

14 June sermon manuscript_Tuning In to the Divine Frequency: Hearing God's Voice for Your Life

Psalm 25

Picture this: an old radio sitting in a quiet room. Someone reaches over and turns it on, slowly working the dial through static — that harsh, crackling wash of noise filling the space for several long seconds. Then, suddenly, a clear signal cuts through. A station comes in sharp and unmistakable. A few seconds later, the radio clicks off again.

Here's the thing: that station had been broadcasting the entire time. The signal was going out — clear, constant — long before anyone ever touched the dial.

The radio wasn't broken. It wasn't a transmission problem.

This was a tuning problem. And that's the whole message, right here.

Some of you are sitting on a real decision right now. You've prayed. Fasted. Sought counsel. And you still don't know what God is saying.

Others of you thought you heard from God — clearly, confidently — and then nothing happened the way you expected. The gap widened, and now you're second-guessing everything.

And some of you are just full of voices — family, social media, your own fears, your own hopes — and even if God is speaking, you can't sort His voice from the noise.

None of those are a faith problem. All of those are a frequency problem. A tuning-in problem.

This message is for exactly where you are today.

Last week we sat with Abram — five steps to live a called life. If you missed that message, go back and watch it. All of us would like to respond to God the way Abram did, but first we have to actually hear from God.

Before we get into how to do that, I want you to hear a prayer. David wrote it, and it sets the heart behind everything we're about to walk through.

Make your ways known to me, LORD; teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; I wait for you all day long. (Psalm 25:4-5)

That's the prayer underneath this entire message.

David didn't think it was presumptuous to ask God to speak to him specifically. He didn't treat hearing from God as something reserved for people more spiritually qualified. He just asked — honestly, directly, soul stretched wide open, everything on the line.

What follows are three realities that bring David's prayer to life for us today.

Reality One: God Is Speaking, and You Were Made to Receive

The secret counsel of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he reveals it to them. (Psalm 25:14)

Let's key in on that word — secret. In the Hebrew, it's *sod*: S-O-D. Intimate counsel. The kind of conversation that doesn't go out to the crowd, but happens when a father pulls his son aside and says, "This is between us." That's the relationship God wants with the people who fear Him — the humble, the respectful, the ones whose posture is simply: I trust You. I surrender to You. Teach me, Father.

The longing you feel to hear from God is not a sign of weak faith. It's the image of God in you, doing exactly what it was designed to do. God put that longing inside of you, and He fully intends to meet it.

But we have a problem — not with the "but," but with how we were taught to pray. Dallas Willard writes it plainly: by and large, prayer is treated as one-way communication. We speak to God, but He does not speak to us — at least not in any specific, personal way. We were trained to broadcast. To call out. To cry out to the Lord. Nobody took the time to teach us what to do when God talks back.

So if you've been faithful in the discipline of prayer and still don't know what God is saying, the problem isn't necessarily that something is broken in you. You were never given the instruction on how to receive. That's exactly what this message is for.

Now, some of you are already thinking: if I prayed more, fasted more, dealt with my sin sooner, I would be able to hear from God more clearly. The reality is, those who think that way aren't actually practicing faith. Instead, you're operating according to a merit system with God's name on it — and it's wearing you out, draining you of hope. Discipline matters, but discipline is not the price of admission to hearing from God. In other words, don't base your ability to hear from God entirely on what you're doing. If we learned anything from the Tower of Babel, it's this: never try to move God by our works. Proper training makes you a better receiver. One produces vain striving. The other produces stillness. And stillness is exactly what you need.

Here's a picture of where most of us actually are: 1 Samuel 3. Young Samuel is sleeping in the tabernacle when he hears his name. He runs to Eli: "Here I am — you called me?" Eli says, "I didn't call you. Go back to sleep." This happens three separate times. Each time, God was speaking — clearly, by name. Samuel was receiving the transmission. He just had no framework for the source.

It took five words from Eli to change everything: "Go and lie down."

Most of us are Samuel. The signal is going out, but nobody ever sat us down and gave us the instruction — so we've called His voice our own thoughts. Routed the transmission to the wrong address. Misinterpreted what God was actually speaking. Again, this is not your fault. But now, at the very least, you know: you must first be still.

So God wants to speak with you — that's settled. Here's the second half of this reality: He's not just willing. He's already doing it.

