

ONE



**CHANGES
EVERYTHING**

NORMA DONOVAN

ONE WORD CHANGES EVERYTHING

Hearing God's voice is the place where real life intersects with a real God.

Sitting still and listening to the Spirit's whispers feeds my soul more than any other spiritual discipline. My intimacy with God grew in correlation to the time I spent alone with Him, talking less, and listening more. My quiet times became more about being with God because I delighted in Him, rather than it being a duty, checking off one more thing from my to-do list. To me, the best part of waking up is hearing God speak to me.

I've discovered through years of listening to God's voice that one word from God changes everything. One word can birth life, alter direction, and encourage our hearts, much like it did for the Apostle Paul in Acts chapter 18. Paul experienced opposition in Corinth while preaching and testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. If I were Paul, I would have felt so discouraged, I probably would have left and gone somewhere else to minister. But Acts 18:9-10 explains what happened. "One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: 'Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.'" That one word from God changed everything. Instead of leaving, Paul stayed a year and a half longer, teaching them the word of God.

Christian author Derek Prince in his book *Hear God's Voice*, writes: "Nothing is more important to our spiritual life than learning to hear God's voice." This is because when we listen to God's voice, we get to know who God is and experience being known by Him.

In *The Anatomy of the Soul*, Christian psychiatrist Dr. Curt Thompson writes, ... "Knowledge alone does not satisfy. What does satisfy is being known." He goes on to write, "You cannot know God if you do not experience being known by him. The degree to which you know God is directly reflected in your experience of being known by him." To be known involves having others, in this case, God, validate and accept us for who we are rather than

LISTENING TO
GOD'S VOICE
HELPS US FEEL
'FULLY KNOWN.'

what we do or what we know. We read in 1 Corinthians 13:12b, "Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known." Listening to God's voice helps us feel 'fully known.' When God speaks, it's obvious that He knows me, loves me, and accepts me.

In 2022, I heard God say to me, *You and I like to do things differently. Even though I know the 'pull' to belong, to blend in with everyone else, to not stand out and be different is operating within you, go your own way, My daughter. Stay true to yourself. Look and be different. People may scratch their heads and wonder who you are. Be okay with that. I know it's a lonely and uncomfortable way to be when you're in the midst of it, but oh, the payoff is great. The excitement of the unknown adventure and growing closer to Me are things you were made for. Trust Me and trust yourself that you're hearing correctly and watch what I will do and how in the long run, others will benefit from your obedience.*

Being known is the first reason why nothing is more important to our spiritual life than learning to hear God's voice. Secondly, the process of listening to God's voice solidifies our healthy attachment to God, providing our souls with greater security and wholeness. Even when things may not be going as I wish, I am able to say "It is well with my soul" because of what has been developed within me through years of hearing God's voice. We become emotionally connected to God when we experience God being attuned, perceptive, and responsible for our needs. I discover as Hagar did in the Old Testament, that God sees me, knows me, and cares about me through what I hear Him speak to me. And as I sit still listening to God's voice, His presence is comforting and gives me confidence.

It makes sense that creating space for stillness to hear God speak deepens our intimacy with Him because it's through communication that all relationships and their trust levels grow. The closest relationships are built on two-way communication where there is both talking and listening involved.

My desire is to have an intimate relationship with God; therefore, I resolve to do whatever it takes to make that happen. Listening to God's voice has become an attitude of my heart, what life revolves around. I no longer need or want to hear God's voice; I have to hear His voice as it's become my nourishment. Listening to God's voice helps me thrive and live the abundant life Jesus promised.

If you want to trust God more, have greater faith resulting in obedience, and grow in your closeness to God, then listening to God's voice is the way to attain each of these. I guarantee if you make it a habit to set aside time to hear

God speak, you will fall more madly in love with Jesus.

Sprinkled throughout this booklet are hearts turned on their side with a question next to them. I encourage you, when you see one of those, to take the time to pause and ponder your answer. Reflect upon what you read and apply it to your life. Information alone doesn't transform us. It's the application of information that brings transformation.

You will also notice words in italics, which are personal words spoken to me by God. I hope they will flesh out the principles that are taught in this booklet and give you encouragement.

I wrote *One Word Changes Everything* because this practice is fundamental to transforming your relationship with God. Get yourself a cup of coffee or tea and sit down across the table from me. Let me share with you what I've learned about how to hear God's voice.

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

John 10:27

Listening to God's voice has been a learning process for me. The first time I tried it was in 1999 when the speaker at a women's retreat directed us to sit still before the Lord to hear His voice. I went outside, sat on a boulder, and watched an ant walk by. I heard nothing, except the distractions in my mind, bouncing back and forth like a ping-pong ball.

Since then, I have had to learn how to sit still and quiet my mind to hear God's voice. And I have come to understand why Mother Theresa said, "Listen in silence because if your heart is full of other things you cannot hear the voice of God." Like anything else, the more I practice this silent listening, the easier it gets. The more time I spend with God, the better I know Him; and the better I know Him, the clearer His voice is and the more frequently He speaks. By now, my inner ear of the spirit has tuned in to the same frequency as His voice; I have heard it while making my husband's lunch, putting on my makeup, cleaning the house, and dancing in Zumba class.

In general, God speaks when He knows we're willing to listen and obey. The more our ears are trained to hear His voice, the more often we'll hear it, even when we're not expecting it.

△ **How have you struggled with hearing God's voice?**

WHY GOD SPEAKS

*We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard,
so that you may also have fellowship with us.
And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ.*

1 John 1:3

The primary reason God speaks is to **build an intimate relationship with us**; He wants us to get to know Him and He wants us to realize how well we are known by Him. Someone once described the word “intimacy” as “into me you see.” Intimacy involves being known and knowing someone. I may know about the President of the United States, but I intimately know my husband and the desires of his heart.

God is not religious; He’s relational. He’s all about relationships. And all relationships are built and deepened by communication. For example, my husband and I have been married for over forty years. What would our relationship be like if we rarely talked with each other and never shared our hearts? Or what if we had a one-way relationship, where I was the only one doing the talking? One-way communication is not conducive to a healthy relationship; rather, intimate two-way relationships need two-way communication, with both parties talking and listening. Our relationship with God is no different: listening to God is as important as talking to Him through prayer.

