

# POWER ACADEMY

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Switching On Your Faith

Module 2: The Power Within  
Lesson 1: I Can Hear God's  
Voice

## Power Academy Module 2

### Lesson 1 – I Can Hear God’s Voice

1. John 10:27 – “*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*”
  - a. WiFi or cell phone signals are constantly broadcasting, but you have to have a device to lock in on them to receive communication through them. In the same way, God is always speaking to us, but sometimes we aren’t tuned in to the right frequency to recognize His voice.
  - b. As born-again believers, we should have a desire to hear God’s voice, and we need to understand that we already have the ability to hear Him.
  - c. You are His sheep, and He is very clear here that His sheep do hear His voice.
  - d. The most important place to start is to confess and believe, “I am God’s sheep, and I *can* hear His voice!”
  - e. People say things contrary to this all the time: “I can’t hear God’s voice; I struggle to hear God’s voice; I wish I could hear God’s voice more clearly.”
  - f. Maybe it’s because you’re struggling to get direction on a specific decision that needs to be made, or maybe it’s in trying to receive one of God’s promises to you.
  - g. It is part of the natural mind to say, “I can’t hear God’s voice,” but in saying that, you are shutting down your ability to hear Him. He can be speaking, but you can’t hear Him because you’re speaking and believing that you can’t.
  - h. It is fundamental to recognize, believe, and confess that as a believer, God *does* speak to you, you *can* hear His voice, and you *do* hear His voice. **“I am God’s sheep. He speaks to me, and I hear Him and follow Him!”**
2. Hearing God’s voice can be life or death! (Ashley’s story of picking up a hitchhiker. You can read a teaching article on this subject as well on our website at: <https://terradeministries.com/2019/09/25/hearing-gods-voice/>.
  - a. Sometimes we hear stories of people avoiding disaster because they heard and followed the prompting of the Holy Spirit. The question is asked, “Well, why didn’t those other people hear the same warning?” Usually, it’s because they aren’t tuned in. They haven’t developed the ability to hear and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.
3. Sometimes we miss God speaking to us because we don’t recognize it as God speaking to us.
  - a. For example, Ashley felt that He should stop for that hitchhiker, but it wasn’t like an angel from the Lord appeared, or an audible voice saying, “Ashley, stop and pick him up!” It was subtle, but it just wouldn’t go away.
  - b. The feeling to stop increased in urgency, but that could have been a “feeling” easily dismissed as not being from God.

- c. So we need to recognize the different ways that God speaks so that we can effectively tune in and begin to learn how to recognize His voice.

**4. The most important way that God speaks to us is through His Word.**

- a. John 1:14 – *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*
- b. The Word of God isn’t just a book. Jesus was and is the Word! Jesus and the Bible cannot be separated from one another: they are the same. The Word of God is *alive* and God can use it to speak directly to us regarding our current situations.
- c. God’s Word is His authority, and He will never speak anything to you that contradicts the Bible.
  - He may speak something to you that is “outside” of the Word, for example, “Jimmy, don’t work at *that* store, work at *this* store.” Or, “Hey, Susan, move to *this* town.” Specific things like that aren’t in the Word of God, but they don’t *contradict* the Word of God.
- d. Proverbs 6:22 – *“When you roam, they [the Scriptures] will lead you; When you sleep, they will keep you; And when you awake, they will speak with you”* (brackets added for clarity).
  - The Word of God will speak with you! It is alive and one of the clearest ways God will speak to you.
- e. Hebrews 4:12 – *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*
- f. You have to read the Word in order for it to speak to you.
- g. Some people may say, “Oh, I don’t read the Word; I just listen to God.” But if you don’t know the Word, it will be easy to be led astray because you don’t have the Word as your foundation.
- h. We don’t read the Word as though it is a novel, or like any other book. In order to get the most out of it when we read the Bible, we need to invite the Holy Spirit to enable us to see the application of it to our own lives.
  - Praying in tongues while you are reading the Bible can be helpful in gaining revelation from the Word. You are reading with your understanding (your mind), but you can have inspiration by the Holy Spirit.
  - Asking the Holy Spirit to show you where you should start reading is actually a great exercise in learning to tune in to that frequency.
  - Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the Word to you. He is our teacher and will guide us into all truth (John 14:26; John 16:13).

