
HOW TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE IN 30 DAYS

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO HEARING GOD CLEARLY IN
JUST 30 DAYS



DBA MINISTRIES

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A Devotional Challenge to Develop Spiritual Discernment

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INTRODUCTION

WHY CAN'T I HEAR GOD'S VOICE?



The room was silent except for the soft hum of the ceiling fan. Sarah sat on the edge of her bed, Bible open in her lap, tears streaming down her face. “God, are You even there?” she whispered into the darkness. “Everyone else seems to hear You so clearly. Why can’t I?”

If you’ve ever felt like Sarah, you’re not alone. In churches across the world, believers gather every Sunday singing about a God who speaks, yet Monday through Saturday, many live in spiritual silence, wondering if their prayers bounce off the ceiling. They watch others share testimonies of divine guidance while secretly questioning, “What’s wrong with me? Why does God speak to everyone but me?”

Here’s the truth that might surprise you: God hasn’t stopped speaking. He’s not playing favorites. And there’s nothing wrong with you.

The problem isn’t that God is silent—it’s that we’ve forgotten how to listen.

The Divine Conversation That Never Ended

From the moment God spoke creation into existence, He has been a communicating God. He walked with Adam in the garden. He called out to Moses from a burning bush. He whispered to Elijah in a still, small voice. Through prophets and poets, dreams and visions, circumstances and Scripture, God has never stopped reaching out to His children.

Jesus Himself promised, “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27). Notice He didn’t say, “Some of my sheep” or “My super-spiritual sheep.” He said *His sheep*—all who belong to Him—can hear His voice.

So why do so many of us struggle?

The Static That Drowns Out Heaven

Imagine trying to tune into a radio station while driving through a storm. The signal is there, broadcasting clearly, but static, interference, and competing frequencies make it nearly impossible to hear. That’s what has happened to many

of us spiritually. The voice of God hasn't grown weaker; the noise of our world has grown louder.

We live in an age of unprecedented distraction. The average person checks their phone 96 times per day. We're bombarded with thousands of messages, opinions, and voices all claiming our attention. Social media algorithms feed us endless content. News cycles spin 24/7. Even in our quiet moments, our minds race with tomorrow's worries and yesterday's regrets.

Is it any wonder we struggle to hear the "still, small voice" that Elijah heard?

But there's more than just external noise. Many of us carry internal static—unresolved hurt, unconfessed sin, or simple unbelief that God would actually want to speak to us personally. We've believed lies that God only speaks to pastors, prophets, or "prayer warriors" who wake up at 4 a.m. for two-hour prayer sessions.

Dispelling the Myths

Let's clear up some misconceptions right now:

Myth #1: "God only speaks to super-spiritual people." Truth: God speaks to His children—period. Your ability to hear Him isn't based on your spiritual resume but on your relationship with Him through Christ.

Myth #2: "If I can't hear God, I must have sin in my life." Truth: While unconfessed sin can create barriers, many faithful believers struggle to hear God simply because they've never been taught how to listen.

Myth #3: "God only speaks through dramatic supernatural encounters." Truth: While God can speak dramatically, He most often speaks through His Word, His Spirit, and the ordinary moments of life. We're often looking for the earthquake when He's in the whisper.

Myth #4: "Hearing God should be easy and automatic." Truth: Like any relationship, communication with God requires intentionality, practice, and growth. Even Samuel, the great prophet, needed Eli to teach him to recognize God's voice.

Your 30-Day Journey Begins Here

This book isn't another theological treatise on divine communication. It's a practical, hands-on guide to developing your spiritual ears. Over the next 30 days, you'll learn seven foundational principles for hearing God's voice, each one illustrated by real-life testimonies from trusted voices in the faith—men and women who have learned to recognize when heaven speaks.

You'll discover how Priscilla Shirer learned to hear God through daily Scripture reading, how John Bevere found clarity in stillness, and how Charles Stanley developed a framework for testing what he heard. But more importantly, you'll develop your own testimony as you practice these principles in real-time.

Each chapter includes:

- Biblical foundation for the principle
- A powerful testimony of the principle in action
- Practical exercises you can implement immediately
- Journaling prompts to track what you're hearing
- Reflection questions to deepen your understanding

What to Expect

As you embark on this journey, expect resistance. The enemy of your soul has a vested interest in keeping you spiritually deaf. He knows that a believer who can clearly hear God's voice is dangerous to his kingdom. Don't be surprised if distractions multiply, doubts creep in, or life suddenly gets busier.