Hearing and obeying God’s voice has caused my relationship with Him to grow more than any other spiritual discipline. In fact, my intimacy with God increased by leaps and bounds when I became intentional in sitting still to listen to His voice and journal what I heard Him say. This practice has been life-changing! One of the worst things God could ever do is to stop speaking to me.

Listening to God can build intimacy in our relationship in three primary ways:

1. We discover how well He knows and loves us. And when we do, our attachment to God deepens, causing our loneliness to disappear. Dr. Curt Thompson, in *Anatomy of the Soul*, says God wants us to have this discovery: “While he desires for us to have the experience of being known by him, just as important is his desire to experience being known by us.”

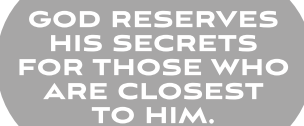
2. We discover more about who He is. We hear His heart; we connect with how He feels and what He thinks, and we discover what He loves and what displeases Him. I agree with Shawn Bolz, when he says in his book *Translating God*, He reveals His secrets to humanity because He treats us all as friends. God is speaking to everyone who wants to listen, but He only has ongoing, long-term conversations with His friends. As His sons and daughters, He is more interested in communicating so that we do things *with* Him rather than *for* Him.

In 2021, God encouraged me with these words: *Listen up, My daughter. I want to speak to you constantly so that our relationship is one of intimacy. Back and forth in conversation with one another is what I desire, throughout the day. Let Me draw you closer to Myself through My voice. I want you to get to know Me better through the words I speak to your heart.*

In the same way that we typically share the recesses of our hearts only with friends, so, too, does God reserve His secrets for those who are closest to Him. We see evidence of this in Psalm 25:14 (TPT), which says, “There’s a private place reserved for the lovers of God, where they sit near him and receive the revelation-secrets of his promises.”

We also see this in Genesis 22, when, as a result of Abraham hearing and obeying God’s voice over and over again, God reveals Himself to Abraham in a new way: as *Jehovah Jireh*, which means “the Lord will provide.” In the same way, each time we listen to and obey God’s voice, we gain an understanding of another facet of God’s nature, and our relationship with Him deepens. I love to listen to God speak, because it’s a way I get to know my heavenly Daddy, and as a result, my trust in Him grows. In turn, the more I trust Him, the more intimate we become.

3. We discover God’s desire to connect with us. When we hear God’s voice, we experience firsthand His demonstration of the three characteristics of attachment: presence or proximity, attentiveness, and responsiveness. These characteristics anchor our security in God and deepen our relationship with Him. One day, in a Zumba class, I heard the Lord say, “*Don’t look at hearing my voice as if it’s one more thing a taskmaster is requiring you to do. Look at it from the*



GOD RESERVES
HIS SECRETS
FOR THOSE WHO
ARE CLOSEST
TO HIM.

viewpoint of a husband or a lover who simply loves you and longs to be with you, to share His heart with you.” Hearing God say this in the middle of a dance class when I least expected it, displayed to me His availability and desire to connect with me.

Besides speaking to build intimacy, God speaks **to give us direction and answer our questions.** “Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it.’”¹ Figuring out God’s will for our lives may seem mysterious, but it’s an opportunity to have God explain what He desires for each of us.

My husband and I lived in Tucson, Arizona for sixteen years, during which time we went to college and graduate school. John’s final year of training moved us to Chicago. I dealt with our move okay because I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that we would return to a job in Tucson. Our fifth month in Chicago brought us to a crossroads, however, as a job opportunity opened in Omaha, Nebraska. I wrestled with God, and my husband and I began to ask God what He wanted us to do. Then, while John was interviewing in Omaha and I was in Chicago taking care of our kids, God gave the same Scripture verse to both of us: “The Lord had said to Abram, ‘Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.’”² One translation reads, “Go to the land you know not of.” Omaha was a place we knew nothing about! God had answered our prayer for direction by giving us this verse.

Years ago, I asked the Lord how to find my writing ‘voice.’ He said to act as if I was writing a letter to a close friend, pouring out my heart and being transparent. God encourages us to “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”³ Don’t hesitate to ask God questions. He longs to give you answers.

△ Sit still before the Lord to seek His answers to your questions and to get His direction for your life.

Thirdly, God speaks **to warn us for our protection.** He does this in many ways, but for Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, God spoke through angels in Joseph’s dreams. The first time this happened, in Matthew 1:20-21, an angel directed Joseph to espouse Mary and receive confirmation of her pregnancy by the Holy Spirit. Later, the angel appeared again to Joseph in a dream, instructing him to escape to Egypt and warning him that Herod was trying to kill his son, Jesus.⁴ A few verses later, we see Joseph receiving word to go to the land of Israel.⁵

Sometimes God doesn’t warn us through specific words, but He gives us

a ‘check in our spirit,’ an uneasy feeling to warn us. Pay attention to your gut feeling because it may very well be God’s warning or direction to you.

Lastly, God speaks **to birth new life and possibilities within us.** God’s voice restores, heals, comforts, and shows us our identity and destiny, our purpose in life. Author and prophetess Lana Vawser writes, “When the Lord speaks, his voice creates and establishes. His words shift our reality and bring us into His reality.”

God wants to encourage us with the words He speaks to us. A month before we moved to Wichita, while grieving the loss of our family and friends in Omaha, the Lord gave me a prophetic word through one of the students in the hearing God’s voice class at which I was speaking. He shared that God had spoken to him, “She’ll love what I have for her there.” It was so kind of the Lord to give me a promise in which I could anchor my faith. I declared this word out loud for weeks. Hope began to rise within me, filling me with anticipation of what God might have in store for me in Wichita. Indeed, that prophetic word came to pass.

God speaks to us and gives us new names as Romans 4:17 writes, “To call things out that are not.” God has done this throughout the Bible. He changed Abram (exalted father) to Abraham (father of many). Jacob became Israel and Saul’s name was changed to Paul. God called Gideon a ‘mighty warrior’ while he was fearful and hiding from the Midianites. God also gives us new names to show us whom we will become, or who we really are but we just don’t know it yet! Names speak identity and destiny to us.

