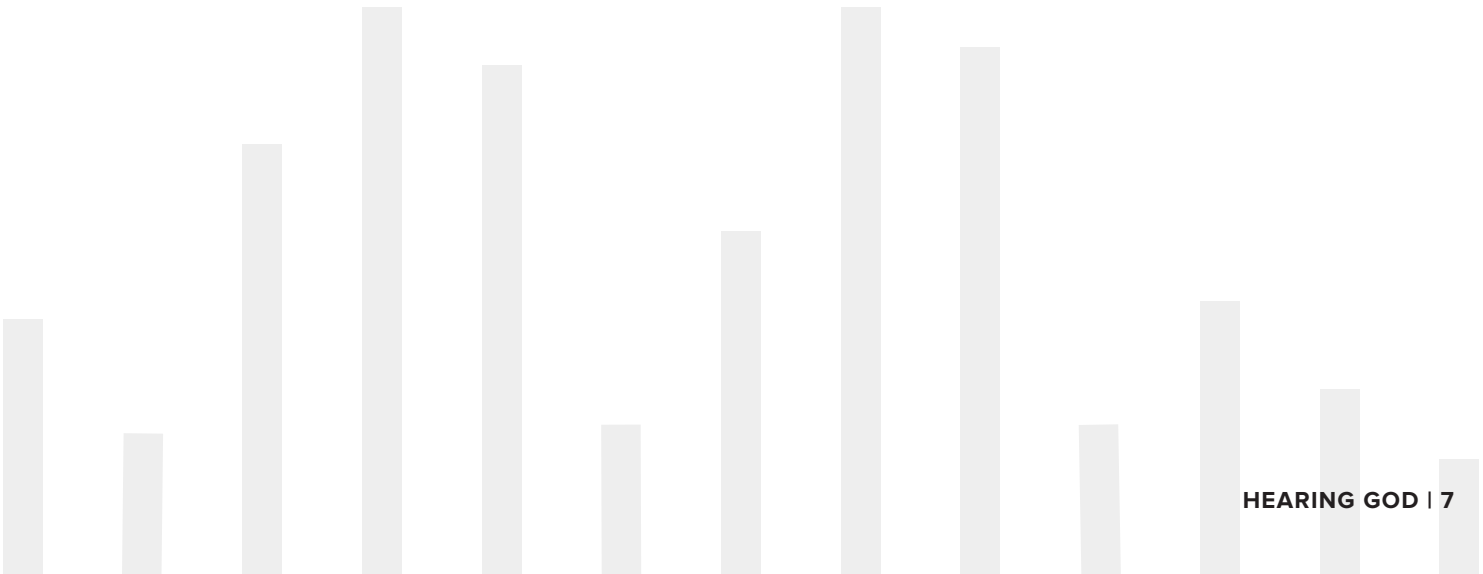


DIRECT DOWNLOAD

Be careful that you do not refuse to listen to the One who is speaking. For if the people of Israel did not escape when they refused to listen to Moses, the earthly messenger, we will certainly not escape if we reject the One who speaks to us from heaven! (Hebrews 12:25 NLT)

God still speaks. As you read the passage above, journal your thoughts in the space provided. Include what sentence or words stood out from this verse. What is God saying to you through these words?

To go deeper, refer to *Lesson 1* in the **Meditation Guide**.





LESSON 2

ELIMINATING VOICE BLOCKERS

If God seems silent to you, it could be that there are things keeping you from hearing His voice. For this reason, it is important to identify things that act as voice blockers. There are five major hindrances:

1. **Distractions.** We're distracted when our attention isn't focused on the right thing. This is the most common blocker.
2. **Competing voices.** These voices come in the form of screens, work, relationships, media, and more. God rewards those who diligently—not casually—seek Him. We must actively make room to spend time with God.
3. **An unprepared heart.** When your heart is filled with fear and anxiety, God's voice will become stifled. Spending time in Scripture and prayer will keep our hearts sensitive to God's voice.
4. **A heart that isn't neutral.** When we desire something more than God, it's nearly impossible to hear His voice and follow His direction.
5. **Deliberate disobedience.** Sin hardens our hearts, and when our hearts are hard, our ears close. The good news is that our hearts are softened through repentance, an act of surrender that gives us eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to understand.



REFLECT

1. What does it tell you about God that He is a God who whispers, not a God who shouts?
2. What does it look like to diligently seek God?
3. Which hindrance to hearing God's voice do you think is most important for you to focus on first? Why is this the most important one for you?

4. What are three practical steps you can begin taking this week to overcome your greatest hindrance to hearing God's voice?



YOU'VE GOT MAIL

God is willing to communicate without ceasing. Of course, words are but one of the many forms of communication. To pray without ceasing means to have an open line of communication at all times and occasions.

Brother Lawrence understood the significance of praying without ceasing. While serving in a monastery during the 1600s, he learned the art of practicing the presence of God in an unorthodox way—during kitchen duty.

He shared, “There’s no greater lifestyle and no greater happiness than that of having a continual conversation with God. The time of business does not differ with me from the time of prayer; and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess God in as great tranquility as if I were on my knees. I have abandoned all particular forms of devotion, all prayer techniques. My only prayer practice is attention. I carry on a habitual, silent, and secret conversation with God that fills me with overwhelming joy.”

How amazing that God desires constant intimacy with us! When we are open to hearing God’s voice throughout the day, we’ll be more receptive to communicating with Him without ceasing. Communion with God should not be limited to our prayer closet—we can always remain in a posture of fellowship.



LOST IN TRANSLATION

The prophet Isaiah says that “the Lord awakens me morning by morning, He awakens my ear to hear as the learned” (Isaiah 50:4). The word for “to hear” is again the Hebrew word *shema* (שָׁמַע), meaning to hear and obey in full obedience. The text continues to say that we will “hear as the learned.” The word “learned” is *limud* (לָמַד), in the plural form as *limudim* (לְמוּדִים) like the modern Hebrew word *talmidim* (תַּלְמוּדִים), meaning students or disciples, found in 1 Chronicles 25:8.

This concept implies that only disciples are disciplined and trained on how to hear the voice of God. This is why Jesus took three-and-a-half years to fully train His disciples, like

“Are your ears awake? Listen. Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches.” (Revelation 3:6 MSG)

Age Group	Number of People
0-14	10
15-24	30
25-34	20
35-44	30
45-54	30
55-64	20
65-74	30
75-84	20
85-94	10
95+	5

HEARING GOD | 10



LESSON 3

INTIMACY WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the most ignored person in the church. This is one of the main reasons that people experience a disconnect with God.

Jesus said it is to our advantage that He went away because His leaving paved the way for the Holy Spirit's coming. Think about this: Jesus, being physical, was limited. Can you imagine how many people would be surrounding Jesus constantly if He were restricted to one geographical location? But God's Spirit isn't limited this way. Through fellowship with the Holy Spirit, we can know Jesus more intimately than we could have known Him in Person.

