

# INTRODUCTION

Mankind *longs* to hear the voice of the divine. He subjects himself to extreme physical regimens and conditions, seeks the aid of substance and spiritual gurus, and conjures up extreme emotions, all with the hope of hearing the voice of the one he believes is all-knowing and all-powerful.

The prophets of Baal “*cried aloud*” and “*leaped about*” from morning until evening, lacerating themselves with “*knives and lances until the blood gushed out on them*” to invoke the voice of their god (1 Kings 18:26-29). King Saul sought the Medium of En Dor (1 Samuel 28) in hopes of acquiring revelation, understanding, wisdom and knowledge, guidance and direction. Sadly, even those who profess faith in Jesus Christ employ such methods and engage in such activities during times of desperation.

BUT NONE OF THESE THINGS ARE NECESSARY.

The Bible declares that you will find God when you search for Him with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:13). Psalm 91:15 says, “[You] will call upon Me and I will answer [you].” Jeremiah 33:3 says, “Ask Me, and I will tell you great and unsearchable things which you do not know.” James 1:5 says, “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 [you]”. These verses only scratch the surface.

Even more, the Bible tells us that the God who promises to speak, dwells inside of *every* believer without partiality and without measure. The 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> chapters of John communicate that the function of God’s Spirit is to guide believers into all truth, making known His will and ways. We are also told that this third member of the Godhead, teaches, convicts, and corrects us. John 16:13 states that “*He will speak, and He will tell [us] things to come*”. The words “guide, speak, reveal, and declare” all describe His role in our lives.

Yet, many believers say, “God does not speak to me.” And every time I question the validity of their claim. If the Bible states that God hears and answers, and that His Spirit dwells inside of *every* believer, *why is it that some hear God’s voice with clarity and others do not hear His voice at all?*

After listening and conversing with countless individuals on this subject, I have concluded that hearing God’s voice is primarily a heart-issue: first, an issue of what one believes about God, and second, an issue of faith and obedience.

So, this is where we will begin.

What do you believe *about* God?

You can exhaust the subject of hearing God’s voice—reading *every* book and listening to *every* sermon on the topic; you can subject yourself to spiritual regimens and strategies, BUT IF YOU DO NOT TRUST THE ONE WHO SPEAKS IT DOES NOT MATTER WHETHER YOU HEAR HIM OR NOT.

He has committed to communicate with you. *You* must decide whether you will trust His voice and obey Him when He speaks. I hope you will... because He’s true to every word.

Listening for Him,

*Julie West*