The first name God gave me was out of the blue while driving in Phoenix in 1988. I heard God call me Mary. It didn’t make sense because at that time I was ninety-eight percent like Martha in the Luke 10 passage about the two sisters, Mary, and Martha. My focus was on being productive and task-oriented, doing things for the kingdom and not being like Mary who sat still at the feet of Jesus, hanging onto every word He shared. But sure enough, God knew all along who I really was, whom He created me to be and eventually He transformed me into a Mary.

A few months before Nine Eleven, I was in Syria on a prayer initiative with World Vision. Toward the end of the trip, while touring an old citadel, the Muslim tour guide stopped, pointed to me, and said, *Queen*. I looked at him baffled and asked if that was what Norma meant in Arabic. He shook his head no. As we walked out of that room, I heard the Holy Spirit whisper to me, *That’s who you are. That’s how I see you.* For someone who has lived under shame, I did not feel like royalty. God gradually transformed my mindset and now I’m able to walk in the authority of a queen.

HOW GOD SPEAKS

The new names God has spoken over me revealed my identity and called out who I am. His words also speak destiny into our lives, giving clarification of what He created us for. In the year 2000, the Lord said I was to *mentor the masses*. That one word changed everything in my life. Since then, my focus has been on mentoring the masses through writing and speaking.

Wonderful blessings result from hearing God's voice, which come as we spend time in His presence. Another example when one word changed everything happened the morning I was to speak at a women's conference. I heard the Lord say within my spirit, *The women don't care about you being polished. They care about you being real, transparent, and vulnerable*. What a relief that was for me to hear. It was a game-changer! That word instantly gave me peace and released me from the burden of performance. Another instance where I experienced a word from God that changed everything, happened the night before my first podcast interview. Out of the blue, while making dinner, I heard in my thoughts, *Sit back and watch me drive*. I knew immediately that the Holy Spirit wanted to replace my fear of being interviewed with trusting Him that He would take care of it all. There was no need to be anxious or worried because if I gave Him control, He would take responsibility and handle the interview.

Keep in mind, however, that no one likes to be desired only for what they give. My closest friends, for example, are those who enjoy being with me—not those who want something from me. I believe God is the same way. As you seek to hear God's voice, then, I encourage you to be aware of your motivation for doing so. In your time of listening, seek to know and be with God, not just for the purpose to get something from Him. Seek the Giver more than His gifts.

△ **When have you heard God's voice?**
What were some of the reasons He spoke to you?

*And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions.*
Joel 2:28

God speaks to each of us in various ways. In fact, for this reason, I have come to understand that people often hear God's voice more than they realize. The misconception is that God's voice must be like a man's deep, booming voice when often, it isn't. Rather, God's voice often sounds like our own, which is why many discount it, believing it is their thoughts instead of discerning it as God speaking to them.

I have never heard God's voice audibly, although I know some people have. A few times, His words were so emphatic, however, that I thought they were spoken out loud, such as when He said, "Mentor the masses" and when He told me that He had created me for greatness. Most often, though, I hear His voice in my head, and it usually sounds like mine. It is a gentle whisper or a **still, small voice**, like the one He used with the prophet Elijah in 1 Kings 19:12.

It's as if I'm wearing an earpiece, through which He whispers His thoughts to me. He'll give me one word or phrase, and as I write it down in my journal, He'll continue to speak more. Sentence upon sentence and paragraph upon paragraph, I record what God says, like a secretary taking shorthand from my Boss.

When God speaks, He often does so in a whisper. This encourages us to draw near to Him, much in the same way when someone is whispering across



GOD'S VOICE
OFTEN SOUNDS
LIKE OUR OWN.

the room. If we want to hear and understand what they're saying, we need to move closer.

At times, **I see a ticker tape** of His words going across my mind like an airplane advertising a message. God has also **quickened Scripture** within me, as He did with our move to Omaha. It's as if a verse jumps out at me. He may highlight a scripture reference for a particular situation. I also have **impressions**, or gut-level feelings, about something, as if **I have an inner "knowing."**

God has given me **word pictures** for others as well. I will sit quietly before the Lord when I'm writing in a loved one's birthday card, waiting for a word from Him to encourage them. One time when I asked Him what He wanted to say to a girlfriend of mine, He showed me a picture of a pearl necklace while I was stopped at a red light. Another time, when God wanted to confirm our move to Wichita, I saw His hand on our backs, pushing us out of Omaha. When I get a word picture, I ask God what it means and what I'm supposed to do with it. For instance, when I asked the Lord His meaning behind the string of pearls, He reminded me of how pearls are formed in oysters. When an irritant invades an oyster, there is a defense mechanism fluid that covers the irritant. The multiple protective layers of fluid eventually form a beautiful pearl. Likewise, the pain my friend had walked through, had formed within her beautiful "pearls" of godly attributes.

Joel 2:28 says, "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions." **Dreams** of a spiritual nature will stay with me throughout the day, returning to my thoughts, sometimes in great detail. When this happens, I seek God's clarification or interpretation of the dreams.

Finally, I will get **visions**, which are like dreams but happen when we're wide awake and our eyes are open. It's like I'm watching a movie on a screen right in front of me. I don't get those very often, so when I do, I pay close attention. The most recent one I had took place in Wichita in 2015. This was before my move to Wichita, but a group of girlfriends and I had driven there to attend a Beth Moore conference. During worship, I had a vision of myself in the shallow end of a swimming pool, and Jesus stood in front of me. He turned to grab my hand and started to walk toward the deep end of the pool.

I was never a hundred percent sure of its meaning, but I find it interesting that I now live in Wichita!

Sometimes, when I question whether it's His voice I'm hearing, He will confirm His word by giving it to me a few times. It's like a broken record that I hear over and over. Recently, on a

HE WILL
CONFIRM HIS
WORD BY
REPEATING IT.

flight to Chicago, I had a conversation with the woman who sat next to me. Then I began to read my book, and the Holy Spirit whispered, "Pray for her." I continued to read, but He nudged me two more times to put down the book and to pray for her. As a result of God's persistence, I gave up trying to read the chapter until after I obeyed Him. I closed my book, turned to her, and asked her if I could pray for her. She willingly said yes.

