



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF THE WORD

Hearing the Voice of God

☞ Who is God? ☞

1. Introduction

- A. People survive by hearing the voice of God.
- B. Prayer is our voice to God.
- C. To hear God's voice, pull back and see the big picture of the One from whom the voice is coming.
- D. This must come by revelation that explodes in our hearts. God is the **only** God.
 - 1. God by Himself forever, through eternities past, God now, and God for eternities to be
 - 2. Since the beginning of time, every other thing that has been considered a god is a false, fake, lying, pretending god.

*"Do not fear, nor be afraid; have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. **Is there a God besides Me?** Indeed there is no other Rock; **I know not one.**"*

- Isaiah 44:8

- 3. There is no god above Him or beside Him. Before there was anything else, He was God alone.
- E. God was, is, and always will be Perfect Love. It is simply who He is.
- F. God had a desire not only to love, but to be loved.
 - 1. **To** love there needs to be an object **to** love.
 - 2. To **be** loved there needs to be an object **of** love.
- G. **This** God dreams a dream, and then He begins to create the dream.

1. First God created time. Then, He placed angels, beings, planets, stars, and galaxies in that span of time.
2. God created a breathtaking universe beyond the comprehension of our wildest dream or imagination.

H. How big is God?

1. The universe is expanding at the speed of light.
2. Pull away from our galaxy a little bit and the best picture we can get of earth is a dot that quickly vanishes from view.
3. People are little dots on a dot, hanging out and spinning around on nothing but God's Word.
4. The Word of God is the string that holds everything together.

*"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, **what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?**"*

- Psalm 8:3-4

5. Jason Upton, "You're the God and I'm the Man"¹

I. **That** God wants an intimate relationship with us.

God wants to talk to me! God wants to talk to you!

1. We should meditate on God's desire to talk to us and let the wonder of it take our breath away.
2. Amanda Falks, "May we never lose our wonder"²
3. The amazing, eternal, One God, Creator of it all, the only One who ever was, and is, and will be, is the God who wants to talk to me.

¹ Upton, Jason. *Gideon*. 2004. US: Gotee Records-FOD 2983, 2004. CD Album *Faith*.

² Falks, Amanda. *Wonder (Spontaneous)*. 2014. US: Bethel Music. 2014. Live Album *You Make Me Brave*

J. The only response to God wanting to talk to me should be, *“If you want to talk to me, I want to hear what You have to say.”*

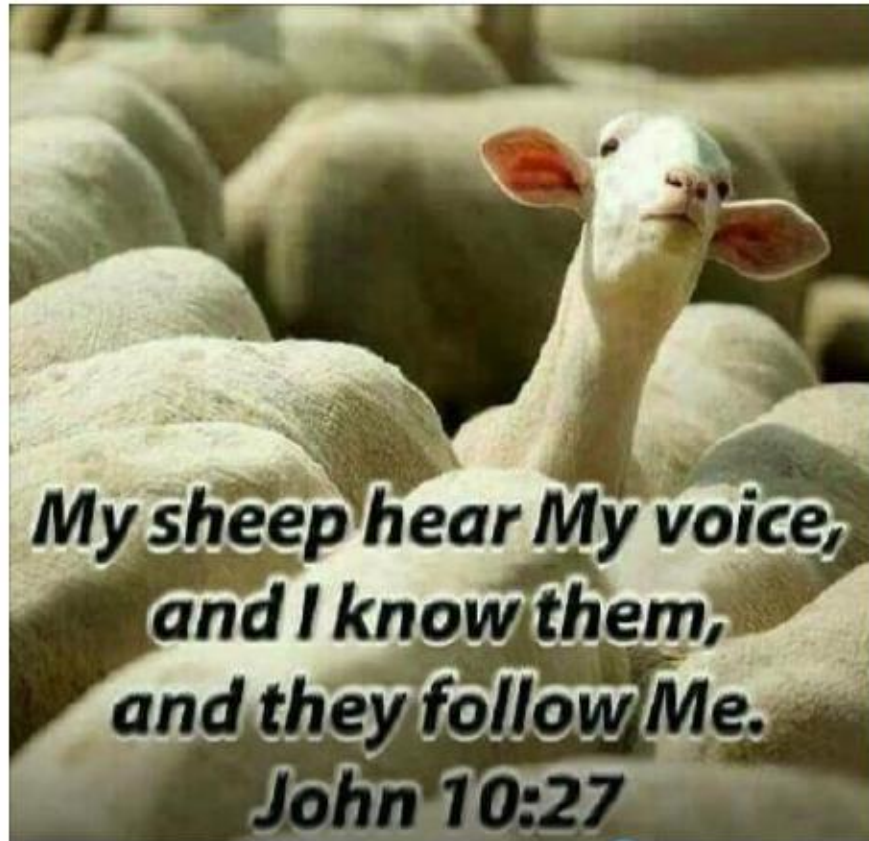
2. What Does God’s Voice Sound Like?