Consider that the apostle Paul never knew Jesus physically; he only knew Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Yet Paul knew Jesus so intimately that he wrote things about Him that even Peter said were difficult to understand. Jesus invites us to know Him at the deepest level—the spirit level. This is the deepest level of relationship through which we can know His quintessential nature. Only then we will know Him the way He desires to be known.



REFLECT

1. What stood out to you the most from this lesson?
2. Some early believers knew the difference between the voice of an angel and the Holy Spirit's voice. In what ways might your life be different if your spiritual ears heard this clearly?
3. What do you imagine it would be like to be so intimate with the Holy Spirit that you could clearly understand detailed information from His "look"?
4. What is most important in pursuing intimacy with God's Spirit?



YOU'VE GOT MAIL

Finding God's direction for your life is important to fulfill your destiny. As you fellowship with God's Spirit, you'll receive the guidance you need. He knows God's plan and purpose for your life and will lead you forward. Jesus assured that His Spirit will be your personal guide, "When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future" (John 16:13 NLT).

A tour guide not only points out main attractions—they also protect travelers from wandering off-course. We see God's Spirit demonstrate this throughout the Bible—one example being with Paul and His team: "Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, *they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit* to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but *the Spirit did not permit them*" (Acts 16:6–7). When you fellowship with God's Spirit, allowing Him to direct your path, He'll take you where you could never have gone on your own—protecting you and giving you special access to exclusive places. Your journey through life will be more enjoyable with His guiding presence.



LOST IN TRANSLATION

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God who communicates truth and wisdom to our human spirit. Our spirits are equipped with spiritual ears to hear what the Holy Spirit wants to communicate to us. As Elijah experienced, God often speaks in a "still, small voice," and not necessarily in the demonstrative displays of mighty winds, earthquakes, or blazes of consuming fire. In Hebrew, the term is *bat kol* (בַּת קוֹל), which translates to "a daughter's voice."

The function of this term refers to speaking softly and tenderly, like a daughter would speak to her beloved father. This is how the Holy Spirit speaks to us in a tender, loving voice that is like a whisper. In fact, the word "spirit" in Hebrew, *ru'ach* (רוּחַ), also is translated as "breath" or "wind." This gentle breeze of the Holy Spirit or whisper of His voice is also reflected in Greek, another language of the Bible. The word "spirit" in Greek is *pneuma* (πνεῦμα), where we get words like "pneumonia," referring to breathing problems. This is how holy men of God heard the prophetic voice of God as they were moved by the wind or breath of the Almighty.

DIRECT DOWNLOAD

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." But it was to us that God revealed these things by His Spirit. For His Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us. (1 Corinthians 2:9–12 NLT)

God's Spirit reveals God's heart. As you read the passage above, journal your thoughts in the space provided. Include what sentence or words stood out from this verse. What is God saying to you through these words?

Government	Percentage
Current government	65%
Previous government	35%

To go deeper, refer to *Lesson 3* in the **Meditation Guide**.



LESSON 4

WAYS GOD SPEAKS—PART 1

God, just like us, has many methods of communication. He speaks at various times and in various ways. When we discover the variety of methods in which He speaks, we'll become more receptive to His voice.

Each of us is different, and God speaks to us in different ways. He may speak to you through a vision, an inner witness, or a dream. Regardless of how God speaks to you, write it down. Journaling is a great tool to help you process what God is saying. Creating a record of all these things helps you recognize and navigate how He is speaking with you.



REFLECT

1. What part of this lesson did you identify with most? How did it help you recognize a time in your life when you can see now that God was speaking to you?
2. Which method of communication mentioned in this lesson do you feel might be the primary way God speaks to you? Do you sense things, hear your inner voice, see dreams or visions? Knowing this, how can you develop your ability to hear from God?
3. Why do you think journaling is an important tool in hearing God's voice?



YOU'VE GOT MAIL

Wherever you find yourself, movies, TV shows, radio programs, and sporting events are being broadcast all around you. If you have the right receiver or satellite dish, you can turn them on and tune in. Just because you cannot see the variety of transmitted signals, doesn't mean they're not there. But without the proper receiver, you won't pick up anything.

Likewise, for God’s voice to become unmuted and to restore connection with Him, we must be tuned in. If God’s voice appears muted to you, the reason is not with Him, but with you. God is speaking—stay tuned and recognize the various ways in which He speaks. God desires to speak with you more than you desire to hear from Him.



LOST IN TRANSLATION

In Psalm 106:13, David reminds us that Israel quickly forgot His works; they did not patiently wait for His counsel and purpose to be revealed regarding them. The word “counsel” in Hebrew is *etzah* (עֵצָה) and refers to the work of the Spirit that gives us godly advice.

This supernatural empowerment is one of the seven ministries of the Holy Spirit that was prophesied would rest on the Messiah of Israel, in Isaiah 11:2, as the “Spirit of Counsel.” We need to wait patiently for God to speak to us about His plans and purposes in our lives, as we attentively listen for the voice of counsel that the Spirit wants to give us.