God places His ideas into our hearts in all these ways.⁶ And the more you get to know God, through reading His Word and seeing how He operates in your life, the less you will question whose voice you're hearing.

△ **How does God speak to you?**
In what ways have you heard His voice?

OBSTACLES TO HEARING GOD'S VOICE

So is my word that goes out from my mouth:

It will not return to me empty,

but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:11

One thing is for sure: the enemy does not want us to hear God's voice, so he sets up roadblocks to prevent us from listening. One of the first obstacles I experienced was **distractions**. My attention deficit disorder initially made it difficult to sit still. This is not an uncommon experience, though. Even Oswald Chambers wrote, "What hinders me from hearing is my attention to other things." This is exactly what Satan desires—for our focus to be on anything other than God.

I've learned that when I sit down to listen to God's voice to have a pen and paper close by. So, if my thoughts distract me, I jot them down, leaving me with a clear mind to hear God speak.

Another thing that helps is to remember these words that God comforted me with once: *"It doesn't bother me, Norma, if your mind bounces around when you're trying to sit still and hear my voice. What matters more is that you want to spend time alone with me. Seeing your heart's desire is what counts most."*

△ What practical steps can you take to help overcome distractions?

Another hindrance to hearing God's voice is **not making it a priority**. We see this throughout the book of Isaiah. God is appealing to the Israelites, whom He had just freed from exile, to listen to Him, trust Him, and return their hearts to Him. Even though the Israelites are following Levitical sacrifices and offerings, their hearts are far from God, and they trust only in themselves. The Lord spoke to the Israelites through the prophet Isaiah, saying, "For when

I called, no one answered, when I spoke, no one listened."⁷ It seems God had a more vested interest in speaking to them than they had in listening to Him. The Israelites did not make hearing God a priority.


Busyness can be another obstruction to hearing God's voice. At a retreat once, I heard author and speaker Elisabeth Elliot say, "If Satan can't get you to sin, he'll keep you busy." We see this concept play out in Luke 10:38-42, which shines a light on the contrast between being busy for the Lord and sitting still at His feet to listen to what He says. In this passage, Jesus comes to visit two sisters, Martha, and Mary. "Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made" while Mary just "sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said." So, Martha complains to Jesus and asks Him to tell her sister to help her. Jesus replies with this: "Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Jesus's reply shows us that even busyness in valuable endeavors, like family or ministry, can keep us from hearing His voice. I experienced this firsthand. For a time, out of shame and low self-worth, my identity became rooted in ministry. I was ministering from the wrong motive of wanting to earn God's approval—it was more about how much I did for God than about who I am as His daughter—and my busyness in serving God out of duty kept me from hearing His voice.

Sin as an Obstacle to Hearing God. Sin is the all-encompassing stumbling block to hearing the voice of the Lord because sin separates us from God and hardens our hearts, which desensitizes our desire and ability to hear Him. There are various types of sin, of course, but here, I will only touch upon a few types that I feel especially impede our ability to hear the Father's voice: unbelief, unforgiveness, fear of man, disobedience, and a rebellious heart.

Unbelief can be a major obstacle to hearing God's voice. Each step of our walk with God, beginning with salvation and going through sanctification, requires faith. We need faith to believe that the impressions we're having, the visions we're seeing, and the still, small voice we're hearing are from God. We must expect and anticipate that God not only wants to speak to us but that He *will* speak to us. When I struggle with doubt, I pray, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"⁸

Keeping **unforgiveness** in our hearts when we're wounded also gets in the way of hearing God's voice. When we harbor our wounds instead of freeing ourselves from them by forgiving our offender, we will have difficulty seeing or hearing things accurately, and this includes God's voice:



WE MUST
EXPECT AND
ANTICIPATE
THAT HE WILL
SPEAK TO US.

Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded him.⁹

Another way to think about this is that when we've been hurt by others and do not forgive them, we open the door to our deception. When we're deceived, we can't see clearly; our perception is distorted and thus our interpretation of what's going on is off base. It's as if we're wearing the wrong prescription eyeglasses. It reminds me of one night when we had friends over for dinner. At one point I put on my glasses, and everything became blurry. Fearing I was having a stroke, I said, "John, John, I can't see!" At that moment, I realized I had mistakenly put on our friend's eyeglasses! Likewise, if we try to perceive God's voice through the wrong lenses of woundedness, the picture will come out fuzzy and we will be more likely to be deceived by what's in front of our noses. To accurately make out God's voice and His picture of things, we must put on His prescription lenses of forgiveness and a heart free of woundedness.

In my own life, **fear of man** has been a major stumbling block to hearing and obeying God's voice. One instance with which I struggled, was a phone conversation I had with my mom. She happened to mention that she had never owned a doll. I knew she had lived in poverty as a little girl, but my heart was gripped with sadness when I learned she had never owned a doll. One morning, six weeks before Christmas, while spending time with the Lord, the Holy Spirit said, *"I want you to get your mom a doll for Christmas."*

I sat there, going back and forth talking with God, trying to get Him to understand why I couldn't do it. "But my dad would think I'm silly! After all, she's fifty-seven years old!" I eventually gave in and told Him I would obey, but I added that it would be nice if He could confirm in some way that this is what I was supposed to do—not necessary, but nice. Soon after, I went to Sam's Club and bought her a brunette porcelain doll. I wrapped it up and mailed it to her.

Then the week before Christmas, my four-year-old son and I were out running errands. In between stops, we were in the car, and he fell asleep, so I stopped the Psalty cassette tape we were listening to and turned the radio onto the Minirth-Meier counseling program. They were having a special call-in show, where people would telephone to share their most memorable Christmases. One man called in to share about when his fifty-seven-year-old mom had received her first doll. He said that she had embraced the doll and wept. When I heard that I sobbed while driving home! How kind of the Lord to give me such an undeniable confirmation when He didn't have to.

