
GOSPEL TRUTH

FOUR BASICS OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE



JULY 2023

**What Was Paul's
"Thorn in the
Flesh"?**

**Defeating Sickness
with Scripture:
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Wonderfully
Made to
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FOUR BASICS OF HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Did you know that God is constantly speaking to you? If you weren't aware of that fact, chances are you're not tuned in to His voice. And if you're currently facing challenges in your life, this could be one of the reasons why. **However, if you could discern what God is saying to you, not only would it help you overcome your problems, but it could also enable you to avoid them altogether!**

I honestly can't fathom how anyone can navigate life without hearing God's voice. It is an absolute necessity. And yet, the majority of Christians are content to go through life without even realising that God is speaking to them, let alone knowing how to listen. If this resonates with you, I have some good news that will really help you. I say this in love, but if your life seems completely off balance—whether in your health, finances, emotions, or marriage—I can guarantee you it's because you've been making decisions without seeking God's guidance.

But you don't have to remain in that state. **You are just one word away from God turning your entire situation around.** But first, you need to understand some basics. These will boost your confidence in your relationship with God, leading to a radically different life!

That's why I want to share with you four ways that God speaks to us. These have not only transformed my life, but they have also impacted countless others who have heard me share these truths.

1 God speaks through your conscience

Did you know that one of the primary ways you can hear from God and be guided by Him is through your conscience? God has instilled within your heart an intuitive knowledge of what is right and wrong. Your conscience has the power to either accuse or excuse you, and it operates automatically. However, it's not beyond your ability to control.

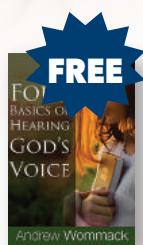
In fact, 1 John 3:18–21 reveals that you can reassure your heart before God. This means you can reach a point where your conscience actually gives you confidence:

For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

1 John 3:20–21

When you learn to reassure your heart, your conscience becomes a source of confidence. The Apostle Paul mentioned on two occasions that he consistently strived to maintain a clear conscience (Acts 23:1 and 24:16). This doesn't imply that he was sinless or disregarded his conscience. It just means that he made it a practice to keep his conscience free from offense. He invested effort into it, which is key to assuring your heart.

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2 God speaks through His Word

God communicates with you through His Word, which holds supreme authority. While you may hear many things, you shouldn't let anything contradict or override the Bible. The words of Scripture aren't the opinions of fallible man. No. They're inspired by the

Holy Spirit. Believing this truth is essential to hearing and recognising God's voice.

His Word must serve as the standard by which you evaluate whether a message is from God or not.

Therefore, it is crucial to *"study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2 Tim. 2:15). If something doesn't align with God's Word, reject it.



But how can you know if what you are hearing is actually God's voice?

Hebrews 4:12 says that God's Word is alive and sharper than any two-edged sword, capable of discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **Notice that God's Word is examining you, not the other way around.**

When you suspect that God is speaking to you, His Word will help you determine if it is truly Him. Let God be true and every man a liar (Rom. 3:4). His Word must be absolute truth and the final authority in our lives.

3 God speaks through your spirit

When you are born again, you become one spirit with the Lord. However, most Christians are not aware of this spiritual reality and tend to identify more with their flesh than with Christ in the spirit. But you don't need to rely on external signs or circumstances to hear God's voice. Instead, you can *"walk by faith, not by sight"* (2 Cor. 5:7) and let God speak to you from the inside out—His Spirit to your spirit.

To examine if what you're hearing is from God, use the Word of God to discern between the flesh and the born-again part of you. It's crucial to have both the Word and the Holy Spirit guiding you.

Your spirit knows all things, and the peace of God should act as an umpire in your heart, helping you make decisions. If you struggle to discern peace, seek counsel from a mentor or begin moving in the

direction where you feel the most peace. If you feel a holy dissatisfaction, it means that God is trying to get you to step out of your comfort zone and do something different. Follow the peace of God, and it will never fail you.

4 God speaks through the Holy Spirit

Another powerful way to hear God's voice is through the Holy Spirit. While there are various spiritual gifts like prophecy, wisdom, and knowledge, the Apostle Paul emphasised that his impact came not from his charisma or eloquence but from operating in the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2). Similarly, fulfilling God's will requires supernatural power beyond our human abilities.

