



# NEW CROSSING CHURCH

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**Prayer Series: Upward. Inward. Outward.**

## **Study 9 - Hearing The Shepherd's Voice**

Note: You can listen to or watch the sermon by the same title, Craig Robertson, Mar 13, 2022

Intro. Are you aware of hearing God's voice? What kinds of ways do you experience God speaking to you? How has hearing God made a difference in your life? Do you have any specific examples of times God has spoken to you very clearly or you looked back and realized God was speaking to you?

### **I. Why We Really Need To Hear The Shepherd's Voice**

- A. Consider the time and content of your prayer life. Most of us have learned from others to focus most of our attention on asking the Lord to help us or help others. Our prayer lives tend to be a monologue instead of conversation. On a scale from 1 to 10, how much of your prayer life is asking the Lord questions and listening?
- B. Here are five reasons we really need to hear what Jesus has to say.
  1. Hearing the Shepherd's voice is the game changer in life
  2. Not hearing his voice leaves us at the mercy of the Thief
  3. The Shepherd speaks into all areas of our life for our good
  4. People will experience a better version of ourselves
  5. Communion with God needs Communication with Jesus

Read John 10:3-4, 10, 14-15, 27 Dang, Jesus knows you by your first name! When Jesus says his own "knows him" he is describing "Communion" which is one who has an intimate spiritual relationship with the Lord. It's not only academic knowledge, nor just a religious relationship. He compares that "knowing of one another" to the relationship he has with his own Father. How does that affect your head or heart?

### **II. The Kind Of Heart That Grows To Recognize His Whispers**

Read Isaiah 50:4-5 (NASB)

The Lord God has given Me the tongue of disciples,  
So that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word.  
He awakens Me morning by morning,  
He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple.  
<sup>5</sup>The Lord God has opened My ear,  
And I was not disobedient,  
Nor did I turn back."

Isaiah gives us five encouragements to one who wants conversational prayers:

1. Studies to know and live the scriptures - "*tongue of disciples . . . with a word*"

What makes someone a "disciple" (NASB) or "those who are taught" (ESV)?

2. Meets the Lord in the quiet of the morning for prayer - "*He awakens me morning by morning*"

Read Psalm 143:8 Morning represents a place that is quiet enough to hear Jesus' voice and not be distracted. Life is always unpredictable, even Jesus had to escape at times from the people when his prayer time was assaulted. What works best for your daily prayer time?

Read 1 Kings 19:11-13, Matthew 12:19 Why do you think God speaks in a whisper? Do you hear his voice and how would you describe it?

3. Awakens with expectancy for the Lord to speak - "*he awakens my ear...*"

Read Luke 11:9 According to Isaiah it takes God to awaken our ears to hear. Have you ever prayed that God would awaken your ears? Having the expectation that God will and wants to speak to us is important to our hearing. Is this a promise that he will speak every time? Has anything squelched your expectancy?

4. Listens with the teachable attitude of a disciple - "*... to listen as a disciple*"

Read Psalm 143:10

5. Follows through on the last whisper you heard - "*And I was not disobedient, nor did I turn back.*"

Read John 10:27, Luke 11:28 What is the relationship between following through on what you hear and continuing to hear God? What was the last whisper you heard?

### **III. Ways To Discern The Shepherd's Voice From Others**

1. Does it conform to the content of Scripture?
2. Does it reflect the spirit of Jesus Christ?
3. Does it seem like wisdom from above?

Read James 1:5; 3:15-17

4. Do spiritually mature people confirm it?

Can you give an example of why these principles are important?

### **IV. Conversation starters:**

Read outloud the following Conversation Starters. Now take some time and quietly to ask the Lord one or two of these questions. Then share what you heard if anything.

- Good morning/evening Lord, I'm listening, is there anything you want to say or talk about?
- Jesus, is there anything you want to remind me of today?
- Lord is there anything you have asked me to do that I haven't done yet?
- Search me, O God, and know my heart and thoughts! Is there any offensive way in me?
- Jesus, what do you want me to know today?
- Is there any area Lord that you are wanting to raise up within me a supernatural faith to pray bold prayers? (i.e. from Session 8)
- Show me Lord if there is anywhere I need to be on alert against the enemy for myself, others, or church? (i.e. from Session 8)
- Jesus is there anyone we need to especially pray for today?
- Lord, is there someone you want me to bless today? How?

Do you feel bad or guilty if you didn't hear anything?

We learned in the sermon "Contemplation & Adoration" that even our silence is praise to God (Psalm 65:1-2 ESV footnote, NASB, MESSAGE). Even in those times when you are listening and it seems the Lord is silent are not wasted because you show him that you love him. We also learned that a "Prayer of Quiet" is a time you and the Lord simply enjoy each other's presence.

Did you experience peace or joy during your time?