Disobedience is another form of sin that blocks our ability to hear God's voice. The Bible instructs us as follows: "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."¹⁰ Priscilla Shirer, in *Discerning the Voice of God*, writes, "God doesn't just speak to be heard. He speaks to be obeyed." In other words, if we're not planning on obeying God, we don't need to spend our time sitting still to listen. If we are listening to Him, we must be willing to follow Him.¹¹

Think about it this way: If you asked an employee to do a task, and they didn't follow through, would you trust them enough to ask them next time you needed something done? What if the opposite were true, and they followed through instantly and completely? I think God is more apt to trust us when we consistently obey Him, and accordingly, He will speak to us more often.

Consider Jeremiah 42:1-22, when the Israelites asked the prophet, Jeremiah, to find out what God wanted them to do. They told him that whatever it was, they would be obedient. But in the end, they didn't comply with what God had asked of them. Commenting on this passage, Matthew Henry draws the following conclusion: "We do not truly desire to know the mind of God if we do not fully resolve to comply with it when we do know it."

That said, I sometimes still wrestle with obeying God. One time, the emcee at our church's simulcast missions conference encouraged people to come forward to the altar. Initially, no one went forward. Then I heard the Spirit urging me, saying, *"Come."* I stayed seated. Even after hearing Him say "come" a few times, I stayed in my seat. I didn't understand why God would want me to go to the altar. After all, I wasn't experiencing any specific conviction or move in my heart.

The next morning, I heard God speak these words to me: *"Even if you're the only one Norma, even if you're all alone, if I say, 'Come,' I want you to do just that. Faint whispers, and repeated commands, are all for your benefit—for your good and My glory. You have no idea what you missed by disobeying Me. Yes, even though you didn't 'feel' anything, any step toward surrender releases more of Me."* I immediately repented.

If you haven't heard God's voice for a while, go back to the last thing He asked you to do. Did you do it? If not, repent and do it now, if it's not too late.

Lastly, **a rebellious heart** that does not want to be accountable to anyone or doesn't want to submit to God's authority, thwarts our ability to hear God's voice. We won't hear God speak if that's our overriding heart attitude.

☐ **Which of the above roadblocks have prevented you from hearing the Lord, either in the past or now?**

POSITIONING OURSELVES TO HEAR

**If you haven't ever heard God's voice,
ask Him what is keeping you from hearing.**

Here I am; you called me.

1 Samuel 3:6b

Fortunately, we can overcome obstacles and position ourselves to listen to the Lord by cultivating certain heart attitudes and taking a few practical steps.

Heart Attitudes

If you can take a few minutes to read 1 Samuel 3:1-10, you will find that Samuel possessed several of the needed heart attitudes to hearing God speak. When the Lord called Samuel, he immediately went to Eli, thinking it was Eli's voice, and said, "Here I am; you called me." After this happened three times, Eli realized the Lord had called Samuel's name. So, Eli instructed Samuel to say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." That is exactly what Samuel did. And when God spoke, Samuel responded with "Here I am."

This is also to be our response when God speaks to us. "Here I am" is an indication that we're present and near to Jesus; that we're available and will allow God access to our hearts; and that we're willing to surrender to, serve, and immediately obey whatever God may call us to do. Like Samuel's, our heart attitude must be one of **humility, dependence upon the Lord, and submission to God.**

Another heart attitude of those who hear God speak is **childlike faith.** We see this in Matthew 11:25, when Jesus says, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children." Children who have not been deliberately hurt or deceived by their parents will trust them to provide for their needs; it doesn't even enter their minds that their parents won't do this. Similarly, when we have childlike faith, we believe God wants to speak to us

and trust that what He has to say is for our good. We don't ever doubt that we'll hear His voice.

In addition, hearing God's voice is unexplainable. It's not something you can rationally or intellectually understand; therefore, it takes simple, unadulterated, childlike faith to hear it.

We must also have **purity of heart** to hear God. Psalm 24:3-4a says, "Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart." Likewise, Matthew 5:8 says, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." Being an unclogged vessel, free of sin assists us to hear God speak. So don't be afraid of repentance. Shame will try to prevent us from repenting, but if we let it, it will also block our ability to hear God's voice. On the other hand, simply repenting will allow our friendship with God to be restored so that we can hear Him speak. Repentance is God's gift to us. Take advantage of God's promise to us in 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Having a **reverent and obedient heart** also opens a clear pathway to hearing God's voice. In the previous section, we looked at how disobedience can be an obstacle to hearing God, but disobedience isn't limited only to behavior; just like other behaviors, obedience begins as an attitude in our hearts. In 1 Samuel 15:22, we hear Samuel say this: "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord?"

To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams." In God's language, you spell *love* o-b-e-d-i-e-n-c-e. A heart that is willing to obey is necessary because, as we've seen, one of the most difficult parts about hearing God's voice is responding to what He says—trusting it and being obedient to it, especially when that requires taking risks and stepping out of our comfort zone.



YOU SPELL
LOVE
O-B-E-D-I-E-N-C-E

Finally, **willingness** to hear and obey is an important heart condition in which our inner self is constantly positioned to hear God's voice. The Lord encouraged me with these words in 2015: "*I will speak to you when you least expect it, my daughter. You don't have to be ready to listen (physically positioned to hear) as much as being willing to listen so you can obey.*" This willingness is a posture that our hearts take, wherever we go; it's as if we always have one ear cocked, leaning into God, and listening to the Spirit's voice.

△ Describe a time when you heard and obeyed God's voice.

