

Hearing God's Voice

John 10:27

"My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me."

Part III. *"They follow me."*

A. The Fruit of Hearing is Following.

1. The natural fruit of really **hearing** God speak is that we do what he says!

John 10:1-4

"...he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice."

The whole point of this parable is that the Shepherd speaks to his sheep, and they follow him. Like the sheep in the parable, because we recognize God's voice and we trust him to lead us, the natural thing for us to do is to follow.

2. Romans 10:17 *"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."*

More than an instruction for obtaining faith, this verse tells us what happens when we hear and internalize what God says to us – faith comes. When we have heard what God has said, it results from believing and acting on what we've heard.

3. If what I hear the Lord saying to me produces no fruit, then I haven't really **heard** him.

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."

B. The Measure of Hearing is Following.

A teacher knows you listened to them in a class by how you do on the test. A parent knows you listen to them if you do what they told you to do. God knows we have heard him when we obey him.

1 Samuel 15:22-23

"Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? "...Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king."

Matt. 7:24-27

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock."

"And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

C. The Blessing of Hearing is in Following.

Rev. 1:3

"Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near."

Most Christians have a deep desire to be in God's presence and hear Him speak to them. But just being with him and **hearing** his voice is not the ultimate goal!

In **Luke 11:28**, a woman says that Jesus' mother was blessed to have him, to have been around him his whole life. He responds, *"Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it."*

People often get very excited that they heard God speak, but with no regard for what he actually said! The blessing is in the doing, not the hearing.

D. Practical Thoughts.

1. Be quick to hear God's voice.

James 1:19

"Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger..."

Sometimes it's hard to hear the voice of God because we're simply not good listeners. We don't listen to other people, so we're not listening for God's voice.

2. Be quick to capture what He says.

When someone tells you something important that you need to remember, to think about, or to take action on – such as an appointment, an address, or a phone number – you make a note of it. Who could tell you anything more important than

what God could tell you?

Keep a prayer journal, or use the voice record or written notes feature on your phone to preserve what you hear the Lord saying to you.

3. Be quick to obey.

Instant obedience to God's voice ensures we do not hear the voice of the enemy. Once God has spoken, don't continue to listen for another voice! When you hear him speak, quickly obey what he says.

All of Christian life has to do with hearing the voice of the Lord, who knows us, and following him.