

# Do You Know The Voice?

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Study Given by W.D. Frazee—May 14,

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice” John 10:1-4.

I read a number of years ago about a tourist traveling in the Holy Land. He was interested in the eastern shepherds. A number of them were watering their flocks. The sheep were all mixed up. The visitor wondered how the shepherds would ever get them separated.

After all the sheep had been watered, one shepherd got up and started off. He gave a call, and the sheep that belonged to him simply followed him. All the shepherds did likewise. Every sheep was where he belonged because he knew his shepherd's voice. That is what Christ is talking about.

“And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand” John 10:16,27-28.

We have no idea of the love and concern that heaven has in our redemption. We only faintly have the idea of the burden that rests upon the heart of Christ and His Father.

I love to think of the loud cry as the Shepherd's call, the last, final, earnest appeal:

“Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues” Revelation 18:4.

I suppose we would all agree that the longer we hear a voice the more quickly we recognize it. And in the time when a thousand voices are calling in a thousand different directions, how vital it is for you and me to be very familiar with the

Shepherd's voice. And the only way to be familiar with it is to hear it again and again and again.

How does Jesus speak to us, and how do we recognize His voice? First of all we recognize His voice through His Word. From Genesis to Revelation it is Christ who is speaking. That is why the Bible is indeed the Word of God. Not merely written, but spoken. It is God's thoughts made audible. Through Christ the Father has revealed Himself in life. In the Word we have the message of Jesus.

To those who have become familiar with the Bible, these words whether written down by Moses or John or any of the prophets in between is all a message from Christ. This is why I like to encourage people to learn the joy of studying the Bible differently from other books. We can sit down and read a biography about George Washington or Martin Luther or someone else. You can read the Bible that way. There is nothing wrong with that. But if you want a special blessing, kneel down by your bed or your chair with your Bible, and ask God to speak to you through His Word. Whether you are reading the majestic passages in Isaiah or the history of the kings in Chronicles, or the prophecies in Daniel or Revelation, the life of Jesus by Matthew or Mark or Luke or John, Jesus is speaking to you, if you will listen. My sheep know My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

Wouldn't it be so wonderful to get so accustomed to that voice that any counterfeit is at once detected? There is coming the day when the great enemy of God and man is going to pretend that he is Christ. Someone sent us the other day an advertisement from the New York Times newspaper that Christ is here on earth, and that he is going to appear in about two months. I don't know whether that person they are talking about will appear, but I know that Jesus is not going to appear that way. When He comes every eye shall see Him. It is only those who have trained themselves to recognize the voice of the Shepherd that will detect the deceiver in disguise. No one can fool the man or woman or boy or girl who really knows the voice of Jesus.

Do you know the voice of Jesus speaking through His Word?

Another channel that Christ has chosen to speak to us is nature. Just this afternoon I was so impressed with the love expressed in the beautiful song of the Wood Thrush. It is like a flute. Its voice can sing more than one note at the same time. I can't do that. But Jesus had arranged that voice to tell me that He loves me. And in ten thousand ways He is speaking in nature. I like the way it is put concerning the Sabbath:

“The Sabbath calls our thoughts to nature, and brings us into communion with the Creator. In the song of the bird, the sighing of the trees, and the music of the sea, we still may hear His voice who talked with Adam in Eden in the cool of the day” *The Desire of Ages*, page 281.

That is beautiful. Christ is speaking to us in the beautiful things of nature. Through the sights and sound that abound over this world, marred as this world is from the curse of sin, there is still much through the sights and sounds that abound

through which Christ is speaking. Can you detect and enjoy the voice of Jesus speaking to you?

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” Revelation 12:17.

Here are the people who in the last days are to be favored with the voice of Jesus. The people that the Devil hates constitute the remnant of God's true church. The people who keep God's commandments have something. It is the testimony of Jesus. Oh, what a wonderful gift.

What is a testimony? It is a witness. A number of years ago I was called to be a character witness for a friend of mine. At the right time I was motioned to the witness chair. I had to hold up my hand and swear that I would tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Then I was asked some questions. If I had kept still I wouldn't have been a witness.

Is Jesus testifying? Where? In His remnant church. Who is He testifying to? To the remnant of the seed of the woman. They love it. The sheep know the Shepherd's voice. The true people of God recognize the voice of Jesus. How does He speak?