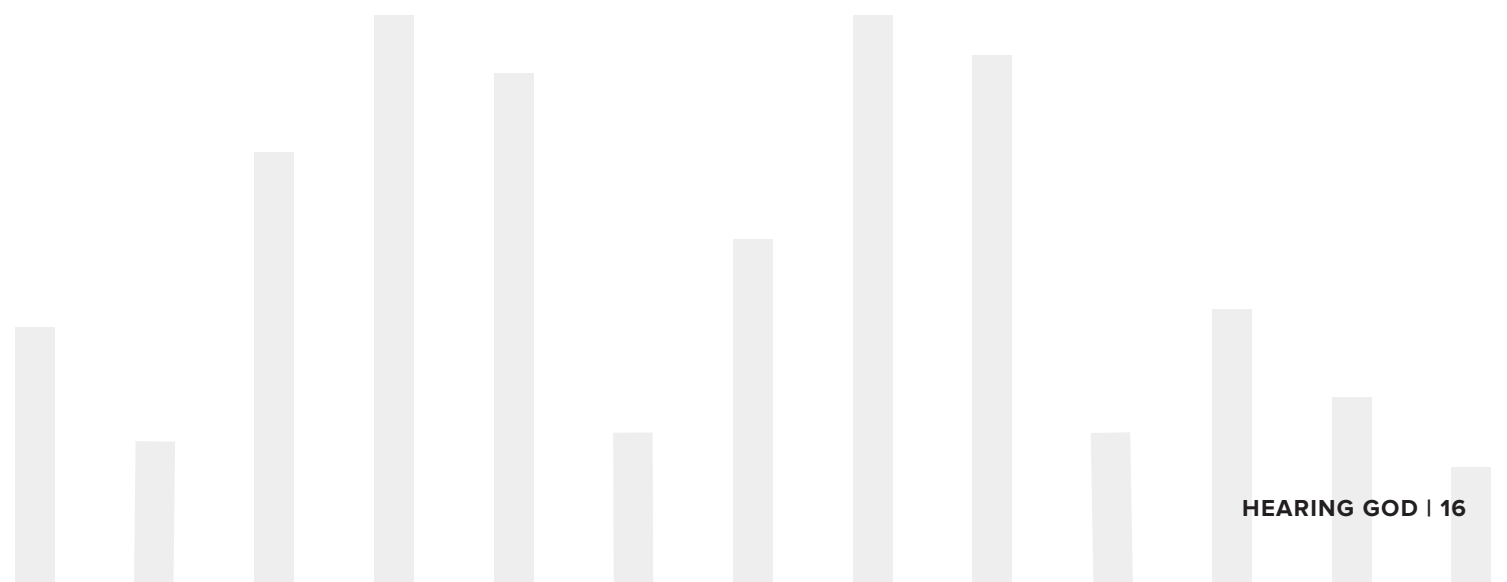


DIRECT DOWNLOAD

For God may speak in one way, or in another, yet man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while slumbering on their beds, then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction.”
(Job 33:14–16)

God speaks at various times and in various ways. As you read the previous passage, journal your thoughts in the space provided. Include what sentence or words stood out from this verse. What is God saying to you through these words?

To go deeper, refer to *Lesson 4* in the **Meditation Guide**.





LESSON 5

WAYS GOD SPEAKS—PART 2

Often, God’s voice gets lost in the crowd. Learning to filter out the plethora of voices that fight for our attention will position us to hear from God.

To do this will require discipline. Distractions such as smartphone apps and social media can cloud our discernment and plug our ears if we use them too much, especially when we use them before bed. They can rob us of rest and keep our inner life processing a million other things, keeping us from listening to what God is saying.

Another helpful practice is to keep a notepad by your bed. God will often speak to us in the night, but unless we write it down, it can easily be forgotten in the morning. Writing down what God says to us will help us retain what He has spoken.



REFLECT

1. Why is it important to develop our spiritual senses?
2. God tells us it’s important to test prophetic words to determine if they’re from Him. How do these instructions help protect both those giving prophetic words and those receiving them?
3. Lisa shares a story in this lesson about receiving a prophetic word about her speaking in stadiums. What does this story show about how important it is to hear God’s plans for our lives?



YOU’VE GOT MAIL

Jesus couldn’t share all that was in His heart. He was restrained because His followers did not have the capacity to grasp all that He wanted to reveal to them. He expressed, “I have

still many things to say to you, but you are not able to . . . grasp them now” (John 16:12 AMPC).

Jesus was very aware of the disconnect which occurred between God and man. Therefore, He supplied the solution—the Holy Spirit. Jesus affirmed, “When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring Me glory by telling you whatever He receives from Me” (John 16:13–14 NLT).

Jesus still has many things to say. Through the help of the Holy Spirit, we are now able to grasp and understand the more He desires to share—including ideas, strategies, inventions, and divine direction. As you discern and recognize the ways in which God speaks, you’ll gain access to His infinite wisdom.



LOST IN TRANSLATION

Joel 2:11 declares that “the Lord gives His voice before His army.” The word “before” in Hebrew, *lif’nei* (לִפְנֵי), means to “face someone” or “to come before someone’s face.” The word for “face” is *panim* (פָּנִים), which is plural and can be translated as “faces.” It also is the word used for “presence.” So, to seek God’s presence is to seek His face.

The face, with its many expressions, can reflect various attributes of a person. The “face” or “presence” of the Almighty is a metaphor for all of His invisible divine attributes. As we enter into the presence of the Lord, we come before His face and experience hearing His voice. We are therefore encouraged to have a face-to-face relationship with our Father, so that we won’t miss what He wants to say to us!



DIRECT DOWNLOAD

Someone living on an entirely human level rejects the revelations of God’s Spirit, for they make no sense to him. He can’t understand the revelations of the Spirit because they are only discovered by the illumination of the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 2:14 TPT)

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



LESSON 6

THE AUTHENTICITY OF SCRIPTURE

When discussing the topic of hearing God, it's important to do so within the parameters provided by the Scriptures. The Bible consists of sixty-six books, written over a span of fifteen hundred years, by more than forty men from three continents, in three languages—yet we somehow have a perfectly harmonized book with impeccable unity. When you consider how the entire Bible—both Old and New Testaments—were compiled, there's no question it was a miraculous work of God.

One of the titles Jesus gave to the Bible is “the Word of God.” This is important to note, as He was indicating that the words on the pages are of divine origin. God is the author; therefore, the Bible's authority and authenticity come from Him.



REFLECT

1. How did this lesson change the way you think about the Bible?
2. What stood out to you about why the Old Testament is still important to us today?
3. Brian and I gave several tips for studying the Old Testament. Which one was most helpful to you? What makes that one stand out?



YOU'VE GOT MAIL

Derek Prince, in writing about the authority of God's Word, shared, “When Jesus called the Bible *the Word of God*, He indicated that the truths revealed in it do not have their origin with men, but with God. Though many different men have been used in various ways to make the Bible available to the world, they are all merely instruments or channels. In no

case did the message or the revelation of the Bible originate with men, but always and only with God Himself . . . The Bible indicates plainly that there is one supreme, invisible influence by which God did in fact control, direct, and communicate with the spirits and minds of the men by whom the Bible was written. This invisible influence is the Holy Spirit—God’s own Spirit.

“For example, the apostle Paul says, ‘All Scripture is given by inspiration of God’ (2 Timothy 3:16). The word here translated *by inspiration* means literally *inbreathed of God* and is directly connected with the word *Spirit*. Then Peter goes on to explain just how this took place: ‘For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit’ (2 Peter 1:21).

“The Greek word translated *moved by* means more literally *borne along by*, or we might say, *directed in their course by*. In other words, just as men today control the course of their satellites in space by the interplay of radio and electronics, so God controlled the men who wrote the Bible by the interplay of His divine Spirit with the spiritual and mental faculties of man.”



LOST IN TRANSLATION

In Exodus 19:19, it says that a heavenly blast of a trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder while Moses spoke, and God answered him with His voice. The word for “trumpet” is *yovel* (יֹבֵל), traditionally called a *shofar* (שׁוֹפָר), which is a ram’s horn. The *yovel* is also translated as “Jubilee,” referring to the sound of the shofar blasted every 50 years, to set the captives free and to return confiscated land back to its original owners.

The Hebrew slaves were completely liberated by the outstretched arm of God, the blood of the lamb, and the victorious voice of God that was heard at Mount Sinai. Believers today see these prophetic types and shadows as a firm reality of who Jesus is. He is both the “Arm of the Lord” and the “Lamb of God,” and through His Spirit we hear the sound of Jubilee that sets all captives free. We must allow God’s voice to increase over time, just like the increasing sound of God’s heavenly shofar did at Sinai.