**5. God can speak through an audible voice.**

- a. During Ashley’s teenage year rebellion, God woke him up multiple times during the night and said his name, “Ashley”. It was exactly like the story of Samuel, when he heard the Lord calling his name and thought it was Eli (1 Samuel 3:1-10). He gave his life to Jesus the next day.
- b. Hearing God’s audible voice is uncommon.
- c. Sometimes people think, “If you’ve heard God’s audible voice, you must be really special.” In fact, it may be that God has to speak audibly because you aren’t tuned in to listen!
- d. There are 7 times recorded in the New Testament when God the Father spoke audibly to Jesus. It also happened to Saul on the road to Damascus as well (Acts 9:4).
  - 7 times the Father spoke in an audible voice to Jesus: Matthew 3:17; Matthew 17:5; Mark 1:11; Mark 9:7; Luke 3:22; Luke 9:35; John 12:28.
  - This is rare, and we don’t *need* it. We have a more sure word of prophecy in the Word of God (2 Peter 1:19).

**6. God can speak to us through other people.**

- a. Proverbs 27:6 – *“Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”*
- b. Friends can give direction and correction, using the Word of God. Sometimes these words may even be hard to hear, but they are spoken in love to *help* you.
- c. People can speak to us through the spiritual gifts: words of wisdom or knowledge, prophecy, etc.
  - When people speak to you, it should be tested by the Word of God and should be confirmation of what the Lord has been speaking to you. Or, you may put what was spoken to the side, and you may find He confirms it later on through the Word or another form of confirmation, such as multiple people speaking the same things to you.
  - When God uses people, they have flesh, so they can still miss it! But the Lord will always confirm if it is from Him.
- d. God will never bring condemnation or fear, so compare what is being said to you with the character and nature of God that is revealed in the Word. “Does this sound like something God would really say to me?”
- e. Peter had Jesus’ best interests at heart when he told Him, “No, Lord, you don’t have to go to the cross. This will never happen to you!” But Peter’s words violated what Jesus knew the Father had sent Him to do, so He rejected them (Matthew 16:23-24).

**7. God can speak to us through circumstances.**

- a. There has been a lot of abuse of this one. People may assume if something negative happens, it is because they are in God’s will and satan is attacking them. Or if everything is going right, they must be in God’s will. It doesn’t work that way.
- b. You can twist your interpretation of your circumstances to fit any theology.
- c. Circumstances is the weakest way of determining if you are hearing God’s voice. Trials can come when you are standing in faith and standing up for the Lord, they can come as a result of the fallen world in which we live, and they can come through attacks of the enemy. So it’s very difficult to determine your spiritual standing based on circumstances alone.
- d. However, the Lord can use circumstances as a confirmation of God’s will for our lives.
  - This isn’t a horoscope! “If it rains this afternoon, that’s a sign.” That is very out of balance.
- e. Circumstances are simply a confirmation of what God has been speaking to you.
  - Example: When God spoke to Carlie regarding healing from epilepsy, this really challenged her faith. She said, “God, if this is really you, have my friend offer to pray for me.” When it happened, it was a confirmation that she had really heard from God about receiving her healing. It wasn’t direction, it was confirmation.
- f. The more mature you get in the faith, the less you will need His audible voice or circumstances to confirm His will for you.
- g. Good or bad, don’t read too much into them, either good or bad.