But also expect breakthrough. Expect moments when Scripture suddenly comes alive with personal meaning. Expect divine coincidences that confirm what you've been sensing. Expect a growing confidence in recognizing the difference between God's voice, your own thoughts, and the enemy's deceptions.

Most of all, expect to fall more deeply in love with the God who has been pursuing conversation with you all along.

How to Use This Book

While you can read this book in a few sittings, it's designed to be experienced over 30 days. Each of the first seven chapters introduces a principle, which you'll then practice in the structured 30-day devotional in Chapter 8. For those ready to go deeper, there's also an optional 60-day lifestyle shift that will help you build lasting habits for hearing God.

You'll need:

- A journal dedicated to this journey
- A Bible (any translation you're comfortable with)
- 20-30 minutes each day for reading and reflection
- An open heart and expectant faith

Consider inviting a friend or small group to journey with you. There's power in shared experience, and you'll be amazed at how God confirms His voice through community.

A Personal Invitation

Before we begin, I want to share something personal. Ten years ago, I was where many of you are now—desperate to hear God but convinced He had put me on spiritual mute. I watched others flow in prophetic gifts while I struggled to discern if God wanted me to take a new job. I memorized verses about hearing God's voice while feeling like I was talking to the ceiling.

The journey from that place of frustration to where I am now—regularly conversing with the Father—wasn't instantaneous. It required intentionality, practice, and most importantly, the belief that God actually wanted to speak to me. Not

because I earned it, but because that's who He is: a Father who loves to communicate with His children.

The principles in this book aren't theory. They're the very practices that opened my ears and transformed my relationship with God. They've worked for countless others throughout church history and around the world today. And they'll work for you.

Your Father Is Calling

Right now, in this very moment, God is speaking. He's speaking through creation, through circumstances, through His Word, through His Spirit within you. The question isn't whether He's speaking—it's whether we're positioned to hear.

For the next 30 days, you're going to position yourself to hear. You're going to learn to recognize His voice among all the others competing for your attention. You're going to develop spiritual discernment that will serve you for the rest of your life.

Remember Sarah from the beginning of this introduction? Six months after that tearful night, she sent me a message: "I can't believe how clearly I hear Him now. It's like someone finally tuned the radio to the right station. He was speaking all along—I just needed to learn how to listen."

Your journey to hearing God's voice clearly and consistently starts now. Turn the page, and let's begin to tune our hearts to heaven's frequency.

Your Father is calling. It's time to answer.

CHAPTER 1

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD



The conference hall buzzed with the energy of five thousand women eager to encounter God. Priscilla Shirer stood backstage, clutching her Bible, its pages worn soft from years of daily handling. Just moments before stepping into the spotlight, she felt that familiar gentle nudge in her spirit—a whisper that would change the entire direction of her message.

“Tell them about the morning you almost gave up.”

Priscilla knew that voice. It was the same one that had guided her through countless decisions, comforted her through dark valleys, and directed her steps for over two decades. But it hadn’t always been this clear. There was a time when God’s voice seemed like a distant echo, muffled by her own confusion and spiritual immaturity.

As she took the stage that day, Priscilla shared a story many believers know all too well—the story of spiritual deafness cured by one simple, transformative practice: consistent, expectant time in God’s Word.

The Morning Everything Changed

“I was twenty-three years old,” Priscilla began, her voice carrying across the hushed auditorium. “Newly married, trying to navigate adult life, and desperate to hear from God about my future. I’d spend hours in prayer, begging God to speak, to give me a sign, to write His will in the clouds. But heaven seemed brass. I felt like I was sending up prayers that never made it past the ceiling.”

She paused, remembering the frustration of those early morning prayer sessions. “One morning, I was particularly discouraged. I’d been offered a ministry opportunity, but I had no peace about it. Everyone said it was a ‘God thing,’ but I couldn’t shake the uneasiness. I needed to hear from God Himself, not well-meaning friends.”

“That morning, instead of my usual routine of pouring out my requests and waiting for some mystical response, I felt prompted to simply open my Bible. No

agenda. No specific question. Just read. I turned to James—not for any particular reason—and began reading chapter one.”

Priscilla’s eyes sparkled as she recalled the moment. “When I reached verse five, it was as if someone had turned on a spotlight: ‘If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.’”

