

Getting to Know the Voice of God



John 10:1-5, 27

1. What has to be clear for every true believer is that there should be nothing in our lives that is more important than sitting, listening, and getting direction from the Lord.
 - God's greatest gift to the world was His Son Jesus Christ (John 3:16).
 - Jesus Christ's greatest gift to believers was He the Holy Spirit. (John 16:7, 14:16-17)
 2. We must understand the importance of our relationship to our Head – which is Jesus Christ.
 3. The Head of the body of Christ is Jesus Christ. We must be in proper alignment with Him in order to hear God's voice.
 4. The most important part of our natural body is the head. The most important part of the body of Christ is the Head – Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 1:22-23, Colossians 1:18-19)
 5. It is He the Holy Spirit who communicates the will of the Father and Son to every true believer (John 16:13).
 6. The Holy Spirit is indispensable. He is the most important person in the earth. His voice is the most important voice in the earth that every believer must know.
 7. It is He the Holy Spirit who communicates the will of the Father and Son to every true believer (John 16:13).
 8. The Holy Spirit is indispensable. He is the most important person in the earth. His voice is the most important voice in the earth that every believer must know.
- Purpose – to make us aware of the Holy Spirit's involvement in our daily lives. To help us become sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit's leading and direction for our lives.
 - Goal – to strengthen our relationship with the Holy Spirit so that our life and our witness will glorify Jesus Christ.
 - Spiritual Principles – Authority, Organization, Grace, Obedience, Faith, Agreement
 - This passage of Scripture is a powerful reminder that our True Shepherd is Jesus Christ and we are the sheep of God. (John 10:1-5, 27)

A. What must become clear to us is the relationship that the Shepherd has with the sheep and the sheep has with the Shepherd. That cannot be overlooked!

- (John 10:1-2) – “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.”
- The Middle Eastern sheepfold was very simple: a stone wall, perhaps ten feet high, surrounded it, and an opening served as the door.
- The shepherds in the village would lead their sheep into the fold at nightfall and leave the porter to stand guard. In the morning each shepherd would call his own sheep, which would recognize their shepherd’s voice and come out of the fold.
- The porter (or one of the shepherds) would sleep at the opening of the fold and actually become “the door.” Nothing could enter or leave the fold without passing over the shepherd.
- (vs. 1) – Christ makes it very clear that any shepherd who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs into the sheep pen “some other way” is a thief and a robber.

B. Jesus makes a direct distinction between a true shepherd and a false shepherd.

1. The True Shepherd comes from God. Jesus Christ was sent by God to save mankind and free them from the bondage sin. (John 3:16, 10:10, Romans 6:23)
 - Jesus says I am the True Shepherd.
 - Jesus says I am the Door.
 - Jesus says I know my sheep in the Sheep pen.
 - Jesus says my sheep know my voice and they follow me.

C. How does the True Shepherd enter the appointed gate? There are four things you should know.

1. Jesus Christ (the True Shepherd) enter man’s heart through the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. He never uses condemnation, manipulation, criticism, or cruelty to get you to follow Him. (John 14:6, 3:17, 16:7-8, Revelation 3:20)

2. Jesus Christ (the True Shepherd) knows His sheep and He knows each one of them by name. He loves them. He leads them. He cares for them. He protects them. (Isaiah 40:11, 1 Peter 1:6, Hebrews 13:20)
3. Jesus Christ (the True Shepherd) leads His sheep out to green pastures and still waters and also away from rough places or high cliffs. (Psalm 23:16)
4. Jesus Christ (the True Shepherd) makes sure the sheep is nourished properly. He leads them to green pastures so that they can grow healthy and strong. If they get lost, He will not rest until He finds the lost sheep that wandered away. (Matthew 18:10-14, Ezekiel 34:16, 1 Peter 2:25)

D. The false shepherd comes from Satan. (John 10:10, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15)

1. The false shepherd climbs into the sheep pen “some other way.”
2. The false shepherd teaches that there are many ways to travel to get to God. There are some other sources that can be used to get to God – some other road to get to God – some other door that can lead to God. (John 14:6, Matthew 7:13-14)

E. The false shepherd is a thief and a robber. (John 10:10)

1. A thief – is a seducer and a deceiver. They lack integrity and character. They are very crafty in how they present themselves as trust worthy but deep within them, they are very deceitful and dishonest.
2. A robber – is someone who will use violent measures in order to get what they want. If they have to use force, they will use it no matter what (spiritual, physical, emotional, mental) harm it causes the other person.
 - They come into the church with the intent to force their ways – their beliefs – their ideals – their philosophies – in order to benefit themselves while destroying people’s lives.
 - They can care less if you are physically and spiritually bankrupted!
 - They will use Jesus’ name and use a deadly mixture of truth and false in God’s Word – in order to rob the sheep (the people of God).

