



As we practise listening prayer, many of us struggle with one primary concern: discerning God's voice. What if we hear wrong? What if we think we are listening to God, but it is our own imagination or worse, the enemy?

This month, we want to try to look at discerning the voice of God from another perspective.

Have you ever considered that God's voice has a certain tone and timbre?

Take a moment to think back on the voice of your earthly father (if you did not know your father, think of a grandfather, your mother, or another important person in your life). Do you remember what it sounded like when he was pleased, when he laughed, when he was angry? Without remembering any specific words, most of us can easily recall the sound of our father's voice.

Our Heavenly Father's voice also has a tone that we can recognise. The enemy may try to mimic God and speak to us, but he can never speak in the same tone as our Heavenly Father.

Another way to think of "the tone of God's voice" is to understand that, when God is speaking, his words give us a certain feeling. Let's look at specific examples.

Sin

When God convicts us of sin—if it is truly God's voice we are hearing—we will feel loved even as He reveals our need to repent. His convicting voice has a tone of hope and gentleness. It compels us to repent and, when we do, we feel joy and freedom.

When the enemy points out our sin, there is condemnation, shame, and hopelessness. We feel like we cannot change no matter how hard we try.

Direction

When God gives us direction, we feel a sense of peace. Even if He tells us to do something unexpected or that we have not wanted to do in the past. Likewise, if we are asking God for direction, and have no peace about a course of action, that is a good indicator that He is not telling us to do that thing.

When the direction is coming from ourselves, we feel anxious. We feel it is all up to us to do things right and make them work out. We fear failure.

The idea of hearing the tone of God's voice may be very new to many of us. This month's devotion takes us to scripture to consider this idea more deeply.



Devotional Study

JULY

The Tone of God's Voice

1) What concerns do you have about listening to God with your emotions as well as your mind?

2) Think back on times when you have tried to hear from the Lord or felt convicted of sin. What feelings accompanied what you heard?

Sin

Read Luke 22:3.

- To sift wheat means to separate the kernel from the chaff. What or whom does Satan want to separate us from?

Read Revelation 12:10, 1 Peter 5:8, and John 10:10.

- What is Satan's goal when he is accusing us?

Read Joel 2:13, Romans 8:1, 2 Corinthians 7:10, James 4:8.

- What is God's goal when he convicts us of sin?

- If we become aware of sin and are feeling guilty, condemned and far from God, what steps could we take in order to reconnect with God's voice and deal with our conviction?

Direction

Read Mark 6:31-32, Mark 1:35.

- Why did Jesus and the disciples go away to be alone and to be in a quiet place to pray?

- Why might God often choose to speak to us in a quiet voice?

Read Psalm 143:8.

- What are the two things that David asks God to show Him? What can we learn about seeking direction from God from David's approach in this verse?

Hearing from God is not just about getting instructions. The main reason God wants you to come to him is so that you can be together. So that you can build your relationship with Him. So that you can learn to trust Him and His love and know that He is in charge of the outcome.

Read John 14:25-27.

- When the Holy Spirit tells us something, what gift does Jesus promise to give us along with the things he is teaching us or reminding us?

- What is it about making decisions that make us feel 'troubled'? Why is it that we can have peace when God gives us direction?