- A. In a sermon, Billy Graham explained God communicating to us like us trying to communicate with ants.³
1. Imagine trying to talk to the little ants in the ant hill that you created and loved.
 2. The voice saying, “I love you,” probably sounds like a thundering roar while they go about their busy little lives.
 3. Billy Graham went on to say that God became an ant so He could tell us how much He loves us.
 4. The difference is far greater than this illustration. The truth is that nothing can be compared to who He is or that kind of Love.
- B. What God’s voice sounds like will be discussed for eternity as we continue discover who He is, what He says, and what it means.

Not only does God love to talk, He speaks loud, clear, and often.

- C. Some believe that God does not speak at all today. Some believe His speech ended with the Bible.
1. When talkative Anne of Green Gables was shushed, she replied, *“But Marilla, don’t you ever imagine anything?”*
 - a. To which Marilla replied, *“No I don’t.”*
 - b. Anne continued, *“Oh Marilla, how much you miss.”*
 2. Some people think it is strange when someone states that God spoke to them, but if you claim to be a Christian, it is weird if God is **not** speaking to you!

³ Accessed 23 February 2021 <https://memorial.billygraham.org/the-message/>



“The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep **recognize his voice** and come to him. **He calls his own sheep by name** and leads them out. After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because **they know his voice**. They **won't follow a stranger**; they will run from him **because they don't know his voice**.”

- John 10:3-5 (NLT)

3. It is a problem when someone does not to know God's voice.

“But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, ‘Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. **I have called you by name; you are mine.**’”

- Isaiah 43:1 (NLT)

4. You do not acknowledge the voice of the stranger - you flee from the stranger. You know the voice of your loved one.
 5. It does not matter whether or not the sheep around me are interested in hearing God's voice.
- A. When I am God's, I hear and recognize His voice. It is distinguished above all other voices.
1. When a mother calls her child by name, even in a multitude of people that child will know his/her mother's voice.
 2. A child will know both the sound and tone of a mother's voice.
 3. When two people have been close and have been together often, a voice can mean intimacy.
 - a. But if a baby is given up as an infant, that child would not know his/her biological mother's voice.
 4. A mother's voice can mean comfort when a child is hurting.
 5. A child knows he/she is in trouble when a mother's tone of voice changes and that child is called by first and middle name.
 6. When a child trusts his/her mother's voice, that voice can provide rescue: “Come to me now!”

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

- John 10:27 (NLT)

- B. God has claimed you as His own and He wants to be in an intimate relationship with you.

*I Come to the Garden Alone*⁴

VERSE ONE

*I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses,
And the voice I hear falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses*

CHORUS

*And He walks with me and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am his own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known*

VERSE TWO

*He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet
The birds hush their singing,
And the melody that He give to me
Within my heart is to ringing.*

VERSE THREE

*I stay in the garden with Him,
Though the night around me is falling.
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling.*

⁴ Public Domain. *I Come to the Garden*. Author: C. Austin Miles (1913).