“I’d read that verse dozens of times before, but that morning, it wasn’t just words on a page. It was God speaking directly to my situation. The Holy Spirit brought to mind other scriptures about waiting, about testing opportunities against God’s Word, about the peace that confirms His will. Within thirty minutes of reading and listening, I had my answer. The opportunity, though good, wasn’t God’s best for that season.”

But the real transformation wasn’t in getting that single answer. It was in discovering the primary way God speaks to His children—through His living, active Word.

“That morning marked a turning point,” Priscilla continued. “I realized I’d been looking for God’s voice in all the wrong places while neglecting the clearest way He speaks. I made a commitment that day: I would never again approach my Bible as a religious duty but as a divine conversation.”

The Foundation of All Divine Communication

Before we explore the various ways God speaks, we must establish this fundamental truth: Scripture is the foundation of all divine communication. Every other way God speaks—through circumstances, other people, dreams, or inner promptings—must be tested against His written Word.

Why? Because while God’s methods of communication may vary, His message never contradicts what He has already revealed in Scripture. The Bible isn’t just one of many ways God speaks; it’s the tuning fork by which we test every other voice.

Consider how Jesus Himself handled divine communication. When tempted in the wilderness, He didn’t rely on mystical experiences or subjective feelings. His response to every temptation began with, “It is written...” (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10). If the living Word of God relied on the written Word of God, how much more should we?

The author of Hebrews tells us, “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12). Notice those descriptors: living and active. This isn’t dead literature; it’s God’s living voice preserved in written form.

Throughout church history, every major revival and spiritual awakening has been preceded by a return to Scripture. The Protestant Reformation exploded

when Martin Luther discovered justification by faith in Romans. The Great Awakening was fueled by Jonathan Edwards' biblical preaching. The modern missionary movement was birthed when William Carey read, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" with fresh eyes.

Why We Struggle to Hear God in Scripture

If God speaks so clearly through His Word, why do many believers still struggle to hear Him? Priscilla identifies several barriers she's observed in her years of ministry:

1. We approach the Bible as a textbook rather than a conversation. Many of us learned to study the Bible academically—parsing Greek words, memorizing facts, analyzing historical context. While these have their place, they can become barriers if we forget we're not just studying ancient literature; we're listening to our Father speak.

Priscilla recalls a seminary professor who could parse every Greek verb in the New Testament but admitted he rarely sensed God speaking personally through the text. "He knew the Word intellectually but had never learned to hear the Voice within the Word," she observes.

2. We read for information rather than transformation. We check off our daily reading plan, proud that we've completed three chapters, but we haven't paused to listen for what God might be saying through those chapters to our specific situation today.

"I used to race through my Bible reading like I was trying to win a marathon," Priscilla admits. "I'd finish my assigned chapters and feel accomplished, but if you asked me five minutes later what God had said, I couldn't tell you. I was gathering information, not seeking transformation."

3. We expect God to speak outside His Word rather than through it. We're waiting for the spectacular while ignoring the supernatural revelation already in our hands. We want God to speak audibly when He's already spoken authoritatively.

"I've met believers who spend hours seeking prophetic words while their Bibles gather dust," Priscilla notes. "They want a fresh word from God but haven't digested the eternal Word He's already given."

4. We lack consistency. We approach God's Word sporadically, when we're in crisis or have a specific question, rather than cultivating a daily conversation through consistent reading.

"Imagine if I only talked to my husband when I needed something or when there was a crisis," Priscilla illustrates. "Our relationship would be shallow at best. Yet that's how many of us approach God's Word—only in emergencies."

5. We don't understand the role of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would guide us into all truth and bring to remembrance what

He has said (John 14:26, 16:13). Without actively depending on the Holy Spirit's illumination, we're trying to understand spiritual truth with natural minds.

The Biblical Foundation for God Speaking Through Scripture

Let's establish the scriptural basis for expecting God to speak through His Word:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

The phrase "breathed out by God" (theopneustos in Greek) literally means "God-breathed." When we read Scripture, we're encountering the very breath of God. Just as God breathed into Adam and he became a living soul, God breathes through His Word to bring life to our spirits.

Psalms 119:105 - "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Notice the present tense. Not "was" a lamp or "will be" a lamp, but "is" a lamp. God's Word provides ongoing, real-time guidance for our daily decisions.

Isaiah 55:10-11 - "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

God's Word is purposeful and powerful. It accomplishes divine intentions in our lives when we receive it with faith.