Response	Percentage
Yes	10
No	90



LESSON 7

HEARING GOD THROUGH THE BIBLE

As you read the Bible, ask the Holy Spirit to be your teacher. Without Him, the Bible is a closed book—it will lack life. However, with His aid, the Scriptures will come alive in ways that cause the words to jump off the page—causing you to gain insight into that which was previously hidden. Although God’s Spirit will speak to us many things outside of the Bible, He will never speak to us anything contrary to the Bible.

For Christians who want to feed on what God is saying, regular Scripture reading is a meal they can’t afford to skip. Therefore *how* you read the Bible is just as important as *what* you read. You’ll be wise to take note of what the Holy Spirit illuminates to you.

The God of the Word will speak to you through the Word of God.



REFLECT

1. If the Holy Spirit will never speak anything to us contrary to the Bible, why does that make it important for us to know the Bible well?
2. I shared stories of how God was able to speak to me through the Scriptures. How did these stories challenge you to keep growing in your knowledge of the Bible?
3. Why is it important to believe what we read, rather than reading what we believe?
4. This lesson suggested several practical tools to maximize your time reading the Bible. Which one do you think will be most helpful to you?



YOU’VE GOT MAIL

In *God Still Speaks*, A.W. Tozer wrote, “I believe that much of our religious unbelief is due to a wrong conception of and a wrong feeling for the Scriptures of Truth. A silent God sud-

denly began to speak in a book and when the book was finished lapsed back into silence again forever. Now we read the book as the record of what God said when He was for a brief time in a speaking mood. With notions like that in our heads how can we believe? The facts are that God is not silent, has never been silent. It is the nature of God to speak. The second Person of the Holy Trinity is called the Word. The Bible is the inevitable outcome of God's continuous speech. It is the infallible declaration of His mind for us put into our familiar human words.

"I think a new world will arise out of the religious mists when we approach our Bible with the idea that it is not only a book which was once spoken, but a book which is now speaking. . . . If you would follow on to know the Lord, come at once to the open Bible expecting it to speak to you."



LOST IN TRANSLATION

Isaiah 55:11 says, "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it." This verse is so rich with "Jewish jewels" from the Hebrew text. We are going to glean wisdom from an unexpected word.

Look at the word "void," as you become amazed at the wealth of wisdom that is hidden in Hebrew. The word is *reykam* (רֵיקָם), which is usually translated as "empty," or more specifically, "empty-handed." It is used for offerings in Deuteronomy 16:16, in which the Lord tells the Israelites to never come before His presence empty-handed.

The other main reference is found a chapter earlier, in Deuteronomy 15:13, where the slave is released from debt in the seventh year with the sound of the shofar, or ram's horn, as it is in the 50th year of Jubilee. The verse states that Israel was commanded to never let the released slave go empty-handed. What revelation can we glean from this principle? When we come before the Judge of the whole earth, who is also our Heavenly Father, His Word never lets us leave His presence empty-handed.

As the Psalmist David said, "He daily loads us with benefits" (Psalm 68:19). As released slaves from sin, we should never be afraid to release what is in our hands, or what we are holding on to, when we know that God desires to release the blessings that are in His hands.

DIRECT DOWNLOAD

"You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to Me! Yet you refuse to come to Me to receive this life." (John 5:39–40 NLT)

The Word of God reveals the God of the Word. As you read the passage above, journal your thoughts in the space provided. Include what sentence or words stood out from this verse. What is God saying to you through these words?

Age Group	Percentage
18-24	2%
25-34	12%
35-44	8%
45-54	12%
55-64	12%
65-74	12%
75+	12%

To go deeper, refer to *Lesson 7* in the **Meditation Guide**.



LESSON 8

THE RELEVANCE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

If you picked up a novel, would you start reading two-thirds of the way through the book? Of course you wouldn't. The plot wouldn't make sense, the characters would be un compelling, and you would feel lost. Yet this is exactly what many believers do when they think they don't need the Old Testament.

Choose any major theme or subject in the New Testament and you'll need to go to the Old Testament to fully understand it. More importantly, if we want to know Jesus, there is so much the Old Testament reveals about Him. Even Jesus taught His disciples to see how the entire Old Testament from beginning to end prophesied all that had happened to Him and explained why it needed to happen. Think about it: The Old Testament Scriptures were the only Scriptures the New Testament believers had available to them. If God spoke to them through the Old Testament, He will also speak to us through it. If it was important for them, then it is important for us also.



REFLECT

1. After hearing this lesson, how would you explain to another believer why the Old Testament should be important to them?
2. Jesus needed to open His disciples' eyes so they could comprehend what Old Testament Scripture said about Him. How does this impact the way you approach the Old Testament?
3. Jesus spent an entire day showing how the Old Testament revealed Him (see Luke 24:13–32). What part of the Old Testament do you now see Jesus that you never saw Him before?



YOU'VE GOT MAIL

Throughout the Old Testament Scriptures, there are many types and shadows symbolic of Jesus. However, when the saints of old read the Scriptures, Christ was hidden from them. They needed the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus to them.

For example, Jesus is referred to as “The Lamb of God” (John 1:29). Lambs play a major role in the Old Testament sacrificial system as well as in Messianic prophecy. The offering of the lamb symbolically atoned for the sins of the people so that we can commune with God. It is Jesus’s blood that atones for our sins and restores our relationship with God.

We see a foreshadowing of Jesus as the sacrificial lamb in the story of Abraham and Isaac (see Genesis 22:1–14). By the instruction of God, Abraham took his son Isaac to Moriah with the intention of sacrificing him. When Isaac asked him where the sacrificial lamb was, Abraham replied, “God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son” (Genesis 22:8).

Abraham was prepared to offer his child to God, but God stopped him from doing so and supplied a ram to be sacrificed instead. On a greater scale, God provided the Lamb for us—His own Son. Only the sacrifice of God is truly enough for our atonement.



LOST IN TRANSLATION

In Jeremiah 1:12 God reveals to us, as He did to the Israelites, that He watches over His Word to perform it and had the power to bring it to pass. The word “watch” in Hebrew is *shakad* (שָׁקַד), which means to be alert, sleepless, or on the lookout. It shares the same Hebrew root with the Word for “almond,” which is *shaked* (שָׁקַד).

You may be asking what the connection is with “watching” and harvesting almonds. Since almonds are the first harvest to awaken after the dead of winter, the farmer diligently watches over his crop, waiting patiently for the first bloom. This is the way God watches over His Word in our lives, until it sprouts forth and comes to pass.

DIRECT DOWNLOAD

Then He carefully unveiled to them the revelation of Himself throughout the Scripture. He started from the beginning and explained the writings of Moses and all the prophets, showing how they wrote of Him and revealed the truth about Himself. (Luke 24:27 TPT)

The Old Testament is filled with types and shadows of Jesus. As you read the passage above, journal your thoughts in the space provided. Include what sentence or words stood out from this verse. What is God saying to you through these words?

