

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

John 10:27

Sermon by Dr. Mike Auten

Introduction: A skit built around a "phone call from heaven" where a person gets a phone call and doesn't recognize the voice of the one calling and when asks who is calling, the reply - "It's God!" Then the conversation goes on about how God has been missing conversations, visits, etc....from this person. Use your own imagination as to how a real phone call from God might be and what the conversation would be about.

I. WHY WOULD GOD WANT TO SPEAK TO ME?

1. God created you to be a part of His family - (*1 John 3:1*)
2. You need direction for your life. (*John 14:26*)
3. There are times you need: comfort, peace, assurance, courage, etc.. (*2 Corinthians 7:5-6*)

II. WHY DOES GOD TALK TO ME?

1. Examples in the Bible: visions - *Genesis 15*, dreams - *Genesis 37*, burning bush - *Exodus 3*, storm - *Exodus 19*, written word - *Exodus 20*, donkey - *Numbers 22*, gentle whisper - *1 Kings 19*, a sign - *Judges 6*, hand writing on a wall - *Daniel 5*, Angels - *Luke 1*, prophets - *Hebrews 1*
2. Three primary ways God speaks to you:
 - The Bible (*Hebrews 4:12*)
 - The Holy Spirit (*John 16:13*)
 - Circumstances (*Acts 16, Jonah 2, Daniel 6*)

III. WHY CAN'T I HEAR GOD?

1. Three spiritual blocks or barriers:
 - You don't know God personally (*John 14:6-7; 10:27*)
 - Un-confessed or un-repentant sin (*Psalms 66:18*)
 - You have a wrong focus in life (*Romans 12:2*)

IV. HOW SHOULD I LISTEN TO GOD?

1. There are some intentional ways to sharpen your listening skills.
 - Listen:
 - Expectantly (*Jeremiah 33:3*)
 - Quietly (*Psalms 46:10*)
 - Actively (*Colossians 3:16*)
 - Openly (*1 Corinthians 2:12*)
 - Submissively (*Matthew 26:39*)
 - Thankfully (*Philippians 4:6-7*)
 - Patiently (*Isaiah 30:18*)

CONCLUSION:

1. An assignment question: "How do I know the voice I hear is God's voice and not my own or someone else's?"

Sources for the sermon/lesson:

- "How to Listen to God" by Charles Stanley
- "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren
- "When God Speaks" by Henry Blackaby and Richard Blackaby
- Life Application Bible Commentary - John
- Holman N.T. Commentary - John
- NIV Exhaustive Concordance
- Bibles - NIV and New Living Translation