Hebrews 4:12 - "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

Scripture isn't static; it's dynamic. It reads us even as we read it, exposing our hearts and revealing God's perspective on our lives.

The Practice of Listening Through Scripture

So how do we move from simply reading the Bible to hearing God speak through it? Priscilla shares the method that transformed her spiritual life:

1. Approach with Expectation

"Every time I open my Bible now," Priscilla explains, "I begin with a simple prayer: 'Lord, I believe You have something to say to me today. Open my ears to hear, my eyes to see, and my heart to receive what You want to communicate.'"

This isn't a magical formula; it's a posture of faith. When we approach Scripture expecting God to speak, we're more likely to recognize His voice when He does. It's the difference between skimming a textbook and reading a long-awaited letter from someone you love.

George Müller, the great man of faith who cared for thousands of orphans, testified: "The first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day

is to have my soul happy in the Lord. The first thing to be concerned about is not how much I might serve the Lord, but how I might get my soul into a happy state, and how my inner man might be nourished. I saw that the most important thing I had to do was to give myself to the reading of the Word of God and to meditation on it.”

2. Read Slowly and Thoughtfully

In our instant-everything culture, we’ve lost the art of meditation. The Hebrew word for meditate literally means “to mutter”—to speak something over and over, turning it around in your mind like a jewel in the light.

“I used to pride myself on how much of the Bible I could read in one sitting,” Priscilla admits. “Now I’d rather read one verse that comes alive by the Spirit than rush through ten chapters that leave me unchanged.”

Try this: Read until something strikes you—a phrase, a word, an idea. Then stop. Don’t push forward to complete your reading plan. Pause and ask:

- What is God highlighting to me?
- How does this apply to my current situation?
- What is the Holy Spirit stirring in my heart?
- What does this reveal about God’s character?
- What does this reveal about my condition?

3. Personalize the Scriptures

One practice that revolutionized Priscilla’s Bible reading was learning to personalize Scripture. Take a verse like Philippians 4:19: “And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

Personalized, it becomes: “My God will supply every need of mine—including clarity about this decision—according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

This isn’t changing Scripture; it’s applying it. It’s moving from theoretical truth to personal promise.

Consider how you might personalize these verses:

- “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want” becomes “The Lord is my shepherd; I will not lack direction in this confusing season.”
- “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you” becomes “I cast my anxiety about my job situation on You, Lord, because You care about every detail of my life.”
- “Trust in the Lord with all your heart” becomes “I trust You, Lord, with all my heart regarding my child’s struggles.”

4. Keep a Listening Journal

“I never read my Bible without my journal anymore,” Priscilla shares. “Not because I’m super-spiritual, but because I’m forgetful. God speaks something profound to me at 6 a.m., and by 9 a.m., I’m struggling to remember what it was.”

In your journal, record:

- The date and scripture reference
- What stood out to you

- What you sense God saying through it
- How it applies to your current situation
- Any action steps you need to take
- Questions it raises that you want to explore further

Over time, you'll begin to see patterns in how God speaks to you, themes He's emphasizing, and promises He's reinforcing.

5. Look for the Rhema Word

The Greek language has two words for “word”: *logos* and *rhema*. *Logos* refers to the general Word of God—the whole counsel of Scripture. *Rhema* refers to a specific word for a specific situation—when the *logos* becomes personal and applicable to your immediate need.

“That morning when I read James 1:5,” Priscilla recalls, “it shifted from *logos* to *rhema*. It went from being a general truth about God giving wisdom to being His specific answer to my specific need in that moment.”

This is what we're listening for—not new revelation beyond Scripture, but Spirit-illuminated application of Scripture to our lives today.

6. Practice Lectio Divina

Priscilla often incorporates this ancient practice of divine reading:

Read (Lectio): Read the passage slowly, attentively. **Reflect (Meditatio):** Ponder what stands out, asking what God might be saying. **Respond (Oratio):** Pray the scripture back to God, making it personal. **Rest (Contemplatio):** Sit quietly, allowing the truth to sink deep into your spirit.

“This practice has taught me to slow down and truly digest God's Word rather than just consuming it,” she explains.

Common Ways God Speaks Through His Word

As you develop this practice, you'll discover God speaks through His Word in various ways:

Direct Application

Sometimes a verse speaks directly to your situation with no interpretation needed. If you're struggling with fear and read “Fear not, for I am with you” (Isaiah 41:10), the application is clear.

