



The Holy Spirit Has a Voice

- The Holy Spirit's Role in the Life of the Believer

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. (John 10:27 NLT-SE)

- **Regeneration...**When the Holy Spirit enters the life of a repentant believer, He literally breathes new life into the dead! Just as the prophet Ezekiel watched dry skeletons stand up, grow new flesh, and breathe again, people who are dead in sin are resurrected to a new life when they believe in Jesus Christ for the first time. (John 3:5, Ezekiel 3:7)
- **Power...**Jesus told His early followers that when they were baptized in the Holy Spirit, they would be *“clothed with power from on high”* (Luke 24:49). Hundreds of years before the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the early church on the Day of Pentecost, the Old Testament prophet Ezekiel got a preview of how God would send the Holy Spirit to empower His people. The preview came in the form of a vision that included a stormy wind; a cloud that glowed with fire; flashes of lightning; and strange, four-faced cherubim empowered by God’s divine energy. What God was sharing with Ezekiel was the miracle of Pentecost, when God would clothe His people with power from on high. (Luke 24:35-49)
- **Guidance...**The Spirit has access to all the wisdom and knowledge of God. When we abide in Him (talk with Him), He leads us continually into truth—causing us to grow and mature spiritually. He is our teacher, and those who depend on Him will know where to go and what to do because they are following His heavenly directions. Romans 8:14 tells us: *“All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God...”* If you are a child of God, you have access to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. If you want the Holy Spirit’s guidance, you must learn to discern His voice and His subtle nudgings. (1 John 2:27, Romans 8:14)
- **Unity...**The Book of Acts tells us that after the first disciples were baptized in the Holy Spirit, they were *“devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.”* The Greek word used for fellowship, *koinonia*, appears here for the first time in the Bible and then is used 18 times throughout the New Testament. *Koinonia*, which also can be translated as “partnership,” is a supernatural grace that causes Christians to love one another deeply. It was not possible before Pentecost because it is a manifestation of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Just as the Spirit’s *dunamis* power enables us to heal the sick or work miracles, His *koinonia* knits our hearts and binds us together. (Acts 2:42)
- **Intercession...**This is one of the greatest miracles of grace. The apostle Paul told us that the Holy Spirit who lives inside us *“intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.”* No matter what kind of dark difficulty we face, the Spirit travails for us until we emerge safely through the test. And what is so comforting is that when we feel frustrated in prayer or don’t know what to say, the Spirit is praying at a deeper level inside us—and He knows what to pray! (Psalm 30:2, Romans 8:26)

- **Comfort...**Before Jesus went to the cross, He spent a lot of time with His disciples and opened His heart to share many things with them. During His last crucial hours with His closest followers—whom He called “friends”—He talked a lot about the Holy Spirit. He wanted His disciples to know they would not be alone even though He was leaving them. Jesus told them in John 14:16–18: *“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you..”* When the Spirit came to dwell in you, He brought the eternal life of God. He gives you the very breath of heaven. He infuses you with God’s presence. And more than that, He sets up eternal residence in you so you will never feel alone. Christians can literally sense the presence of the Holy Spirit in themselves, and as we grow in our faith we learn to hear His comforting voice. (John 14:16-18, John 20:22)
- **Refine...**When the Spirit came upon the 120 disciples in the Upper Room on the Day of Pentecost, He was manifested in primarily two ways: (1) the sound of a rushing wind and (2) flames of fire that miraculously appeared on each person’s head. We do not know the exact nature of this fire; but undoubtedly this fire also represents the holiness of God. Are you willing to allow God to purify you, even in hidden areas? Sometimes we hide our secret sins in private compartments. We know how to mask our ugliest attitudes. But when the Spirit comes in power, He comes to scour us of our grit and grime. (Matthew 3:13-17)

- What Does the Holy Spirit’s Voice Sound Like?

