STUDY OUTLINE:

**Learning to listen to God**

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**Introduction:**

* John 10: 3, 14-15,27: “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and

 they follow me”

* God is not energy, not a book... He is a person => relationship => dialogue

**Why does God speak?**

He wants us to listen, to believe, to enjoy, to change, to do, to obey.

**How does He speak?**

* Fundamentalist believers: (Objective inclined)

God spoke = the Bible. Study and obey it. You don’t need more.

* Charismatic: (Subjective inclined)

God speaks today = listen to His “voice” in your soul.

There are many guidelines/courses/seminars on how to “listen to God”

**God desires to speak and guide us:** Psalm 32:8-9

**God works through His Holy Spirit:** John 16:12-13

God is clearly free to choose when He wants to speak to me,

what He wants to say to me, and how He wants to communicate with me.

**How does God guide or communicate (speak) with us?**

**God may use one or more of various tools/methods/channels**

1. **God’s Word: It contains God’s guidelines and principles.**

Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path”

Colossians 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly”

**KEY:** Read it, study it, meditate on it, eat it! Lear to listen to the Lord through it.

1. **Research: Connect with reality.**
* Nehemiah – Exploring de walls of Jerusalem.
* Joshua - sending 2 spies to explore the situation in Jericho (Joshua 2:1).

**KEY:** Look, listen, read, ask and fill your mind with relevant information.

1. **Advice: Willing to listen to God through others.**
* God used Nathan to speak to David, 2 Samuel 12:7.
* God used Ananias to speak to Paul, Acts 9:3-9.
* God uses young Samuel to speak to Eli, 1 Samuel 2 & 3.
* Careful. We remain responsible. Example of the old prophet in 1 Kings 13:18.

**KEY:** Remain humble enough to listen to God trough others.

1. **Special guidance: Miraculous extraordinary intervention**

God sometimes has used dreams, visions, angels, writing on wall, miracles, special circumstances, audible voice, the voice of the Spirit (internal voice?), “odd” use of Scripture... God can still communicate in this way today? We can’t set rules. It can happen today. It can happen to you. We should not insist on “this method” but stand open to all methods. “Lord speak to me – as you please.”

**Philip-Ethiopian:** Acts 8: 5-40. Philip: Happy, busy, effective – yet open to listen and to be guided. Guidance came in stages. Obedience leads to more revelation. Special guidance only where necessary. Then use wisdom.

**KEY:** Remain carefully open to “special guidance.” But remember it is “special”

1. **Wisdom: God can guide us through our transformed minds.**

**James 1:5,** **Romans 12:1-2,** “Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Some were not conscious that God was guiding them:

**Peter** in Matthew 16:15-17. **Luke** in Luke 1:1-3.

Some wise decisions: Acts 6:2, Acts 15:36.

**KEY:** Sometimes God’s ways are ‘odd’ to our way of thinking. But if we are busy with the Lord and His Word, often His guidance comes through wisdom. The Spirit of God uses renewed minds.

**Conclusion:**

* When facing decisions, do your homework (Word + Research + Advice), be open to God’s special guidance, and ask God for wisdom.
* God’s Holly Spirit is active helping us “listen” through these 5 tools/methods/ channels.