Priscilla recalls a time when she was anxious about a speaking engagement. She opened to 2 Timothy and read, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7). “It was as if God reached through the pages and steadied my trembling heart,” she says.

Principles and Patterns

Other times, God speaks through biblical principles. You may not find a verse about whether to take a specific job, but you'll find principles about stewardship, calling, and provision that guide your decision.

“When my husband and I were deciding whether to move our family for ministry,” Priscilla shares, “we couldn’t find a verse that said, ‘Move to Dallas.’ But we found principles about seeking first the kingdom, about counting the cost, about seeking godly counsel. Those principles, combined with prayer and confirmation, guided our decision.”

Biblical Examples

God often speaks through the stories of biblical characters. Their successes and failures become mirrors for our own journey. David’s psalms teach us how to worship through difficulty. Peter’s restoration shows us how God responds to our failures.

“I’ve found myself in Gideon’s story when I’ve felt inadequate, in Esther’s story when I’ve needed courage, in Mary’s story when I’ve needed to surrender to God’s unusual plans,” Priscilla reflects.

Progressive Revelation

Sometimes God uses multiple passages over days or weeks to build a complete message. You might read about trust in Psalms on Monday, see it exemplified in Abraham’s story on Wednesday, and find Jesus teaching on it in Matthew by Friday. God is building a theme, preparing you for something.

“Before my father was diagnosed with cancer,” Priscilla shares vulnerably, “God kept highlighting scriptures about His sovereignty, His goodness in suffering, and the hope of eternity. I didn’t understand why until the diagnosis came. God had been preparing my heart through His Word.”

Confirmation of Inner Promptings

Often, God will confirm through Scripture what He’s already been stirring in your spirit. That business idea, that call to forgive, that prompt to reach out to someone—when confirmed in Scripture, you can move forward with confidence.

Correction and Redirection

Sometimes God’s Word stops us in our tracks, revealing sin or redirecting our paths. “I was harboring unforgiveness toward someone,” Priscilla admits, “convinced I had every right to my anger. Then I read Jesus’ words about forgiveness in Matthew 18, and the Holy Spirit wouldn’t let me move past them. I had to deal with my heart before I could move forward.”

Breaking Through Common Obstacles

Even with consistent practice, you may encounter obstacles. Here’s how to overcome them:

“I read but nothing stands out.” Keep reading. Not every day will bring dramatic revelation. Sometimes God is simply washing you with His Word, preparing you for future revelation. Trust the process.

Priscilla encourages, “Think of it like a marriage conversation. Not every talk with my husband is profound. Sometimes we discuss the mundane. But those ordinary conversations build the intimacy that makes the significant conversations possible.”

“I don’t understand what I’m reading.” Start with easier books like John, James, or Psalms. Use a modern translation. Don’t hesitate to use study tools, but remember: the Holy Spirit is your primary teacher.

“I recommend starting with the Gospels,” Priscilla suggests. “Watch how Jesus interacts with people. See how He responds to questions. Let His words to others become His words to you.”

“I hear conflicting messages.” This is why community matters. Share what you’re hearing with mature believers. Test it against the whole counsel of Scripture. If there’s confusion, keep seeking. God is not the author of confusion.

“Scripture interprets Scripture,” Priscilla emphasizes. “If you think God is saying something through one verse that contradicts the clear teaching of other passages, you need to dig deeper.”

“I don’t have time for lengthy devotions.” Start with five minutes. Consistency matters more than duration. God can speak volumes through a single verse if your heart is attentive.

“Some of my most powerful encounters with God have come from meditating on a single verse throughout the day,” Priscilla testifies. “Quality trumps quantity every time.”

“My mind wanders when I read.” This is normal. When you notice your mind drifting, gently bring it back. Sometimes writing out verses helps maintain focus. Reading aloud engages more senses and aids concentration.

“I feel guilty about my inconsistency.” Grace, friend. God isn’t keeping score. Every day is a fresh opportunity to hear His voice. Don’t let yesterday’s failure keep you from today’s encounter.

Priscilla’s Daily Practice

“People often ask me for my secret to hearing God,” Priscilla says. “There’s no secret. There’s just showing up every day with an open Bible and an open heart.”

Her daily practice has evolved over the years but maintains these core elements:

Morning Foundation (30-45 minutes)

- Begin with gratitude and the expectation prayer
- Read systematically through a book of the Bible
- Stop when something resonates
- Use the SOAP method: Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer
- Journal what she senses God saying
- Pray the scripture back to God
- Note any action steps