- ¹ “Stand up, son of man,” said the voice. “I want to speak with you.” ² The Spirit came into me as he spoke, and he set me on my feet. I listened carefully to his words. ³ “Son of man,” he said, “I am sending you to the nation of Israel, a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me. They and their ancestors have been rebelling against me to this very day. ⁴ They are a stubborn and hard-hearted people. But I am sending you to say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says!’ ⁵ And whether they listen or refuse to listen—for remember, they are rebels—at least they will know they have had a prophet among them. (Ezek 2:1–5 NLT-SE)
- When you are arrested and stand trial, don’t worry in advance about what to say. Just say what God tells you at that time, for it is not you who will be speaking, but the Holy Spirit. (Mark 13:11 NLT-SE)
- ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. ¹⁴ He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, ‘The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.’ (John 16:13–15 NLT-SE)
- The Holy Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and walk along beside the carriage.” (Acts 8:29 NLT-SE)
- Meanwhile, as Peter was puzzling over the vision, the Holy Spirit said to him, “Three men have come looking for you. (Acts 10:19 NLT-SE)
- The Holy Spirit told me to go with them and not to worry that they were Gentiles. These six brothers here accompanied me, and we soon entered the home of the man who had sent for us. (Acts 11:12 NLT-SE)
- One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.” (Acts 13:2 NLT-SE)
- ²⁸ “For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay no greater burden on you than these few requirements: ²⁹ You must abstain from eating food offered to idols, from consuming blood or the meat of strangled animals, and from sexual immorality. If you do this, you will do well. (Acts 15:28–29 NLT-SE)

- ¹⁰ Several days later a man named Agabus, who also had the gift of prophecy, arrived from Judea. ¹¹ He came over, took Paul's belt, and bound his own feet and hands with it. Then he said, "The Holy Spirit declares, 'So shall the owner of this belt be bound by the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem and turned over to the Gentiles.'" ¹² When we heard this, we and the local believers all begged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. (Acts 21:10–12 NLT-SE)
- ²⁵ after they had argued back and forth among themselves, they left with this final word from Paul: "The Holy Spirit was right when he said to your ancestors through Isaiah the prophet, ²⁶ 'Go and say to this people: When you hear what I say, you will not understand. When you see what I do, you will not comprehend. ²⁷ For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes— so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.'" (Acts 28:25–27 NLT-SE)
- ⁷ That is why the Holy Spirit says, "Today when you hear his voice, ⁸ don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled, when they tested me in the wilderness. ⁹ There your ancestors tested and tried my patience, even though they saw my miracles for forty years. ¹⁰ So I was angry with them, and I said, 'Their hearts always turn away from me. They refuse to do what I tell them.'" ¹¹ So in my anger I took an oath: 'They will never enter my place of rest.'" (Heb 3:7–11 NLT-SE)

- The Voice of the Holy Spirit in the Book of Revelation

- To ALL seven churches in Revelation 2 & 3...“Anyone with ears to hear must **listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.**” (Rev 2:7 NLT-SE)
- At the end of time...“**The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.”**” (Rev 22:17 NLT-SE)

- Whatever We Hear Falls into One of Three Categories:

- **Spirit...**Agrees with the Word of God and Nature of God. The pure voice of the Holy Spirit.
- **Satanic...**Contradicts the truth of the Word of God.
- **Secular...**Contradicts the nature of God. The things that seem good, but are distracting. It's like the “Sin Lawyer”... always looking for loopholes. Our voice is included here.

- So, How do you Know which Source the Voice is Coming From?

How you know God will determine how you hear God. ~ Graham Cooke

Don't trust every spirit, but **carefully examine what they say** to determine if they are of God, because many false prophets have mingled into the world. (1 John 4:1 PASSION)

- **Silence and Stillness...**Silence gets rid of outer distractions (Psalm 62:1). Quieting the outer man. Stillness is the quieting of the inner man (Psalm 46:10). Quieting of the soul. Dealing with the things that distract you in prayer (Sources of anger, fear, discouragement, entertainment, etc.) You know, the inner chaos we all contend with.
- **Obedience...**Sin can cause you to go deaf spiritually. Dealing with our sin (forgiveness) frees us to hear the Holy Spirit's voice with clarity. If we ask the Spirit what we should do, and then refuse to follow his lead or ignore his direction, it will soon become much more difficult to hear his voice. Besides, he's not going to give you step 2, if you have refused to follow step 1!



Graham Cooke

- **Reading the Word of God...**Hiding his Word in your heart doesn't just keep you from disobedience, it can also dramatically increase the clarity with which you hear his voice. You get familiar with his voice by consistently "hearing" it being spoken through the scriptures.
- **Changing the way you think about the Holy Spirit's voice in your life**
 - ¹ So, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God **transform you into a new person by changing the way you think**. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. (Rom 12:1–2 NLT-SE)
 - **Remember the "Big Picture"...**
 - The Father wants to **love** (1 John 4)
 - Jesus wants to **set free** and **restore** (Isaiah 61)
 - The enemy wants to **distract** (Isaiah 26:3, Phil 4:6-7)
 - The Holy Spirit wants to **speak** (John 16:3-5)
 - Seekers want to **hear** (Dan 4, 2 Pet 2:15)
 - Believers want to **listen, learn, stretch, respond, and grow!** (2 Thes 1:3, Her 12:14)