Government	Percentage
Current government	65%
Previous government	35%

To go deeper, refer to *Lesson 8* in the **Meditation Guide**.



LESSON 9

SEEKING GOD DILIGENTLY

God rewards those who diligently seek Him. This diligent seeking is similar to that of a man pursuing a woman—he goes out of his way to win her heart. Similarly, we are to passionately seek God with all our heart, mind, and strength.

God desires to be pursued and wanted. When we come close to Him, He will come close to us. Diligent seeking begins with taking responsibility for our relationship with God. It requires initiative on our part. Initially, this may feel awkward and you might not hear God right away, but don't give up!

As we consistently seek God, He promises to reward us with His presence.



REFLECT

1. Why do you think it's important to God that we diligently seek Him? What does it communicate to Him when we do so?
2. What area of your relationship with God do you feel is strongest in terms of diligence in seeking Him?
3. What might it look like in your life right now to put this lesson's two practical tips into practice? What time of day works best for you? How long do you feel you need to set aside? Where is the best place for you to be able to get alone?



YOU'VE GOT MAIL

Can you imagine a man coming in with his point-by-point card to having intimacy with his new bride? He reads from the card: Step one: Tell her she is beautiful. Step two: Run your

hand through her hair. Step three: Turn down the lights. Step four: (Whoops! Can't read that one. We'll have to use a flashlight). How ridiculous!

When we rely solely on methods and formulas to approach God, it becomes rigid—removing our ability to touch and feel His heart. Don't get me wrong, there are certain guidelines we're to follow from the Scriptures, but we are to come with the aid of the Spirit of God. He may lead us to intercede, sing, shout, cry out, be silent, and so forth.

Stay open and sensitive to God's Spirit as He teaches you the nuances of spiritual intimacy.



LOST IN TRANSLATION

Isaiah instructs us that we will hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it," in Isaiah 30:21. This verse out of context seems a bit ambiguous. How will we identify whether the voice we hear is from God and not the enemy? The previous passage clarifies that "your teachers will not be moved into a corner any more, but your eyes shall see your teachers."

In other words, Israel's ears would be open to Spirit-led direction, because their eyes would be open to see the teachers that God commissioned to speak to them. This is why Jesus came as a rabbi, or master teacher, first—before many would be able to acknowledge His Messiahship. May our eyes be open to God's divine teaching so that we can train our ears to listen and discern the Spirit's voice.



DIRECT DOWNLOAD

There's a private place reserved for the lovers of God, where they sit near Him and receive the revelation-secrets of His promises. (Psalm 25:14 TPT)

God's presence is my secret hiding place. As you read the passage above, journal your thoughts in the space provided. Include what words stood out from this verse. What is God saying to you through these words?

[illegible]

To go deeper, refer to *Lesson 9* in the **Meditation Guide**.



LESSON 10

HOW TO HEAR GOD THROUGH PRAYER

Hearing God through prayer is a skill that must be developed. In order to do so, we must practice these four disciplines:

First, schedule time with Him—whether morning, noon, or night, whether fifteen minutes or two hours; what matters is starting.

Second, seek God diligently. This means we consistently show up for our God appointments.

Third—and most important—come reverently, not flippantly. God will not come into an atmosphere where He is not treated as holy.

Fourth, seek God confidently. Remember, God is more passionate about being close to you than you are to Him. So, when you come to God, don't approach Him hesitantly. Instead, draw near, expecting Him to reveal Himself to you.

As you apply these guidelines, expect your prayer life to be revived!



REFLECT

1. In your own words, what does it mean to treat God as holy?
2. How would you describe the balance between coming before God confidently, expecting Him to manifest, and coming before Him reverently?
3. Other than making sure it happens, why else might it be important for us to schedule time for seeking God?
4. What does it mean to you that God is more passionate about being close to you than you are to Him?



YOU'VE GOT MAIL

Secrets are reserved for close companions. Most of us disclose our deepest and most intimate thoughts and feelings with trusted friends. The Lord is no different.

God has secrets, and He is looking for some friends to share them with. It is an open invitation to all those who desire friendship with Him. David, known as a man after God's heart, revealed, "There's a private place reserved for the lovers of God, where they sit near Him and receive the revelation-secrets of His promises" (Psalm 25:14 TPT).

The private place David speaks of is God's presence. It's in the presence of God where His secrets are made known. Recognize the areas of your life that you've allowed to pull you away from spending time with God. As you commit to spending time with God, Jesus advised, "Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense His grace" (Matthew 6:6 MSG).

When you spend time with God in prayer, you'll be given access to His heart.



LOST IN TRANSLATION

The prophet Jeremiah reveals a divine key for unlocking heaven's wisdom. In Jeremiah 33:3, the Lord spoke through him and said, "Ask Me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come." The Hebrew word for "secrets" is *batzar* (בָּצַר), which also means "mysteries" or "inaccessible things." It means to fence in or to seclude something from immediate access.

Jesus taught His disciples that the secret of receiving something is simply asking the Father for what we are lacking. James, His earthly brother, reminds us of this—that we don't have because we just don't ask, or we ask with the wrong aim (James 4:2–3). We must ask the Father for divine wisdom, and He will give us supernatural access to it.



LESSON 11

THE HEAVENLY LANGUAGE

People have a lot of questions about speaking in tongues, and most of them are cleared up once they gain the understanding they're needing.

There are four different kinds of tongues mentioned in the New Testament.

First, there are tongues used as signs for unbelievers. This was evident on the day of Pentecost, where unbelievers were gathered together from a variety of countries as the outpouring of the Holy Spirit occurred. As believers were filled with God's Spirit, they proclaimed the wonders of God in foreign languages unknown to the one speaking.

Second, there are tongues for interpretation. This is a heavenly language given by God's Spirit to a person in a group setting. Because it is a heavenly language, and others are present, it needs to be interpreted.

Third, there are tongues for intercession. This is when our spirit is praying aided by the Holy Spirit—empowering us to know both what and how to pray.

Fourth, there are tongues for sharing intimacies with God Himself. This is when God elevates us to His level of communication.

Through this wonderful gift of the Spirit, we will experience supernatural breakthroughs and receive specific guidance from God. This empowering gift is available to all God's children.



REFLECT

1. I told several stories about the benefits of speaking in tongues. Which one inspired you the most? What about that story resonated with you?
2. Each use for the gift of tongues leads to a different work or result. What does this show about the importance of using this gift regularly in your own life?
3. What does it reveal about God that He will give us direct access to Himself through tongues?



YOU'VE GOT MAIL

There are often two distinct hindrances to communing with God. First, we don't know what to pray, or second, how to do it. For example, if you were to walk into the office of the president of the United States, could you communicate with him on his level? The answer is obviously no. He would have to come down to your level of understanding.

