



Come. Follow. Me.
Jesus's Invitation of Life
#8 - Follow My Voice (John 10:1-27)

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."
- John 10:27 (New International Version)

How does God Speak?

1. The _____.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world." - Psalm 19:1-4a (NIV)

- This is called _____ revelation. The beauty, power, and need for God are seen in creation. Design requires a designer. Teleology (purpose of design) refutes chance/evolution.
- Evidence of a divine power or person beyond the natural is embedded within all cultures, regardless of specifics, through the dichotomies of good/evil, right/wrong, and virtue/vice in society. The human _____ connects to "something" beyond the natural.

"Ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God." - Romans 1:20 (New Living Translation)

2. The _____.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."
- 2nd Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

- The Bible is "God's word _____."
- This is called _____ revelation. God reveals specific aspects of His nature and will through the spoken and/or written word. This includes particular attributes of His nature (e.g., holy, just, loving, gracious, relational), His intervening actions in human history, and His plan of redemption.

"...to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."
- Colossians 1:25b-27 (English Standard Version)

- The power of the Word is how it speaks to everyone and _____.

"For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart." - Hebrew 4:12 (Christian Standard Bible)

3. In _____.

"While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'" - Acts 13:2 (NIV)

- Worship is the _____ of devotion, not just certain acts.
- We should not expect or seek God to speak with an audible voice. This is looking for a "sign" (Jesus cautioned against that - Matthew 12:39). Such an *external* expectation negates seeking the *internal* work of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 4:6; Romans 8; 1 John 4:13-16).

4. Through the Word Made _____.

"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power." - Hebrews 1:1-3a (ESV)

- Jesus is God's _____ and most complete revelation until eternity (John 14:9; Colossians 2:9).
- Knowing Jesus = knowing God; vice versa (John 1:18).

"Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work...These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me."
- John 14:10 & 24b (NIV)

How can we know and listen to Jesus's voice?

- A key founder of our heritage of churches, Alexander Campbell, emphasized our need to come "within the understanding distance" or "hearing distance." This means we best hear Jesus when we are in relationship with Him: Shepherd-sheep; Lord-servant; Teacher-disciple. We must know Jesus to _____ His voice.
- When seeking the voice of the Lord for specific guidance, unfortunately, many other voices vie for our attention (e.g., the world, the devil, the flesh/self). How can we truly hear the voice of Jesus?
 - Words of Jesus - The New Commandment (John 13:34) and Golden Rule (Matt. 7:12) cover _____% of decisions we face.
 - Worship = The Spirit fills through praise (Ephesians 5:17-20).
 - _____ = Prayer, meditation, silence, time.
 - Whole-hearted confession and _____ (1 John 1:8-9).
 - Wise _____ (Proverbs 12:15).
 - _____ (Romans 8:25).
 - Willful _____ (Matt. 7:24; James 4:17; Rom. 12:1-2).

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."
- James 1:22 (NIV)