To hear God's voice, you need the Holy Spirit's power. The Apostle Paul stressed this in 1 Corinthians 2:9–14. You cannot rely on your abilities alone to accomplish God's will for your life. The Holy Spirit will show you the wisdom of God, which comes by revelation, not education. He will also lead you into all truth and even reveal things to come (John 16:13). You need to depend on Him for supernatural revelation.

If you draw near to the Lord, He will draw near to you (James 4:8). If you begin investing time into the things I've shared here, you will begin hearing God speak to you. I guarantee it!

I hope this teaching ministers to you and makes a difference in your life. I encourage you to get my new booklet, **Four Basics of Hearing God's Voice**, where I go into much greater detail on this teaching than I have space for here. To order, visit awme.net/basics, call our UK Helpline at **+44 (0)1922 473300**, or complete the enclosed form.

We love you!

Andrew and Jamie



Fearfully and Wonderfully Made to Experience Healing



I'm sure you've heard Psalm 139:14, which says you are "*fearfully and wonderfully made*." But did you know you weren't made for sickness?

Here are two reasons why you were made to experience healing:

Reason #1: You may have been born sick, but your healing glorifies God.

In John 9:1–3, the disciples asked who had sinned to cause a man to be born blind. Jesus explained that the man's blindness wasn't the result of anyone's sin, but He would redeem the situation by healing the man. Jesus also redeemed you from the curse of the law (Gal. 3:13), and that includes sickness. By experiencing healing, you can testify to God's power and goodness in your life.

When I was five, I confessed with my mouth and believed in my heart that Jesus is Lord. At that moment, I became a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17). I didn't see my spirit become new—I received it by faith! It is the same way with your healing. When you pray for healing, it is instantly received in your physical body, but it may take some time and discipline before you see it manifest in your life.

Reason #2: As a believer, you have authority over your body!

Though your outward man perishes, your inward man is renewed day by day (2 Cor. 4:16). There is something about life that is just so daily! What you do in your day-to-day can either add up for or against you regarding your health.

As a steward over your body, which is the temple of the Holy Spirit, you can choose to either bless or curse your temple. Just because you experience a symptom, it doesn't mean you have to invite it in with your words.



Remembering Psalm 139:14 can help you experience your healing. The next time a symptom starts to come to your body, I encourage you to remind yourself that you are fearfully and wonderfully made. Praise God and tell your symptoms to "talk to the hand," and don't let them make you doubt your healing!

If you enjoyed this teaching from last year's Healing Is Here conference, you can find out more information on Healing is Here 2023 taking place at Woodland Park, Colorado on August 8-12. Visit <https://events.awmi.net/healing-is-here-2023>.



Daniel Amstutz, Director of Worship and Healing School

Daniel Amstutz is a seasoned, ordained minister and a published songwriter, recording artist, and author. He holds a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance from the University of Colorado and a Bachelor of Theology from Christian Life School of Theology. He is a passionate teacher who loves to help people live in freedom through the Word of God and the ministry of the Holy Spirit!

Beyond Doubt: The Absolute Truth of the Word of God

The Word of God will change your life when you believe it with all your heart and make it the final authority in your life. **You can trust the Word of God—it never fails!**

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. . . . All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:3 and 6

Isaiah wrote about God becoming flesh and living on this earth. Isaiah's writings predate the time of Jesus by hundreds of years, long before crucifixion became a method of Roman execution—the Roman Empire did not yet exist during Isaiah's time. Yet the particulars about Jesus' death are accurate down to the tiniest detail.

That the fulfilment of prophecies regarding the birth, life, and sacrificial death of Jesus came to pass exactly as prophesied (such as Is. 7:14, Matt. 1:22–23, Luke 1:26–27 and 31 for His birth; and Ps. 22:16, Zech. 12:10, and John 19:34–37 for His death)

serves as compelling confirmation that the Bible is not merely the work of human authors but rather the result of God speaking through those authors.

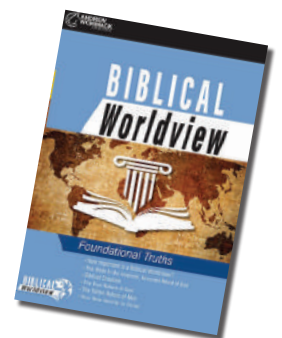
It's extremely improbable that one person's life could fulfil even one hundred prophecies, but Jesus fulfilled over three hundred prophecies recorded in Scripture. For anyone with an open heart and a sincere willingness to examine these claims, this is infallible proof in the accuracy of the Bible.

