

us away from picking up our cross, denying ourselves, and following Jesus. Self must be shunned—if God is to be won.

Then there is the most important voice, the voice of the one who loves us and desires only the best for us—the voice of God. God tells us in His Word that His children will be able to distinguish “His voice” from “other voices.”

In John 10:3-5, we as Believers are compared to sheep. It is the characteristic of sheep not to know where they are going, for they must be “led.”

Jesus says He is the good shepherd or leader of the sheep. He tells us “His” sheep know “His” voice and will follow “Him” instead of the voice of man, the voice of self, or the voice of Satan.

Yes, God wants to communicate to man, but communication requires relationship.

From the beginning of creation God communicated His will to mankind. He gave specific instructions to Adam and Eve. They were to name the animals, tend the Garden, have companionship with each other and reproduce to populate the earth.

Most importantly of all, they were to maintain an “intimate” fellowship with God. This “closeness” with God enabled them to know His voice. When God spoke, He communicated His plan to them.

By the “voice of God,” the will of God was revealed to Adam and Eve. Did they always listen to God? No! Do we always listen when God speaks to us?

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If you do NOT know THE ANSWERS to all of the above, you will not want to miss... this SPECIAL study on "Knowing God's Voice."

The Bible is God's first line of communication in revealing Himself to mankind. It is through His Holy Word that He reveals to us the different ways He has spoken to man as well as man's responses to Him.

Whenever we read "and the Lord said," this should confirm to us that God does communicate with man.

Remember how Balaam refused to listen to God? Nevertheless, God desired to communicate with this man so much that He finally resorted to using a donkey.

Aren't you glad that after the Bible was written, God didn't just "suddenly stop speaking" to man?

The good news we learn from God's Word is that we too can "know the voice of God." We also learn that the reason God desires to speak to this generation is because He has something very "important" to say to us. But we must know how to hear His voice, and then be faithful to obey Him.

Even when God showed Himself faithful to the nation of Israel by delivering them from Egyptian captivity, they repeatedly disobeyed Him. In Hebrews 3:

7-11, God warns us that when He speaks to us we are to respond by being obedient and not disobey Him as Israel did.

The "temptation in the wilderness" and the "provoking of God" mentioned in these verses refer to Israel's disobedience.

The phrase in Hebrews 3:7, "today, if ye will hear His voice," confirms to us that God is still speaking to man, just as He did in times past.

In Hebrews 3:15, where we are warned that "today if we will hear His voice," should tell us that what God has to say to us is of the utmost importance.

I Corinthians 14:10 reveals to us that there are many voices in the world clamoring for our attention. Who are these voices? One of these voices is the voice of man.

The voice of man is easy to recognize, isn't it? It is the audible voice of another human being.

Have you ever had someone tell you "to do" or "not to do" something in

such manner that it sounded "very spiritual," but when you checked it out in God's Word, you realized, that even though they may have meant well, what they had told you was actually contrary to God's Word?

Sometimes the voice of man may give us wise advice. Then there are times when the voice of man conflicts with the voice of God. When this happens—we must obey God rather than man.

Another one of these many kinds of voices spoken about in I Corinthians 14:10 is the voice of Satan.

The voice of Satan was first heard by Eve when he spoke to her in the Garden of Eden. John 8:44 warns us that Satan's voice lies. He is a deceiver and always attempts to lead man into sin and away from God.

There are sad accounts of how Satan was successful in deceiving even men like Peter who had been walking day-by-day with Jesus. However, Satan met his match when he tried to tempt Jesus in the wilderness in Matthew chapter 4. All these events are recorded in God's Word for our benefit.

I wish I could tell you Satan no longer speaks to man, but just as God still speaks to man, Satan is also there to speak lies, deceit, and sinful thoughts into our hearts and minds.

Another voice is the voice of self. We read of examples in God's Word concerning the voice of self in Luke 16:3 and 18:4.

The Bible warns us about self in Luke 21:34 where it says we are to "take heed" to ourselves.

Although the voice of self will often try to mimic the voice of God, it will always lead