Long ago God spoke to the fathers by the prophets at many times and in many ways. In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things and through whom he made the universe. (Hebrews 1:1-2)

In the original Greek, that second "spoken" is active and continuous. God has spoken to us through His Son — and He continues to speak. Isn't it amazing to know that God, the Creator and Sustainer of all that we know, both desires and engages us in active communication? What a humbling truth.

So God is speaking. But here's a picture of how we lose the signal. Consider your Wi-Fi router at home — it doesn't shut off when you walk into another room and lose the connection. It keeps broadcasting. The problem

is distance. Obstruction. Interference. When you lose the signal, you don't need God to start speaking again. You need to get closer to the source.

Now, can God speak over the noise? Sure — He can, and He does at times. But look at how He chooses to.

A great wind tore at the mountains. The Lord was not in the wind. After the wind, an earthquake. The Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake, a fire. The Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire — a voice. A soft whisper.

Four events. The first three are the loudest, most unmistakable ways God had ever shown up before, and He wasn't in any of them. But He was in the whisper. Most of us were trained to recognize God only in the earthquake and the fire. So we go on praying — and miss the whisper, because we never learned to get quiet enough to hear it.

Here's a number that should bother us. Pew and Barna research shows that the majority of Christians in America pray regularly — but only somewhere between 14 and 20 percent say they regularly receive what they recognize as specific communication from God. More than half are talking. Less than a fifth are receiving.

A monologue isn't prayer. That's a memo. And God is not a manager you send memos to. He is not grading your prayer metrics. He is reaching for you, wanting you to respond.

Jesus said it plainly: My sheep hear my voice. His sheep — that's you, that's me, that's the entire body of Christ. The signal is going out. The station is on the air. The only question is whether you're tuned in.

And that's where we turn next — because most of us aren't.

Reality Two: There's Static on the Line

Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without doubting. For the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord, being double-minded and unstable in all his ways. (James 1:5-8)

Let's key in on the word "doubting." In the original Greek, it literally means double-souled. Two-souled. Someone praying sincerely but remaining fundamentally uncommitted to the answer. They want to hear from God — as long as He doesn't disturb what they've already decided. The double-minded person isn't waiting on God to speak. They're wrestling with whether they will obey what God has already said.

So before you ask, "What's blocking me from hearing God?" — ask yourself, "Have I already decided that I will only receive the answer I want?"

But double-mindedness isn't the only static between us and God. Dallas Willard names several voices competing for the frequency. Satan is one — quick diagnostic: if a voice leaves you smaller, ashamed, stuck with no path forward, examine it closely. That's not God. Bad doctrine is another: if you were taught that God doesn't speak personally, only to pastors and select people, you'll miss His voice every time — not because He isn't speaking, but because you were trained to use someone else as a go-between.

But three voices are loud enough in our culture that we need to deal with them directly.

Your own desires and thoughts. This is the most common source of static, and the most dangerous. When you're desperate for a specific answer, your mind can generate that answer — and then quietly attribute it to God. The voice that sounds most like your own is the one you're least likely to question. You can't fact-check a voice you've already decided is God.

Culture and media. This one doesn't announce itself. It doesn't knock. It marinates — slow, constant, ambient — until the values of the age become the furniture of your mind. The algorithm is not neutral. It's engineered to find what moves you — your fear, your anger, your longing for validation — and feed you more of it. Culture doesn't just add noise. It rewires your categories, shaping what you think is even reasonable for God to say. So by the time you bow your head, you're not coming with open hands. You're coming with a grid. And anything He says that doesn't fit gets filtered out before it ever reaches your heart. An unexamined media diet doesn't just distract you from God's voice. It trains you to miss it altogether.

Other people's voices. Community is essential — God built us for it. But community can also be static. Family pressure. The weight of people you respect. The gravitational pull of the room you're standing in. Sometimes what you need most isn't more voices in your life. It's fewer.

I know what some of you are already thinking: if I can just get out of my own way — cut the enemy off, delete the social media, tune out the family voices, pick up a systematic theology textbook — then I'll finally hear from God clearly. Those things aren't wrong. But if you approach them as a performance to earn God's attention, you've just added another layer of noise. The straining. The self-monitoring. The constant low-grade anxiety of trying to be good enough.

