

## “Listening to God”

August 17, 2025

John 10:1-18

### Introduction:

In what ways has God spoken to you in the past? recently?

Are there any new ways of hearing from God that you are discovering?

### The Stages of Prayer:

1. Talking to God
2. Talking with God
3. **Listening to God**
4. Being with God

- We never mature beyond any stage, we will always need to “talk to God” and “talk with God” and “listen to God” - it’s the essence of relationship.

### Listening to God:

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. **2**But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. **3**To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4**When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. **5**A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” **6**This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them”.

**John 10:1-6**

- **The sheep respond to the voice of the shepherd.** There is an intimate connection between the shepherd and the sheep.
  - V3 - “He calls them by name”, “He leads them out”
  - V4 - “The sheep follow Him, for they know his voice”
  - V5 - “They do not know the voice of strangers”
- The intimate connection between shepherd and sheep is grown over time, through shared experiences and time together. Trust is built through experiences.

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### **Intimacy and Abundance:**

So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. **8**All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. **9**I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. **10**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. **11**I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **12**He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. **13**He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. **14**I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, **15**just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. **16**And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. **17**For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. **18**No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.

This charge I have received from my Father.”

**John 10:7-18**

- There seems to be a connection between knowing the Good Shepherd and the abundant life we are searching for.
- Knowing the Good Shepherd is connected to recognizing His voice!
- We recognize His voice by learning to listen and hear His voice over times.

### **God Speaks through:**

1. Jesus - The incarnate God, His exact image (Hebrews 1:1-3)
2. Scripture - “God breathed” (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
3. Creation - His mercies are new every morning! (Lam. 3:22-23, Psalm 19)
4. Community - Prophecy builds up the church (1 Cor. 14:3)
5. Culture - Arts and music
6. Prayer - Listening prayer, alongside study of the scriptures.

- This parable connects intimacy with God, which is a desire we could describe as being completely known and completely loved, with learning to hear and obey the voice of the Good Shepherd.
- Do you believe God still speaks today? If so, in what ways does he tend to speak to you in your current season of life?
- As you take time to be quiet, how do you sense the Spirit calling you to respond?

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