**What aspect of God did you discover?
(Who was He to you in that experience?)**

Finally, just as *not* prioritizing the Lord and His voice will prevent us from hearing God speak, desiring **to make Him and His words our top priority** will open our hearts to hearing Him more often. In 2014, God said to me, *"I go with you wherever you go. It's your commitment and faithfulness to me that I want to bless. It doesn't matter what room you're in or where you want to sit to hear my voice. What matters most is that you make time with me a priority. And that's what love looks like. What I like is knowing you want to be with me. It's not a chore or a duty or a responsibility to check off on your 'to-do' list. Your pursuit of me is what gives you great favor with my heart. You preferring me causes me to want to prefer you."*

**WE NEED TO
CREATE SPACE
FOR GOD TO
SPEAK TO US.**

We need to create space for God to speak to us. Space doesn't just happen, and margins don't magically appear. It has to be created. We need to intentionally create the space to listen to God's voice and schedule it onto our calendars. In 2021, God spoke this to me: *You keep showing up each day to hear My voice and even though I may not choose to speak during those moments, they speak to Me of your seriousness and your commitment to behold Me. Then, when you least expect it, while you go about your daily life and routine, I will take you by surprise, and speak to you. Make it a daily priority to sit still before Me to listen and I will show Myself to you when you least expect it. Be disciplined to be with Me and to listen to Me speak, and I will make My Presence known to you in the ordinaries of life. Always make time for Me.*

God loves to be pursued, and if He sees even a hint that you're interested in hearing His voice, He'll speak. So be intentional with your time. Value listening to His voice and lingering in His presence. Ask God, "What do You want to say to me?"

Do I hear God accurately one hundred percent of the time? No. Do I sometimes think He's said something, but it's really my desire, and I've heard what I wanted to hear? Am I periodically deceived because of unhealed hurts or unforgiveness toward someone? I'm sure at times, all are true. But what is important is that my heart is genuine and set on wanting to hear God's voice and obey Him. What matters to God is that I'm constantly pursuing a more intimate relationship with Him through sitting still and listening to His voice. God delights in seeing my ears cocked to hear even His slightest whisper.

Practical Steps

Just as you can put your inner self in a position to better hear God, you can also put outward practices into place that will make you more attuned to listening to His voice. The first step is **to practice sitting still**. In other words, just do it! God encourages us to "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10a). Don't be afraid of silence or solitude. When we choose to quiet ourselves and in stillness listen to God's voice, the Holy Spirit will speak to us. Cultivate an inward sensitivity to the Spirit by listening to God with your heart, not with your physical ears. Tune into the same frequency that the Holy Spirit is on. Spend a few minutes with God each day, or as often as you can, just sitting and listening for His voice. Each time you do, consider adding one, some, or all of the following steps:

- Start by saying the following prayer, which touches upon all these items: "Jesus, I come to You to hear your voice. Thank you for your desire to speak to me. Bring to mind the sins I need to repent of, so I may confess them, receive your forgiveness, and have my heart purified. I take authority over the enemy's schemes and silence his lies and distractions. In Jesus's name, amen."
- Then take the authority to silence the enemy, in the name of Jesus. Tell the Lord that you desire to hear Him speak and that you believe He will speak. Ask the Holy Spirit to purify your heart then confess and repent of any known sin. After that thank Him that He wants to speak to you.
- Have a journal or paper nearby. Write down any distracting thoughts that threaten to interrupt you. Silence your phone and eliminate distractions – go to a quiet room or outside that's more conducive to stillness.
- Don't be discouraged if you don't hear God's voice. I don't hear Him speak every time I sit quietly before him. Just sitting still and being with Him speaks volumes of your love for Him and gives Him great pleasure. Allow those times of silence to make you more desirous to hear His voice. I think of it like the time I returned home from a mission trip to Mozambique. My husband and I sat on the couch with all the lights out, except those on the Christmas tree. He had his arm around me, and we sat in the dark, not saying a word. We felt our profound closeness even in the silence. In the same way, sometimes God will say to me, *"Can we just sit quietly together and not say anything?"* Those can be some of the most intimate times together.
- When He does speak, record what He says to you in a journal. Sometimes, I title the entry later and add it to a "table of contents" that I have in the first few pages of the journal, so I'm able to find it when needed.
- At the end of the year, read through your journal. To avoid being over-

whelmed, read a month's worth of entries one day at a time, completing this review in twelve days. You may want to record bullet points of the words that stand out to you in the note section on your phone. Periodically, reread those promises to strengthen and encourage yourself in the Lord.

- If you feel so led, declare what you've journaled out loud. Occasionally, I'll even print specific words that I feel God is giving me and affirm them out loud. Whenever I verbally proclaim God's promises, I begin to believe them more firmly, and faith is released within my heart that the promise is true.

Listening to God is not an exact science. But as with anything in life, the more you practice, the easier it gets. And no matter the outcome—whether God speaks or not, whether you're distracted or not, or whether you feel anything or not—the time and energy you put into being still with God will always bring nourishment to your soul and your relationship with Him in the long run. And that is the main goal.

It reminds me of the message I heard my Father say to me in 2016: *"Listen, my daughter. Always give an ear to what I have to say. For my words are truly your bread of life, your nourishment, and what gives you sustenance. Feed on me and you will be strong. Take time to be with me like you take time to eat meals. I alone can give you what your heart and spirit need. Seek me and you will find me, and in the midst, all your needs will be met through me."* Similarly, when Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, Jesus responded to the enemy with these words: "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"¹²

◻ How can you better position yourself to hear God's voice?

GUIDELINES FOR DISCERNING GOD'S VOICE

*Whether you turn to the right or to the left,
your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying,
"This is the way; walk in it."*

Isaiah 30:21

God has given us guidelines or guardrails to discern His voice. Guardrails along a highway are for our protection. They're to keep us from going off the cliff. Likewise, these guardrails help us better determine if it's God's voice we're hearing.

The more we get to know God, the more clearly, we can hear His voice. Therefore, one of the biggest ways we can discern whether it's God's voice or the enemy's we're hearing is to understand who God is. In other words, **know your Daddy**, who God is like, so you trust Him.

Our relationship with God or anyone will only be as intimate as our depth of trust. The more we know God, the more we'll trust Him, which results in greater intimacy with Him. Moms know their babies cry because they have spent lots of time with them. Likewise, as we spend time with God by studying His scripture, we will get to know who He is.

God's voice will never contradict or go against the Word of God or be inconsistent with God's character. For example, in Ephesians 4:2 and 32, we discover the characteristics that God wants us to model after Him: "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." This tells us that God is humble, gentle, patient, kind, compassionate, and forgiving; therefore, His voice will be humble, not proud; gentle, not harsh; patient,

**GOD'S VOICE
WILL NEVER
CONTRADICT OR
GO AGAINST THE
WORD OF GOD.**

not demanding; kind, not forceful or manipulative; compassionate, not distant, and uncaring; and forgiving, not vengeful. Another good example is in Galatians 5:22-23a: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” If what you’re hearing does not resemble the fruit of the Holy Spirit, it most likely is not coming from God.