- F. The enemy (Satan) does not want you to know all the spiritual blessings that we have through our True Shepherd Jesus Christ. Here are some of those blessings every believer has (Ephesians 1:3-20).
- In (Ephesians 1:3), Apostle Paul shares with believers that we are blessed by God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every “spiritual blessing” in the heavenly places in Christ.
 - The Greek word for “blessing” is the word benefit.
 - Every “spiritual blessing” that God releases in a person life can only be found in The True Shepherd – Jesus Christ. (vs. 4-20)
1. (vs. 4) – What a blessing to know that we were chosen before the foundation of the world.
 2. (vs. 4) – What a blessing to know that in Christ we stand holy and blameless before God Almighty. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
 3. (vs. 4) – What a blessing to know that in Christ we are loved with an everlasting love; a love that is unconditional; an agape love – that God-kind of love. (Romans 5:8-9)
 4. (vs. 5) – What a blessing to know that in Christ, God predetermined our adoption into His family. (Romans 8:15-16)
 5. (vs. 6) – What a blessing to know that in Christ that we are accepted in the Beloved. The joy to know as believers that in Christ Jesus our relationship with God has been restored. (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)
 6. (vs. 7) – What a blessing to know that in Christ we have redemption through His Blood. We are no longer slaves to sin and death. (Romans 6:23, Colossians 1:14)
 7. (vs. 7-8) – What a blessing to know that in Christ, His grace continues to abound in our lives. (Romans 5:19-21)
 8. (vs. 9-10) – What a blessing to know that in Christ, God has revealed His will and what He has purposed to do through the life of His Son.
 9. (vs. 11-12) – What a blessing to know that in Christ we have obtained an eternal inheritance. (John 14:1-6, 2 Corinthians 5:1, 8-9, Revelations 21:1-6, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
 10. (vs. 13-14) – What a blessing to know that in Christ we have been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.
 11. (vs. 18) – What a blessing to know that in Christ, you will find the hope of your calling and the riches of the glory of His inheritance.

12. (vs. 19-20) – What a blessing to know that in Christ is the exceeding greatness of His power.

- **It is Satan and His deceitful army of false teachers and false prophets desire to have you confused about who the real True Shepherd is. Let me tell you again. It is Jesus Christ.**
- **It is so imperative that every believer has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and know His voice.**

G. What is the difference between cattle and sheep?

1. A cow is bigger and stronger. They are not easily frightened by noise or sound.

- **You can herd cows by getting behind them, and pushing them forward – You herd cows, not sheep.**

2. Sheep are different. They are very timid and easily shaken. They are smaller than a cow. They have no way of defending themselves. They are easily frightened.

- **The only way to move sheep forward is they must be led. You cannot herd sheep.**
- **In order for a shepherd to lead the sheep – the sheep must trust the shepherd. (Proverbs 3:5)**
- **Trust is the single most important factor in any relationship. If you don't have trust, you don't have a relationship.**

3. This is The Year of Refreshing – Jesus Christ wants to move us forward by the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit and His Word.

- **Jesus Christ never forces us to do anything and neither does the Holy Spirit.**
- **Jesus Christ is the True Shepherd. The Father and the Son lives in us through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.**

4. Jesus Christ is not a herdsman – He's our Shepherd.

- **Herdsman force the cattle in the direction that they want them to go in.**
- **Jesus Christ (the True Shepherd) calls the sheep – He knows them – and they know His voice and follow Him. (John 10:4-5, 27)**

5. Satan is a master of deception. He disguises his voice in order to sound just like the True Shepherd – Jesus Christ. He’s a counterfeiter – he copies everything that the True Shepherd – Jesus Christ does.
- The danger of following the voice of Satan will surely lead to confusion, defeat, death and destruction.
 - The benefit of following Jesus Christ’s voice will surely lead to joy, peace, victory, and life everlasting in the presence of God.

H. What is the number one way God speaks to us as believers?

1. Through His Word. The highest authority for every believer is the Word of God. The Spiritual Principle of Authority is God’s plan to protect my life.
2. The greatest way to expose false teachers and false prophets who teach lies and not the truth of God’s Word – is knowing the truth of God’s Word and the voice of the one who matters the most – that is voice of the Holy Spirit. (John 16:13)
 - How do we distinguish the truth from the false – the real from the fake?
3. The more we spend time in the presence of God, communing and fellowship with Him, and studying His Word daily – helps us to know and grow in our relationship with the Lord and to know His voice – the voice of the Holy Spirit.