



Revelation 2:7: *“He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches; to him that overcomes will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.”*

We are living in very perilous times where it has become increasingly important for all believers to be able to hear the voice of God. The problem is that **there are so many voices competing for our attention that it is very easy to confuse them for the voice of our Shepherd.** The only way to hear His voice clearly is by getting to know Him intimately. His sheep know His voice:

John 10:3-5 *“To him the gatekeeper opens; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calls his own sheep by name, and leads them out. And when he puts forth his own sheep, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.”*

You are probably familiar with the story of David who started his career as a shepherd to later become king of Israel. He was a very good shepherd to his sheep and protected them from bears, wolves and made sure that they didn't get hurt. He led them to fresh meadows where they found enough food and water. He probably knew each one by name, and also knew what they liked and disliked as well as their unique characteristics.

You might be wondering why I am telling you about David and his sheep. Well, I would like to remind you today that Jesus is such a shepherd for you. **He is the good shepherd that takes care of your needs and makes sure that you don't lack anything.** He protects you against the attacks of the enemy and He knows you better than anyone else, even better than yourself.

However, here is my question for you: Do you know His voice and do you know when He calls you? If you know His voice it will prevent you from being led astray. You must listen every day to His voice and His direction and you will experience His leading like never before.

Spend time in His presence and read His Word and you will get more familiar with His voice.

However, sometimes you may hear voices that are not His voice. One of those voices is the voice of Satan, and the other voice may come from your soulish realm. **His voice may sometimes be urgent, but it is never pushy. The LORD may lead you to do something, but He will never drive you. You must learn how to be able to tell the difference between them.**

What you are hearing, does it line up with the word of God? Or does it contradict it. What you are hearing in the spirit, does it bring peace to you or does it bring fear and turmoil? **Does it agitate you or does it bring contentment and joy to your heart? What fruit came forth from the voice that you heard? The answer will tell you where the voice originated from.**

The voice of the Lord is never demanding or pushy. He is a shepherd that leads. This means that He invites you to do something that encourages you and gives you hope. Sometimes He also warns you and corrects you if you are about to go down a wrong path. **But contrary to the voice of the enemy, His voice is always "leading" and not "pushy" just like the voice of a shepherd.**

There are voices all around you telling you what to do, judging your actions and causing you to run in many directions. Over time you get so used to these voices that you start to drown them out and forget that they are there. It is only in the pure silence of His presence that you will realize how much has been coming at you. **What you do not realize is that all this noise has caused your spiritual ears to become dull of hearing.**

All of these other voices and noise around you has drowned out His voice and made it more difficult to get into His presence and to receive direction from Him. **It sometimes may feel like you do not really know His voice.** Jesus desires nothing more than speaking to you and having fellowship with you daily. He is always talking to you even though you don't seem to hear him at times.

There are many different ways that He speaks to you. Another way is through His Word. Things that are written in the Bible were written especially for us so that we can get to know the Lord better and know His will for our lives. **If the bible seems dry to you, you need to read the lessons that we did on The Living Word.** You will see that you will get more out of reading the Bible and it will speak so much more to you when you do it like that. Stay thirsty for Him my friends. Shalom!