

The Characteristics of Our Voice

When we pray, we might notice one of three distinct characteristics of the voice we're hearing that would reveal it is our voice in our head.

1. **Fleshly desires.** My voice sounds like my voice in my head, of course, having the same inflections, but will yammer about my previous fleshly desires. If I hear myself wishing for the wrong thing, then I try to let my spirit tell my flesh to shut it. It's not easy to die to self, but that's one way it's done.
2. **Double-mindedness.** If I'm desiring two opposing things simultaneously, that's another sign I know it's not God. Double-mindedness is the red flag that I'm not on a stable path (James 1:8). The Spirit is the only voice that is dependable and that will guide me into truth (John 16:13).
3. **Hesitation.** If I'm hearing a voice, and at the end of the sentence there's a pause or stuttering, then it's probably me trying to think of what to say next! I have to analyze that, and when I do, I'll probably realize I've been so desperate to hear from God that I started talking in my head wanting to believe it's God. But it's not. I may or may not have experienced that a few times. ;)

The Devil's Voice

When the devil or another evil spirit is speaking, one or more of the following is notable:

- **Confusion.** For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work (James 3:16). God is not the author of confusion... (1 Corinthians 14:33).
- **Condemnation.** There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus... (Romans 8:1).
- **Fear.** For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).
- **Foolish ideas.** "...why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit... (Acts 5:3).
- **Lies or the opposite of Truth.** He is the father of lies (John 8:44).
- **Temptation.** Satan is called the tempter (Matthew 4:3); God doesn't tempt any man (James 1:13). Do what Jesus did: use Scripture to kick him out!
- **Refusal to declare Jesus came in the flesh** (1 John 4:1-6). This will be evident of those speaking false religions.
- **Deception/manipulation of facts.** He may try to deceive you by adding to what God said (Genesis 3:1-5).
- **Doubt.** As one of the devil's major tricks, he even tried to pull that one over on Jesus. "IF you are the Son of God..." (Matthew 4:3,6).

Characteristics of God's Voice

God may speak to us thunderously, leaving us “thunderstruck” (See 2 Samuel 22:14; Job 37:2,5; Psalm 104:7; Exodus 19-20 - When God came to declare the 10 Commandments, etc., it was accompanied by thunder and lightning; 2 Samuel 22:14.)

Or He might speak in that still small voice like He did to Elijah (1 Kings 19:12-13). Either way, the characteristics of His voice will be evident:

Reminds us of His promises

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. John 14:26 ESV

The lordship of Jesus is evident

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:3 ESV

When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me. John 15:26 NASB

He will never lie

See Numbers 23:19; 1 Samuel 15:29; Titus 1:2

We will have peace

“Peace I leave with you...” John 14:27 NASB

He will guide us into and speak truth

But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. John 16:13 NASB

And will glorify Jesus

[The Holy Spirit] will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. John 16:14 NASB

He will draw you closer to Him

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. Revelation 3:20

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost. Revelation 22:17 NASB

It will be filled with wisdom

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. James 1:5 NASB