

Are You Hearing God's Voice or Your Thoughts?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O41IoUZ4ueY>

This video addresses a common struggle among believers: distinguishing between their own thoughts and the voice of God. It emphasizes that while God communicates with His children, many fall into extremes—either believing every impression is from God or believing He no longer speaks personally at all.

Misconceptions to Avoid

- **God's voice never contradicts Scripture:** He will never lead you to do something the Bible forbids (2 Timothy 3:16–17) (3:24–3:56).
- **Not every impulse is divine:** Emotions, fears, and distractions can mimic spiritual promptings. We are instructed to "test the spirits" (1 John 4:1) (3:56–4:32).
- **God does not use fear or manipulation:** He leads with power, love, and a sound mind, not panic or condemnation (2 Timothy 1:7) (4:33–5:01).
- **Avoid self-echoing:** Sometimes our own desires are mistaken for divine guidance (5:01–5:23).

Biblical Tests for Discerning God's Voice

1. **Does it align with God's Word?** Similar to how Jesus responded to temptation by saying "It is written" (Matthew 4:1–11), we must measure every impression against the Bible (5:36–6:45).
2. **What fruit does it produce?** True divine guidance produces the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23). If an thought brings peace and life, it is likely from God; if it brings chaos, panic, or confusion, it is not (6:46–8:24).
3. **Does it draw you closer to God?** God's voice pulls you toward dependence on Him and deeper relationship, whereas the flesh pulls you toward self-dependence (John 15:5) (8:25–9:31).

The Path to Clarity

- **Familiarity is Key:** The goal is not to master techniques or checklists, but to grow in relationship with the Shepherd. Jesus stated, "My sheep hear My voice" (John 10:27), implying that recognition comes from consistent time spent in His Word, prayer, and obedience (9:32–10:52).
- **Relationship Over Formulas:** Confusion often stems from distance in awareness rather than God's silence. As your relationship with God deepens, you stop struggling to 'figure out' His voice and begin recognizing it naturally (11:02–12:13).