




THE SUNDAY MESSAGE

THE VOICE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT


sunday 2 may

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.


*When someone says 'you need to hear God's direction' what flashes into your mind?
Is it something like 'that will be hard'?*

 Look at [Romans 8:14](#) and [1 Corinthians 2:12](#) – these show us that the Holy Spirit will lead us. We heard that the Holy Spirit speaks to us today. The challenge for us can be recognising His voice and then acting upon it.


Why do I or other people think it will be hard to hear His voice?

 Read [Exodus 20:19](#) and [Exodus 33:11](#)
Is one possible answer that people are not willing to build the relationship with God to personally hear Him? They really just want an instant answer through someone else who has built a relationship, like the pastor on Sunday or the author of a devotional like The Word for Today or a person with a prophetic gift? God wants to build the relationship and the starting point for us is to declare each day that **'I will clearly hear the Holy Spirit instructing and guiding me'** until we consistently hear His voice.

Think about how you recognise another person so you know them by the sound of their voice, the way they write, the way they arrange something, the way they stand, the fragrance around them, the look in the eye

 Read [Psalm 119:105](#) and [John 14:26](#)
It is often said that there are three parts or witnesses to hearing God's leading: it is consistent with the Word of God; we have the Holy Spirit's personal witness and circumstances line up with the direction.

Can you think of times where you have correctly heard the voice of the Holy Spirit and had these three witnesses?

 Read [John 10:27](#) and [Hebrews 5:14](#)
We were taught that we learn by Association (spending time with the Holy Spirit); Revelation (often called the *rhema* word of God to us); Confirmation (when the Lord gives us something additional) and Cultivation (building our relationship with the Lord).

NEXT STEPS

Here are more specific things you can do this week to grow closer to the Holy Spirit and hear His voice more clearly.

*Attend the **special evening services** during this series. Thursday nights for City & East campuses and Sunday evenings for South campus. When we make a sacrifice of time and convenience to seek the Holy Spirit we will find He responds. **We often find that the blessing builds as we attend each service and make a sacrifice of convenience.***

Continue to declare the Holy Spirit wants you to hear Him and review what's happening in your life, during the day, to identify when you have heard Him. If you hear Him clearly now Ask Him to show you how to hear even more clearly.

Write down any areas where you are wishing to hear the Holy Spirit give you direction. Look at it at the end of the week to see what you have heard. Faith is attractive to the Holy Spirit – don't worry about your feelings at this stage because feelings follow faith. Sometimes part of hearing is waiting for the perfect time for the Lord to speak to us. If this is the situation check again at the end of the series.

Use these prayer tips to guide your time with God this week to expand your conversations with Him.

Read [John 16:13-15](#). If the Holy Spirit will speak and tell us what He hears from the Father and guide us into truth then it means we must be able to hear Him. Praise the Holy Spirit for the work He does in us to bring glory to Jesus. Ask Him to increase your ability to hear what He is saying during all parts of your day and not just in church or during a quiet time.

Read [John 14:26-27](#). Declare that this promise is for you as well as the disciples listening at that time Jesus spoke these words. Thank God that you will hear Him when He speaks and that He is guiding you into peace and victory.

Read [Acts 16:6-9](#). Believe that the clarity Paul had in hearing God's voice and then acting upon it can happen to you as well. It's not just for the spiritual giants like Paul. Thank God that He will speak just as clearly to you as He did to Paul and ask Him for the faith, courage and conviction to act on the word just like Paul.

Read [Acts 9:10-19](#). Pray that you too will hear the Lord's voice and be able to lead people to Jesus. Ask Him to train you to reach the level of hearing and obeying that Ananias displayed.