1. **CALLING**

*“...The call of God is not just for a select few but for everyone. Whether I hear God’s call or not depends on the condition of my ears, and exactly what I hear depends upon my spiritual attitude.”*

― [Oswald Chambers](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/41469.Oswald_Chambers), [*My Utmost for His Highest*](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/1559310)

*“Everybody has a vocation to some form of life-work. However, behind that call (and deeper than any call), everybody has a vocation to be a person to be fully and deeply human in Christ Jesus.”*

― [Brennan Manning](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27405.Brennan_Manning), [*The Wisdom of Tenderness: What Happens When God's Fierce Mercy Transforms Our Lives*](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/167580)

**KNOWING YOUR CALLING**

*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.*

1 Cor 12:4-11

*And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the Lord had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work.*

Exodus 36:2

*Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

Psalm 37:4

**HEARING GOD’S VOICE**

When God speaks to us, He speaks not in abstract language but in concrete ways:

*God speaks ... Uniquely*

Universally, God speaks to us through His Word (James 4:8). But God has made each of us a specific way, and He will speak to us in a way that best suits us. For example - Saul of Tarsus was a bold, self-righteous man and God spoke to him in a bold, humbling way (Acts 9). Samuel, on the other hand, was soft spoken and God came to him with a soft voice (1 Samuel 3)

*God speaks ... Progressively*

God knows how much knowledge we can handle, and when. For example, Jesus did not reveal to the disciples that He would go to the cross until they came to fully understand that He was the Christ. -Matthew 16:13-21

*God speaks ... in Love*

God’s words are always spoken out of Love, even His harshest words.

- 1 John 4:7-8

*God speaks ... Faithfully*

God’s words are reliable. When God makes a vow, He keeps it.

- Isaiah 55:10-11

**Satan’s voice also has identifiable characteristics:**

Satan lies. God does not.

Satan offers shortcuts. God offers Biblical solutions.

Satan justifies sin. God offers repentance.

Satan steals, kills and destroys. God gives us life.

Satan fosters pride. God brings humility.

**THINK:** If we give up our lives to God and pursue what He desires for us (*holiness and delight in the Lord*) then he will reveal our passions to us (*stir our hearts to do good work*), equip us to do the work (*to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given*) and therefore, God’s desires become our own (*He will give you the desires of your heart*).

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Have you experienced hearing from God in the past?

2. What are some of the challenges that come from trying to distinguish God’s voice?

3. What kind of calling has God given you for today, this year? who has He called you to be with and to share Christ with?

**ENGAGING WITH OTHERS:**

Find someone in your creative field or work and find out how they settled on what they wanted to do.How did they realize what they are called to do? Ask them if they heard from the Lord, from friends, or in Scripture any voices affirming this calling.

**REFLECTION:** The key is faith in God’s promises. God can do miracles for anyone who believes in Him. Over the next week, during your quiet time with God, ask Him to reveal His next step for you or ask Him to confirm that the path you’re on is the right one. Keep your eyes and ears open. Do you believe that those seemingly random occurrences could be God’s way of speaking to you? Always bring your decisions back to Him.

**PRAYER:** God, we pray that you will help us to hear your voice more clearly everyday. Thank you for speaking to us and for the relationship we have with you. We ask that you will open our hearts to receive even more of your wisdom and guidance.

**OPTIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL**

*Hearing God’s Voice* by Henry and Richard Blackaby

*Jesus Calling: Enjoying Peace in His Presence* (daily devotional), by Sarah Young

*The Call*, by Os Guinness