He knows so much more than you would know about the affairs of the nation, including all the security issues that are not made available to the public. He knows of the many plans and projects of the nation along with the terms and codes that must be kept secret; because if they fall into the hands of the wrong people, they could threaten national security.

To parallel this, when you walk into the King of the universe's office—His throne room—if you only pray out of your understanding, then your communication is limited. You cannot talk to the Lord on His level because He knows far more than you do. The only way He can communicate with you is to come down to your level of understanding.

Through the prayer language of tongues, God has made a way for you to communicate with Him on His level—a communication that's private between you and Him. Praying in tongues equips you to know what to pray and how to pray.



LOST IN TRANSLATION

In Jeremiah 23:29, Jeremiah hears God speak to him: “Does not My Word burn like fire?” and “Is it not like a mighty hammer that smashes a rock to pieces?” The word “rock” in Hebrew is *se/a* (סֶלַע), which is usually translated as a safe fortress, stronghold, or refuge to hide in for security. In this passage, the word “rock” is smashed by the Word of God, just like fire completely consumes whatever is in its path.

God Himself describes His presence as a “Consuming Fire.” Jeremiah was commissioned to rebuke the so-called prophets that pretended to prophesy in His name, yet they lacked the power described as a burning fire or a shattering hammer. We must let the wood, hay, and stubble in our lives burn up in God's presence and allow His spoken Word to break off any unnecessary things that hinder His plan or purpose.



DIRECT DOWNLOAD

*I was caught upto paradise and heard things so astounding
that they cannot be expressed in words, things no human is
allowed to tell. (2 Corinthians 12:4 NLT)*

God takes me to higher realms of intimacy. As you read the passage above, journal your thoughts in the space provided. Include what words stood out from this verse. What is God saying to you through these words?

To go deeper, refer to *Lesson 11* in the **Meditation Guide**.



LESSON 12

STEWARDED REVELATION

According to Bible prophecy, the last days will be marked by an increase of knowledge. Since the latter part of the twentieth century, we've seen a rapid increase in knowledge—especially in the areas of science, medicine, and technology.

God longs to reveal to us things we can never figure out on our own. He yearns to explain the unexplained, tell the untold, and make known the unknown. It's time to get out of the shallow and into the deep things of God. As it is written, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God" (1 Corinthians 2:9–10).

Heaven has the answers and solutions we desperately desire, but they will not be given out carelessly. They will be given to those who will steward them carefully. Our responsibility is to access the revelation of the Lord for our unique area of calling and influence. As we learn to steward what God reveals, He'll entrust us with more.



REFLECT

1. How is your faith affected by knowing God has mysteries reserved in Heaven to reveal to you?
2. If you asked God for revelation about any new idea that could change the world, what might you ask Him about? Why is that significant to you?
3. Describe biblical meditation in your own words.



YOU'VE GOT MAIL

In his book, *The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind*, Bill Johnson wrote, “Revelation is not something you can dig out of a theological book or study guide. It’s not even something you can unravel in the Bible all by yourself. Revelation is locked up in a realm the Bible calls mystery. A mystery cannot be hunted down and trapped like an animal. It can’t be discovered by persistent searching. It must be revealed. We don’t unlock mysteries; they are unlocked for us. And they are only unlocked and revealed to those who hunger for them . . .

“Few people I know receive substantial revelations or visitations of God without reckless pursuit. Though we can’t snap our fingers and cause ourselves to have revelation, we still must hunger for it and pursue it.”



LOST IN TRANSLATION

John, the youngest disciple of Jesus, saw a door standing open in heaven, and a shofar’s voice spoke to him like a trumpet blast. In Revelation 4:1, the revelation was to show John the things that would happen in the future. The trumpet, or ram’s horn, that John heard was a wind instrument used in Israel’s battles and whenever the Ark of God’s Presence moved from one location to another. It was a spiritual wakeup call for the Israelites.

The first blast was usually to move the leaders of the twelve tribes, and there was a second blast for the rest of the camp. The voice of the shofar represents the voice of Spirit that mobilizes God’s army and moves His people into victory against their enemy. Let’s open our spiritual ears up to the voice of victory, as the presence of God reveals His plan or purpose for the future.



DIRECT DOWNLOAD

“Call to me and I will answer you. I’ll tell you marvelous and wondrous things that you could never figure out on your own.” (Jeremiah 33:3 MSG)

Group	Percentage (%)
All respondents	45
Business	75
Middle class	65
Working class	55
Unemployed	85



LESSON 13

FASTING CHANGES THE WAY YOU SEE

Why are we talking about fasting in a study about hearing God's voice? It's because most Christians misunderstand fasting. They don't know that fasting is one of the most powerful ways to grow our sensitivity to God's voice.

There is more to fasting than just abstaining from food. We can fast from anything that is out of balance in our lives, whether that's Netflix, social media, or different kinds of foods. Fasting from these things shifts our appetite from the temporal to the eternal.

Throughout Scripture, we see that people fasted for many reasons. Sometimes it was to mourn over sins, while for others it was to seek God in times of transition or need. Intimacy with God is not automated—it must be intentionally cultivated.

Fasting heightens our sensitivity to God and demystifies the cloud of separation.



REFLECT

1. Why do we sometimes need to reset the way we see things?
2. Based on this lesson, is fasting more about responding to bad things or pursuing good things? Why did you choose that answer?
3. Which benefit of fasting motivates you the most to fast? What about that benefit motivates you more than the other benefits?



YOU'VE GOT MAIL

The deepest transformations are wrought from the inside out. Fasting is not designed to change the way we look and feel but to change the way we perceive and live. This under-

standing is pivotal: A diet may change the way you look, but a fast will change the way you see—it will alter your perspective. Did you know that even on a natural fast, you will experience increased clarity in your eyesight?



LOST IN TRANSLATION

We learned that God is not in the wind, earthquake, or the fire but that He speaks in a still, small voice (1 Kings 19:12). Let's talk further about this "still, small voice" of God. There are times that God speaks like a thunderstorm, the way He did from Mount Sinai when He gave us the Ten Commandments.

So why did Elijah experience a "still, small voice?" Could it be that the closer you are to the Father, His voice is heard as a whisper? When the Israelites left Egypt as released slaves, they were probably feeling distant from God, and His voice standard was from the top of the mountain down to the foot of its baseline.

The word for voice, *kol* (קוֹל), in 1 Kings 19:12 is the same voice that Adam and Eve heard in the garden. In some translations of Genesis 3:8, it says they heard the "sound of the Lord," although it is described more clearly what this "sound" was in verse 10. The text says that Adam heard God's "voice," or *kol* (קוֹל), in the garden and was afraid and ashamed of his nakedness. This sound is the voice of God, which can sound different depending on proximity.

Remember that we learned that the "still, small voice" in Hebrew is really the voice of a daughter. This is a voice that is gentle and soft when speaking to a father. This teaches us that God never has to yell when we are drawing close to Him, but rather He speaks to us in a loving tone so that we can differentiate His voice from the voice of a stranger or the voice of an enemy.