The nature of God is well described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, with the definition of what love is. In 1 John 4:8, we discover God is love; therefore, His voice will be patient, kind, not envious, boastful, or proud. What God says will honor us and there will not be an angry tone to His words. He does not bring up our past sins to shame us, rather God speaks the truth in love for the purpose to bring healing and peace to our hearts. The words God communicates will provide protection and help us trust Him. They give us hope and help us persevere, so we don’t give up.

A few more characteristics to note, which are supported by Scripture: His voice will be filled with love and encouragement, even when He’s bringing up a sin issue in our life. God does not condemn; rather, it’s often God’s kindness that woos us to repentance. As the Lord speaks, He will confirm our identity as His beloved children just as He does in Scripture.

It’s so crucial to get to know your heavenly Daddy by spending time in His Word, because God is consistent and doesn’t change, even over millennia: “He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a human being, that he should change his mind.”¹³

A second principle that guides me to know whether it’s God’s voice I’ve heard is that of **peace**. When a word is truly from God, there will be peace about it within our hearts. Priscilla Shirer, in *Discerning the Voice of God*, describes it this way: “The green light of ease and peace means go.” And the Passion translation of Proverbs 1:33 confirms this: “But the one who always listens to me will live undisturbed in a heavenly peace. Free from fear, confident and courageous, you will rest unafraid and sheltered from the storms of life.”

It’s important to note, however, that even though you may have peace about God’s words, you may not always have peace about obeying those words. That is, if He’s asked you to do something, you may be fearful to obey, but there is still peace that comes from a certain “knowing” that the words were from God. This is exactly how I felt when God asked my husband and me to go to Afghanistan. I knew without a doubt that God wanted us to go on this

short-term mission trip, and in that sense, I had peace. But because the Taliban was still bombing the city of Kabul in hopes of taking it over, I remained fearful until the week before our trip, when one of our pastors prayed for me against the spirit of fear.

Peace is a huge indicator of whether the word is from God. If you don’t have peace and you have a ‘check’ in your spirit, then either don’t do it or wait and keep praying about it and ask your spiritual leaders you’re accountable to for their thoughts on it. Be cautious to proceed if there’s no peace. Derek Prince in *Hear God’s Voice* writes: “If there is unrest and struggling within you, and particularly if you feel pressured to act hastily, be on your guard. Caution is needed when it is apparent that God’s peace has been withdrawn.”

Another general rule in discerning God’s voice is with receiving **agreement or confirmation** of what God has spoken. In other words, God will sometimes give you prophetic words from others to confirm what you’ve been hearing. If you’re single, you can ask a godly mentor, your pastor, a trustworthy Christian friend, or a Christian counselor for confirmation. If you’re married and God is asking you to do something, your spouse will also give you a green light. It doesn’t matter if your spouse knows or is walking closely with the Lord; if God is in the word, He can get your spouse’s heart to give consent. As Proverbs tells us, “In the Lord’s hand, the king’s heart is a stream of water that he channels toward all who please him.”¹⁴ Trust me—I know from personal experience that it is not worth doing something if you and your spouse do not see eye to eye on it. Oneness with your spouse is a priority in God’s economy.

Finally, if you have doubts about something God may be leading you to do, don’t move forward without confirmation. Or wait and keep praying for discernment. At the very least, run it by others who have a more mature walk with God and get their take on the word you’ve received. And ask God for confirmation.

One of the hardest things for me to discern is the timing of the word. When I receive a word from God, I assume it’s a *now* word, one He wants me to fulfill today. But just like the names God gives to us that speak identity of who we really are, but we need to be transformed into that person, so too some of God’s prophetic promises to us are words we need to grow into, to mature emotionally and godly character-wise. A wise and loving parent won’t give the car keys to their ten-year-old child, likewise, God waits till we’re ready to fulfill some of those words. So, the timing of a particular word may be delayed. Waiting patiently is not my strong suit, yet it pays

WHEN A WORD IS TRULY FROM GOD, THERE WILL BE PEACE.

ASK GOD FOR CONFIRMATION.

to wait as God prepares us in the waiting, to become the person who is ready to fulfill that word. There are good things to do in life and then there are God things. Wait for the ones God highlights to you.

I don't hear God's voice accurately one hundred percent of the time. Sometimes I think He's said something but, it's just my desire talking, what I wanted to hear. At times my unhealed wounds or unforgiveness gets in the way of my hearing and cause deception. But I think what matters most to God is that our hearts genuinely want to hear and obey His voice. He loves it when we intentionally sit still to listen to Him.

△ Which of these guidelines have you used to help you discern God's voice?

Lastly, be aware that when God requests something of you, His voice often takes on the following characteristics.

- **It takes you by surprise and is out in the left field.** If you need to, ask for clarity and confirmation.

- **It's bigger than you, and you have to step out in faith to accomplish it.** In other words, you realize you can't do it in your power. An example of this in my life was God's word to me to "*mentor the masses*." If this word is fulfilled, it will be because of God's ability, not mine. All I can give Him is my "yes" and my availability. God will have to do the rest.

- **It's out of your comfort zone.** When God speaks, He frequently asks me to do things I would never do, or even consider doing, on my own. God often asks us to put ourselves in positions out of our comfort zone so that we have to depend on Him to come through for us. This enables God to display His faithfulness to us and to manifest His power by "flexing His muscles" on our behalf. And when we follow through, it enables our faith to grow.

The more you're intentional with creating space and setting aside time to sit still before the Lord to hear His voice, the more frequently you'll hear God speak to you during the normal routine of life. On the road to Emmaus, the disciples were reviewing all that had taken place with Jesus's recent death and resurrection. "While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them" (Luke 24:15). Likewise, while we mind our own business going through our daily life, Jesus draws near to us, walks with us, and speaks into our hearts. God's voice calls out to us, and we hear Him, even when we're not purposefully listening.