**8. God can speak to us through dreams and visions.**

- a. Joel 2:28 (quoted in Acts 2:17) – “...*Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.*”
- b. You can’t always trust your dreams are from God. It may have just been too much cheese pizza!
- c. Some people will have more dreams and/or visions because of the gifts God has given to them.
- d. When God speaks to Carlie through a dream, they are always way more vivid than a normal dream. Dreams from God will stand out with an understanding that it was God. You may not understand what it meant at first, but you’ll know it was from God.
  - Your dreams might be your flesh, they might be God, or they might be the enemy, so you need to understand the difference to determine the source.
- e. Actually, if you have negative dreams, it could be a sign that you are successfully keeping your thoughts in line with the Word of God while awake, and your dreams are the only way the enemy can see to try to influence you.

- f. So, again, use dreams as a confirmation of things the Lord has already been speaking to you through more trustworthy methods, such as through His Word.
- g. Dreams come while you are asleep, visions come while you are awake.
- h. Visions can be in the form of a day-dream, when you see something in the spiritual realm, or in your mind’s eye (your imagination).

**9. God can speak to you through your desires.**

- a. Psalm 37:4 – *“Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.”*
  - The key is delighting yourself in the Lord.
  - If you are delighting yourself in carnal things, then you won’t be able to trust your desires. However, if you are delighting in the Lord, you will be able to trust that when you “want” or “desire” something to happen, that the desire is from God, that it is spiritual, not carnal.
  - One way of determining this is if it is a new desire you’ve never had before, or if it is an opposite desire of what you’ve desired in the past.
  - Example: Ashley was born and bred, die-hard British. He could never imagine himself living anywhere outside of England—he loved it! But after following God’s calling to the United States, his desire changed, and now he can’t imagine ever living in England again. His heart changed to follow the plan and purpose God has for him and his family.
- b. Your heart will move before your feet will. Don’t try to get ahead of the plans of God.
  - You can miss the timing of God with your enthusiasm, otherwise you can try to force something with your action and end up running into challenges that God didn’t intend for you to have.
  - It would be better to be slightly behind than to run ahead.
- c. If you are delighting yourself in the Lord, seeking first the Kingdom of God, then all the other things will be added to you as well (Matthew 6:33).
- d. The word “delight” means “soft and pliable”. Basically, if you are soft and pliable to the Lord, then you can trust that your desires are from Him.

**10. God speaks to you Spirit to spirit.**

- a. 1 Kings 19:11-12 – *“<sup>11</sup> Then He said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; <sup>12</sup> and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.*

- b. Sometimes we miss God’s voice because we are looking for the spectacular, but God’s voice is subtle.
- c. We need to be in the Word of God so that we can rightly judge whether we are hearing God or not. However, we also need the Holy Spirit.
  - Imagine a beach full of land mines. You have a map that shows the location of each mine: that is the Word of God. But as you navigate the minefield, you also have a voice behind you saying, “Go to the right, or go to the left” (Isaiah 30:21). That is the Holy Spirit. In order to safely make your way through, you need both: the Word and the Spirit.
- d. God’s Spirit in you sounds like you, so sometimes you’ll miss it because you think, “Oh, that was just me. That was just a random thought or feeling I had.”
  - 1 Corinthians 6:17 – *“But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.”*
  - 1 John 4:17 – *“...As He is, so are we in this world.”* In your spirit, you are exactly like Jesus.
  - So, when God speaks to you in your spirit, it takes faith to believe the still small voice of God.
- e. This can sometimes just be a feeling, or a hunch.
- f. It can be a picture or an impression in your mind’s eye, your imagination.
- g. Sometimes it can be a feeling that is unsettling, what we tend to call having a “check in your spirit” or an “inner witness”. It is a feeling that something isn’t quite right, that you don’t have peace about it.
  - Colossians 3:15 (AMPC) – *“And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts [deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds...”*
- h. There are things you can do to test these things, to determine if it’s God or not, the first of being to check the Bible to see if it violates God’s Word. But sometimes things aren’t black or white.
- i. Next Power Academy, we will talk about some practical ways to determine if you are hearing God or not.

## Module 2 Lesson 1 Scriptures

John 10:27 – *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”*

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