Hear this and receive grace: you will never fully eliminate the static this side of eternity. That's not the goal. The goal is to stop feeding static. Do your part. Name what's loudest in your life right now. Turn it over to the Lord. Ask Him to help you quit feeding it. And when you do, be sincere. Jesus can get you through this — after all, He wants you to be able to hear and respond to Him.

Reality Three: Decrypted and Acted On

But once the signal has been cleared, what do we do with the message? It needs to be decrypted and acted on. That's our third and final reality.

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (1 John 4:1)

John's starting point is not skepticism. It's assumption — he assumes spirits are communicating, and that not all of them are from God. He takes that as given. What he commands is testing — the Greek word means to examine, to prove, to establish purity. Not a quick gut check. A slow, repeated, practical process.

Notice what John does not say. He doesn't say be suspicious of spiritual experience. He says don't believe every spirit. There's a difference — one produces paranoia, the other produces discernment. He also doesn't promise his readers a gift for this. He doesn't promise certainty before you act. He assumes Christians will learn how to test the spirits.

When it comes to detecting counterfeit bills, it might surprise you to know that the Secret Service doesn't train by studying fake bills. They train agents by handling the real thing — hundreds of hours with authentic currency — until the genuine article is written into muscle memory. When a counterfeit shows up, they don't reach for a manual. They just know.

That's the framework for spiritual discernment. The goal isn't an elaborate checklist for catching false voices. The goal is to know the genuine voice of God so thoroughly, so completely, so intimately, that when something isn't from Him, you feel it in your spirit before you can explain it.

Here are three lights to help confirm that what you're hearing is authentically from God — three lights to illuminate truth from falsity.

Scripture. Does what you heard contradict God's Word — His commands, His character, who He is? If it requires twisting Scripture to fit, it doesn't fit. This one is non-negotiable. Everything else is measured here first.

Circumstances. Is there convergence — doors opening, direction confirming, details aligning? Circumstances alone are never sufficient. Your own desires can arrange evidence to look like providence. But when they line up with Scripture and the inner witness, that alignment carries real weight.

Inner witness. Is there a settled, peaceful confirmation in your spirit — not emotional excitement, but a quiet rightness that persists when you bring it before God in extended prayer? A heavenly assurance that says, "Yes, son. Yes, daughter. You're on the right path. Stay the course."

Now, this next part is essential: the goal isn't to eliminate the possibility of error. The goal is to know the Shepherd's voice so well that when something isn't from Him, you feel the difference — like a child who knows their father's voice in a crowded room. Not because they studied vocal acoustics. Because they've been close to Him long enough to know Him intimately.

When all three lights align, Willard calls that "reasonable certainty." Not infallibility. Not the elimination of risk. Just enough Spirit-grounded confidence to take a step without being paralyzed.

One Thing, Not Three

Let me help those of you who are worried about getting it wrong — who are stuck waiting for certainty, who want more confirmation before you step out. Remember Abram from last week? God called him — no map, no itinerary. He heard, and he moved in the direction of the voice. Not after certainty. In the direction of the voice.

My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me. (John 10:27)

Three things. One verse. Hear. Know. Follow. Not hear-then-deliberate-then-decide. The hearing and the following are one fluid movement.

Take solace and encouragement in this: the Shepherd doesn't drive His sheep from behind. He goes ahead. He's already standing on the ground your next step hasn't reached yet.

The next step is yours to take. The road ahead is His to make. The next step is yours to take. The road ahead is His to make.

When we started this message, I told you that our ability to hear from God isn't necessarily a faith problem. It's a frequency problem — being tuned to God's signal. And I stand by that. God has not been withholding His voice from you. He has been speaking into the same static that's been blocking your reception — the same divided heart, the same crowded frequency, the same untaught ear that never got the instruction Samuel got. But you have the instruction now.

Make your ways known to me, LORD; teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; I wait for you all day long. (Psalm 25:4-5)

Read it again — not as a wish, but as a child coming to a Heavenly Father who wants to be heard from.

So here's your one thing. Not three. One. Before this week is over, look back over your notes and identify the step you need to take in hearing from God, so you can move forward in agreement with Him.

Like Elijah, our hearts should always say: *Speak, LORD... for Your servant is listening.*

Make that your prayer this week — heads bowed, hearts submitted: *Speak, Lord... for Your servant is listening.*