Learning to listen to God's voice reminds me of a hike that my husband and I went on with our Trek cycling tour group. John and I were among the

oldest in the group, so we ended up in the back of the pack. Huffing and puffing, I wanted to give up after the first few uphill steps. It was too hard. I was tempted to tell the guide that I just wanted to turn around and go back to the hotel. Instead, I walked slowly and took frequent breaks to slow my heart rate. More than an hour later, we made it above the tree line. Ten majestic mountain peaks surrounded us in a stunning panorama. Rewarded with the view, I was so glad I had persevered.

In the same way, making it a priority to sit still with the Lord may be difficult at first and require some sacrifice, but let me tell you, hearing God's voice and deepening your intimacy with Him is always worth it. Author Max Lucado writes: "God never said that the journey would be easy, but He did say that the arrival would be worthwhile." I encourage you to step out of your comfort zone, establish a lifestyle of listening to the Father's voice, and make it a habit to obey. You won't be disappointed!

ESTABLISH A
LIFESTYLE OF
LISTENING TO
THE FATHER'S
VOICE.

What I Heard My Father Say: *My child, some of the most difficult things we do reap the biggest harvest. Listening to my voice is one of those things. The cost is your time, devotion, and attention, but the rewards are great. Chief among those rewards is greater attachment to me, which deepens our intimacy. There is so much I want to say to you! Would you sit still, spend time alone with me, and treasure our moments together?*

△ Put into practice what you've learned. Sit quietly before the Lord and see what happens.

NOTES
1 Isaiah 30:21
2 Genesis 12:1
3 Jeremiah 33:3
4 See Matthew 2:13
5 See Matthew 2:19-20
6 See Nehemiah 7:5
7 Isaiah 66:4b
8 Mark 9:24b
9 1 John 2:9-11
10 James 1:22
11 See John 10:27
12 Matthew 4:4
13 1 Samuel 15:29
14 Proverbs 21:1

THE GREAT HEART RESTORATION

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9

Our passion at Restoring Hearts Ministry is for God to restore and heal wounded hearts not only to set the captives free but especially for the purpose of deepening intimacy with God and others. We're encouraged in Proverbs 4:23 to "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." God instructs us to take care of our hearts and He has provided the necessary tools from His Word. He's given us the tools of confession and repentance when we've sinned, and we're freed from those who have offended us when we utilize the instrument of forgiveness. God directs us to deal with loss and disappointment by giving us the ability to grieve. And His Word is full of truth to help us remove and replace the lies and accusations Satan hurls at us. Giving God thanks is a super tool to use with any and every heart issue, realigning our perspective with God's.

But the most important way to experience heart restoration is through surrendering our hearts to our heavenly Father who loved us so much that He chose to send His one and only Son, Jesus, to die for us. Instead of us sitting in the driver's seat, being in control of our lives, we hand the keys to our hearts over to God, letting Him direct which way the car goes and the speed at which it travels. As a passenger in a car, I have no control over starting or stopping it. I must trust the driver that they know what they're doing and have my best interest at heart.

I began this booklet with John 10:27: "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." The verse before it says, "But you do not believe because you are not my sheep." How do we know if we're one of the Good Shepherd's sheep so we can listen to His voice and follow Him? What

must we do to receive eternal life, so we never perish as the Shepherd promises His sheep in John 10:28?

Some of you reading this booklet may have the desire to become one of Shepherd's sheep so you can hear God's voice. You might want to get to know God personally and have an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, but you may not know how to attain the greatest heart restoration. The following are steps you can take to hand the key to your heart over to God.

First, you need to repent and have genuine sorrow for your sins. Realize that running your life independently of God is a dead-end street. Turn away from sin and turn to God, humbly confessing any known sin and asking God for His forgiveness. God promises us: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). In Luke 13:3, Jesus says, "But unless you repent, you too will all perish." "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death" (2 Corinthians 7:10). Repentance is the first step to becoming one of God's sheep and finding eternal life.

The next step to take is by faith, to totally commit all that you are and have to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The Word of God instructs us to: "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). Instead of being the ruler of your own life, humbly submit to God and His sovereign rulership. When you trust God with the key to your heart, God's Spirit takes up residence inside of you, to live through you, giving you peace. "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).

Lastly, thank the Lord for His forgiveness of your sins, for becoming His child, and for His life which He now lives in and through you. Receive God's promise of transformation. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here" (2 Corinthians 5:17)! You know you've experienced the greatest heart restoration when God's peace envelopes your heart, you no longer enjoy sinning, and you have the desire to obey Jesus Christ and do His will. You can now enjoy a lifetime of a restored heart, and the promise that one day you will live eternally in heaven with your Lord and Savior!

Thanks for reading this booklet. If it has ministered to you, feel free to visit my website www.restoring-hearts.com for more resources.

You can find my book *Restoring Your Heart to Deepen Intimacy* on Amazon.

Hearing God's voice is the place where real life intersects with a real God. More than any other spiritual discipline, listening to God's voice has deepened my intimacy with God. One word from God changes everything! I believe all of God's children can hear His voice, just as John 10:27 promises. In fact, I am convinced we hear God more often than we realize; we just do not recognize it is His voice.

**IN ONE WORD CHANGES EVERYTHING,
YOU'LL DISCOVER:**

- Reasons why God speaks to His sons and daughters
- Several ways God speaks
- Obstacles to hearing God's voice
- How you can position yourself to hear more clearly
- Guidelines for discerning God's voice

If you want to solidify your attachment to God, experience a daily adventure with Him, and desire to have your loneliness fade away, then this booklet is for you.



NORMA DONOVAN loves to read, write, and go on walks with her husband. She is an author, speaker, and the founder and president of Restoring Hearts Ministry. Her greatest passions include being intimate with God, seeing hearts restored, and mentoring women. Norma and her husband live in Kansas and have two grown children. You can find her weekly blog and other resources at www.restoring-hearts.com.

Restoring
HEARTS MINISTRY

designed to heal wounded hearts and set captives free for the sake of deepening intimacy with God and others
(See The Most Priceless Gift)

Restoring Hearts Ministry
P.O. Box 376
Andover, KS 67002