DIRECT DOWNLOAD

Then he said, "Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer." (Daniel 10:12 NLT)

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



LESSON 14

THE VOICE OF CONSCIENCE

The number one way the Holy Spirit guides us is through the inward witness.

The inward man, who is a spirit, has a voice—just as the outward man has a voice. We call this voice of the inward man *conscience*. Your conscience is the voice of your spirit and it is your conscience—the voice of your spirit—that will relay to your mind what the Spirit of God is saying to you down in your heart. As a Christian, your spirit and the Holy Spirit are intimately one.

Our conscience is a gift from God—instilling us with a moral sense of right and wrong. To keep our hearts pure, we must never violate our conscience.



REFLECT

1. How did this lesson change the way you think about your conscience?
2. How would you explain what it means to keep your conscience clear?
3. Considering the different conscience conditions, in what way has your conscience affected the way you hear from God?
4. How have you seen differences of convictions between people in your life? How would you handle those situations after hearing this lesson?



YOU'VE GOT MAIL

The conscience is a built-in warning system that signals us when something we have done is wrong. The conscience is to our souls what pain sensors are to our bodies—it inflicts distress, in the form of guilt, whenever we violate what our hearts tell us is right. If we habitually ignore our conscience, it will eventually become seared, numbing our ability to hear God.

Unless you keep a tender conscience, spiritual things will be obscure to you. That is why it's important to protect your conscience. The Bible refers to different types of conscience conditions. These include a pure conscience (1 Timothy 1:5, 19; Titus 1:15; Hebrews 13:18), a guilty conscience (Hebrews 9:14; Hebrews 10:22), a weak conscience (Romans 14:1–23; 1 Corinthians 8:7), a sin conscience (Hebrews 10:2; Hebrews 9:9), and a seared conscience (1 Timothy 4:1–2).

If you find yourself dealing with a guilty conscience, you can turn to the Lord and receive forgiveness. Repentance will remove guilt and will keep your heart tender and pure. Allow the words of the apostle John to comfort you: “Whenever our hearts make us feel guilty and remind us of our failures, we know that God is much greater and more merciful than our conscience, and He knows everything there is to know *about us*. My delightfully loved friends, when our hearts don’t condemn us, we have a bold freedom to speak face-to-face with God” (1 John 3:20–21 TPT).



LOST IN TRANSLATION

Moses spoke to God “face to face” as a man speaks to his friend (Exodus 33:11). What does this mean for a mere human to have this level of communication with the Almighty, who is both infinite and transcendent? Didn’t God say that no one could see His face and live (Exodus 33:23)? Isn’t this a contradiction in Scripture?

We learned that the Torah, along with the full library of Hebrew Scriptures in the Old Testament, that the written language of Hebrew is dynamic versus static, and that it should be understood through the concept of function over form. This means that the phrase “face to face” functionally refers to communication without the need of a mediator or other forms of correspondence.

How did God speak to Moses? The text says that He spoke through a pillar of cloud, or a “glory cloud.” We call this the “Shekinah Glory,” or the dwelling presence of God. We learn from this that God wants to speak to us intimately, like He did with Abraham—as His friend and not just as His servant. We also learned that the “face of God” refers to His presence (*panim* פָּנִים), and that we must seek His presence to hear Him speak to us face to face.

DIRECT DOWNLOAD

The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inner depths of his heart. (Proverbs 20:27)

God speaks to my spirit. As you read the passage above, journal your thoughts in the space provided. Include what sentence or words stood out from this verse. What is God saying to you through these words?

Device Type	Percentage of Respondents
Smartphone	100%
Tablet	95%
Feature Phone	85%
Smartwatch	15%

As of February 2023

To go deeper, refer to *Lesson 14* in the **Meditation Guide**.



LESSON 15

THE VOICE WITHIN THE VOICE

Jesus gave gifts to the church to equip the body, and these gifts are people. Gifts are meant to be enjoyed, but the Church isn't fully enjoying these gifts as God intended.

When we look for God's voice inside someone's voice, we can enjoy the gift God made them to be. However, we hinder ourselves from hearing God's voice through His messengers by viewing them incorrectly. To avoid this, we should honor the Lord's messengers as we would honor the Lord Himself (Matthew 10:40–42).

Although God desires to communicate with us directly—He also speaks through others. Let's learn to hear God's voice, by looking for it within the voice of another.



REFLECT

1. How does your perspective change toward messengers in your life when you view them as a gift from God?
2. How might it positively impact you if you do receive the messengers God sends you as gifts?
3. What's the biggest difference to you between looking at a minister from a fleshly perspective and looking from a spiritual perspective?
4. After listening or reading a message from someone else, what are some practical things you can do to gain first-hand revelation of what was shared?



YOU'VE GOT MAIL

Teacher and author Rick Renner shared, "There were a variety of spiritual gifts in operation

in the Corinthian congregation. Paul affirmed, ‘That in everything ye are enriched by Him, in all *utterance*, and in all *knowledge*’ (1 Corinthians 1:5 KJV).

“The word ‘utterance’ is the Greek word *logos*, which refers to something that is *vocal*. By using this word, Paul was referring to *vocal gifts* of the Holy Spirit. The word ‘knowledge’ is the Greek word *gnosis*, which describes *knowledge* or *insight*. As used here, it refers to *revelatory gifts* of the Holy Spirit that impart *supernatural knowledge* or *supernatural insight*.

“In the twelfth chapter of first Corinthians, Paul listed a broad range of spiritual gifts. Among those were *vocal gifts* and *revelatory gifts*. The vocal gifts include *tongues*, *interpretation of tongues*, and *prophecy*. These are spiritual gifts that when *vocalized*—they convey a message from God to a specific person or to a congregation. The Church at Corinth was overflowing with such gifts.

“The revelatory gifts of the Holy Spirit include *word of wisdom*, *word of knowledge*, and *discerning of spirits*. The *word of wisdom* enables one to possess supernatural wisdom that he could not naturally possess. The *word of knowledge* enables a person to supernaturally know details or facts that he could not naturally know. The *discerning of spirits* enables one to possess the supernatural ability to see into a spiritual situation or to discern what kind of spiritual forces are at work, which could never be seen or known without revelation.”

God has provided plenty of wonderful gifts for His children to enjoy! For this reason, Paul exhorted, “Do not quench (suppress or subdue) the [Holy] Spirit; Do not spurn the gifts and utterances of the prophets [do not depreciate prophetic revelations nor despise inspired instruction or exhortation or warning]. But test *and* prove all things [until you can recognize] what is good; [to that] hold fast” (1 Thessalonians 5:19–21 AMPC).



LOST IN TRANSLATION

Jesus taught His disciples that “the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you” (John 14:26). The role of the Holy Spirit is often undermined and misunderstood when believers don’t acknowledge or realize His importance in their lives. He never promised to do all the work, but rather, to be our Helper.