“For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy”  
Revelation 19:10.

What a wonderful gift we have among us.

I want to read a letter from Nigeria. It was written just a few months ago by a business man. He addressed this letter to Ellen G. White, Washington D. C. Listen:

“I came across this book, *Steps to Christ*, through an old woman who gave it to me while I was shopping in New York City. After reading it I decided to order some copies for my personal work in my office in Nigeria. I want to give it to every unsaved soul. I would like to order a thousand copies per month, and I will pay you in advance for the first six months. Please phone me at my hotel.”

Someone gave this man a copy of *Steps to Christ*. He read it. What did he hear? The Shepherd's voice. He wanted to share this voice with friends and visitors at his place of business.

Let us not stop to stone the Devil's dogs as they bark. Let's be on with our work, sharing this glorious gift with those around us. Remember that the true sheep will recognize the Shepherd's voice. If some soul doesn't want to recognize it, let's pray for them and help them if we can. But let us never be diverted from our mission to communicate this wonderful gift.

I am so glad that our colporteurs are sharing these precious things with the people around them. God will bless every effort to get these truths to souls. That is why we have sanitariums, restaurants, and schools. That is why we all the different mediums and methods. They came out of these books. And if we are doing something that didn't come out of the books, I hope someone will tell us so we can quit it, and keep busy doing what comes out of the books.

I want to read what I think is one of the most beautiful passages:

“Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears, before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him. He who numbers the hairs of your head is not indifferent to the wants of His children. ‘The Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.’ His heart of love is touched by our sorrows, and even by our utterances of them. Take to Him everything that perplexes the mind. Nothing is too great for Him to bear, for He holds up worlds, He rules over all the affairs of the universe. Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice. There is no chapter in our experience too dark for Him to read; there is no perplexity too difficult for Him to unravel. No calamity can befall the least of His children, no anxiety harass the soul, no joy cheer, no sincere prayer escape the lips, of which our heavenly Father is unobservant, or in which He takes no immediate interest. ‘He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up our wounds.’ The relations between God and each souls are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth to share His watchcare, not another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son”  
*Steps to Christ*, page 100.

So when I hear the Wood Thrush singing, Jesus is thinking about me. He has that bird singing for me. You can all enjoy it too.

When the sun shines, it is shining for me. It is the Son of Righteousness. You can have all you can take.

So as I read the Bible, it is for me. As I listen to the voice of Jesus speaking through the Spirit of Prophecy it is for me. I thank God for His wonderful love.

I got a letter in the mail from a man. He send me something he had written and wanted my comments. But that man is filled with doubts on some things in the Bible because he can't explain them. He is distressed. If you want to be miserable, start looking at all the things in the Bible you can't understand.

You say, Aren't we supposed to understand all of it?

Not in this life. There is enough there to keep you busy all through eternity.

I was holding a week of prayer in one of our academies. In one of the meetings a young man stood and came with some questions he couldn't understand. He happened to have an algebra textbook in his hands.

I took the book and turned to about page 117 and picked out a problem and asked him, "Can you explain that to me?"

He said, "No, I can't."

I said, "Why not?"

He said, "I have only gotten to about page 34."

I said, "That's your problems with the Bible."

The Bible is not arranged like a textbook with the simple things on page one and the complex things on page three. But if you will deal with the Bible as the way you do with algebra and start working with what is clear, and keep working on problem after problem, the problems on page 117 will be just as clear as the ones on page 34.

If you want to be confused, listen to all the voices of doubt and unbelief and criticism and faultfinding and all the rest.

Someone says, Do you want me to be gullible?

No friends. That's why I don't want you to listen to those discordant voices. You will be gullible if you listen to them very long.

I want you to open your ears to the voice of the Shepherd. I want you to listen to Jesus speaking in the Bible and in the things of nature that He has made, and in these volumes of the Spirit of Prophecy. And the more you read and listen the more your soul says, Thank God, I have found the Shepherd. He has found me. I don't want to go wondering off where the wolves are. I want to listen to the One who so loved me that He gave His life for me. He must think I am important. He must think I am valuable. I don't want to disappoint Him. I want to make Him happy. I am comfortable in His love. Even though I don't understand everything I still love Him, and I know He loves me.

That's my faith. That's my hope. And that is my joy tonight. Is it yours? May God bless every one.

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