



MESSAGE NOTES

Hearing God's Voice

John 16: 7-15, 1 Kings 19: 3-13

Who is the Holy Spirit?

God as a loving heavenly Father loves to speak to us, He loves to guide us, lead us, teach us, comfort us and encourage us. It's the Holy Spirit who speaks to us on God's behalf so hearing the voice of God is actually hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

How can we have more of the Spirit?

There are three steps to receiving more of the Holy Spirit. The first is simply to ask for Him.

Luke 11:13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

Having received the Holy Spirit the Bible then says we have two responsibilities if we want to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Firstly we are told not to quench the Spirit, and secondly we are told to walk in the Spirit. We quench the Spirit when we choose to follow the desires of our own sinful flesh and we walk in the Spirit when we choose to follow His leading instead.

Galatian 5:17a For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh.

How does the Holy Spirit speak to us?

The Holy Spirit speaks to us in four main ways: through circumstances, leaders and teachers, the Holy Bible and through ideas and impressions upon our hearts.

Circumstances : As Christians there are things that happen in our circumstances that are more than just chance or coincidence. God is in complete of control of every aspect of our lives and He is able to work it all together to communicate His will for us.

Christian leaders and teachers : God has appointed and ordained the system of Christian leaders and teachers within the church body in order to equip us and build us up in the faith.

The Bible : This is by far the primary and most important way in which the Spirit of God speaks to us and is the filter by which we confirm, test and approve the voice of God in any other form.

Ideas and impressions upon our hearts: This is what many Christians refer to as the still small voice that you can read about in 1 **Kings 19**. God will never force you to do anything because he loves you too much. He gently nudges and points us in the right direction through these four methods but it's ultimately up to us to choose to follow Him.