The Hebrew word for “helper” is *ezer* (עֵזֶר) and is translated as *parakletos* (παράκλητος), “one called alongside to help.” The Hebrew word *ezer* first shows up in the Garden in the book of Genesis. Eve was the helper, or helpmate, to Adam, the way that the Holy Spirit is for believers today. He partners with us and promises to bring back to our remembrance what we have put to memory. Let’s read God’s Word with the intent that He wants to speak to us daily, as we allow His Spirit to awaken us every morning with fresh revelation.

DIRECT DOWNLOAD

But when someone prophesies, he speaks to encourage people, to build them up, and to bring them comfort. (1 Corinthians 14:3 TPT)

God speaks to me through His messengers. As you read the passage above, journal your thoughts in the space provided. Include what words stood out from this verse. What is God saying to you through these words?

Response	Percentage
Yes	100%
No	0%

To go deeper, refer to *Lesson 15* in the **Meditation Guide**.



LESSON 16

LED BY GOD'S VOICE

Jesus said His sheep hear His voice. This is you and me—Jesus's sheep who hear and are led by His voice.

Sheep are followers who simply follow their shepherd. Without the guidance of a shepherd, sheep can easily wander astray and become lost. Similarly, to avoid wandering off course, spending time with Jesus our Shepherd is non-negotiable. As we are followers of Christ, the Lord desires to direct our steps and lead us forward into all He has planned and destined for us. Therefore, we must listen for God's voice; He's the One who will keep us on track.



REFLECT

1. How would your life be enhanced if you heard God's voice like the sheep hear only their shepherd?
2. Why is it important to develop hearing God for ourselves, rather than relying on others to lead and guide us?
3. What does it mean to you that God will never lead you through uncharted territory? Why does this matter?



YOU'VE GOT MAIL

In his book *Whisper*, Mark Batterson shared insight into how to be led by the voice of God. He wrote, "Whispering is typically employed for the sake of secrecy. No form of communication is more intimate. And it seems to be God's preferred method. The question again is *why*. And I won't keep you guessing any longer.

“When someone speaks in a whisper, you have to get very close to hear. In fact, you have to put your ear near the person’s mouth. We lean toward a whisper, and that’s what God wants. The goal of hearing the heavenly Father’s voice isn’t just hearing His voice; it’s intimacy with Him. That’s why He speaks in a whisper. He wants to be as close to us as is divinely possible! He loves us, likes us, that much.”

God’s whisper is gentle, but nothing is more powerful. Solomon wisely instructed, “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 MSG). When you’re near the Lord, you’ll be in tune with His whisper. Lean in and stay close—one word from God can alter the course of your destiny!



LOST IN TRANSLATION

The Lord says, “I will guide [or instruct] you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you,” in Psalm 32:8. The word “guide” in Hebrew is translated as *sakhal* (שָׁכַל), which means to infuse someone with insight and supernatural intellect. This is a ministry of the Holy Spirit that the serpent in the Garden of Eden tried to seduce Adam and Eve with. The sly adversary tried to bypass the Spirit of God and offer a counterfeit source of wisdom and divine insight.

Satan’s insight is always revealed to be misdirected guidance in hindsight. The insight of the Holy Spirit actually gives every believer foresight into the future of what God has for His children. We must allow the Lord to guide or instruct us with the wisdom of the Word, instead of the wisdom of the world.



DIRECT DOWNLOAD

The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. (Psalm 37:23 NLT)

God directs my steps. As you read the passage above, journal your thoughts in the space provided. Include what words stood out from this verse. What is God saying to you through these words?

To go deeper, refer to *Lesson 16* in the **Meditation Guide**.



LESSON 17

FINDING ANSWERS TO BIG QUESTIONS

How do you make big decisions for questions which you can't find answers for in the Bible? Questions like who to marry, whether to buy a house, or which job to take?

When searching for answers to big questions, the primary way God leads us to navigate these decisions is through the umpire of peace. This peace can be discovered through these simple steps:

First, commit your questions to God. Second, quiet yourself before God to find a neutral heart posture where He can speak to you. Third, seek counsel from people who are further along in the direction you want to go. Fourth, choose a posture of thankfulness, assured that God will provide the answers you're needing.

God delights in every detail of your life. When you lean into Him, He'll guide you and provide the answers to your questions.



REFLECT

1. Why do you think God leads us with His peace instead of with words?
2. How does it help you in big decision moments if you have allowed God to lead you continually in small ones?
3. How would you explain to someone else why thankfulness is important to staying in God's peace?
4. Which of the four steps Addison explained do you think will be most helpful to you in future decisions? Why do you think that one will be particularly helpful?



YOU'VE GOT MAIL

Desire is a powerful way God speaks to us. Paul revealed, “For God is working in you, *giving you the desire* and the power to do what pleases Him” (Philippians 2:13 NLT). God lives and works in you. He creates desire in you to do what pleases Him. Sometimes, the answers you’re looking for are within you!

Discussing the concept of desire, Bill Johnson shared, “Sometimes we think that if we really desire something, it must not be of God. It’s as if we serve a barbaric God who wants to wipe out anything that springs from our own hearts. On the contrary, God is enamored by your desires. . . .

“Most of the misunderstanding comes because we don’t know which of our desires come from God, and which are carnal. The very word *desire* is made up of the prefix *de* meaning ‘of,’ and *sire* meaning ‘the Father.’ Desire is, by nature, of the Father. But before we come to Christ, our desires are corrupted because desire springs from what we commune with. If we commune with greed, our desires will be greedy. If we commune with pornography, our desires will be for perversity. If we commune with anger over a past hurt, our desire will be for revenge.

“But when we commune with the Father, our desires are pure.”

God made you and knows everything about you. While you commune with Him, pay attention to the desires of your heart.



LOST IN TRANSLATION

The writer of Hebrews declares in Hebrews 11:3, “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible” (NKJV). The word “framed” from the writer of Hebrews is a Greek verb *katartizo* (καταρτίζω), which means to perfect, prepare, complete, mend, or to frame or lay a foundation. The Hebrew verb root is *yasad* (יָסַד), which literally means “foundation.”

In Luke 6:40, Jesus uses this concept to reveal His discipleship process, for His student to be perfectly trained like their master teacher. We must let the Word of God frame our lives, as we allow God’s invisible blueprint and design to manifest as a visible reality of what God wants to build within us.

DIRECT DOWNLOAD

For who has known the mind and purposes of the Lord, so as to instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ [to be guided by His thoughts and purposes]. (1 Corinthians 2:16 AMP)

God's wisdom supersedes earthly wisdom. As you read the passage above, journal your thoughts in the space provided. Include what sentence or words stood out from this verse. What is God saying to you through these words?

Response	Percentage
Yes	45%
No	55%

To go deeper, refer to *Lesson 17* in the **Meditation Guide**.

HEARING GOD Course Guide

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