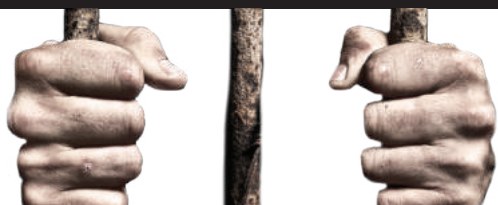
Many people choose not to examine the Bible's claims because they don't want the light of God's Word illuminating their actions (John 3:20 and 2 Pet. 3:5). However, the historical eyewitness evidence of biblical events as recorded in the Gospels is undeniable.

If our worldview is not built on the unshakable truth of God's Word, then our faith will be easily shaken.

Once you resolve any doubts you may have about the accuracy of the Word of God and decide, *I believe the Bible is divinely inspired and absolutely accurate*, your life will start to be shaped by this truth. No longer will you waver with every wind of doctrine; instead, you'll stand upon the firm foundation of God's holy Word.

Now more than ever, a Christian worldview is essential. Our *Biblical Worldview: Foundational Truths* curriculum will give you a firm grasp on some of the most fundamental truths in the Bible. Visit awme.net/shop and find out how you can make God's Word the ultimate authority in your life.





And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

2 Corinthians 12:7, New King James Version

This scripture is one of the scriptures most misinterpreted by the body of Christ today. It begs the question: What exactly was Paul's thorn in the flesh? To gain a clearer understanding, let's allow Scripture to interpret Scripture.

The phrase "*lest I should be exalted above measure*" is often misunderstood as referring to Paul's desire to avoid pride or arrogance. However, the Greek word *hyperairó*, translated as "*exalted above measure*," actually means "to be lifted up, higher, or above" (*Strong's Concordance*) and is in the passive voice, indicating that something was being done to Paul rather than by him.

In the Greek language, there are three voice tenses:

1. Active—the person performs the action.
2. Passive—something is done to the person.
3. Middle—the person performs the action for or to themselves.

Here, the passive voice is employed to emphasise that Paul was, in fact, lifted up and exalted above measure. So this was done to him through the abundance of revelations he received. **Revelation of the Word of God always brings transformation that leads to elevation.**

There are commentaries that suggest God sent the thorn, but that interpretation is not supported by the

What Was Paul's "Thorn in the Flesh"?

verse itself. The passage clearly states that it was a messenger. A messenger of whom? A messenger of Satan!

It is crucial to understand that the devil and God are not allies. They are not on the same team, and the devil is not on God's payroll.



But let's imagine for a moment what would happen if the devil did work for God, which we know he does not. Why would he want to humble Paul? The devil's objective is to fuel pride, not humility. It is important to remember that pride often leads to a downfall, as mentioned in Proverbs 16:18.

Additionally, according to the Word of God, as seen in Numbers 33:55, Joshua 23:13, and Judges 2:3, thorns symbolise persecution and harassment—not sickness, as suggested by some commentators.

The devil doesn't work for God, and he didn't send a messenger to humble Paul on God's behalf. Satan sent a persecutor in an attempt to hinder Paul's ministry.

Many people are asking God to remove obstacles from their path, and God may be saying no because doing so would prevent them from fulfilling their kingdom purpose. Understanding the true meaning of Paul's thorn can help us gain a deeper insight into the challenges we face and find strength in God's grace to overcome them.

Watch the full teaching at awmi.net/thorn to find out more about Paul's thorn in the flesh and how he overcame it.



Rick McFarland,
Adjunct Professor

Rick McFarland holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from Oklahoma State University. He furthered his education at Rhema Bible Training Center and the School of the Local Church in Tulsa. After serving sixteen years as a singles pastor at Grace Church, he moved to Colorado with his wife, Joann. In 2011, Rick earned a master's degree in biblical studies from Charis Bible College. Currently, he serves as the senior pastor of River Rock Church in Colorado Springs and teaches at Charis Bible College Woodland Park.



Defeating Sickness with Scripture:

The Story of Merci Santos

Imagine suffering from Multiple Sclerosis (MS) for over twenty years. You can't work or walk; you can't cook or take care of your growing child—you can't even complete a simple task like writing a cheque. One day you experience some supernatural healing, but shortly after, those devastating symptoms return.

What do you do now?

Merci Santos was diagnosed with MS early in life, paralysed on her left side, and partially blind in one eye. As time passed, she found herself unable to walk or drive. She was hospitalised every month, struggling each time to return to work and to her husband and young daughter. Medical treatment helped temporarily, but within weeks the cycle would begin again.

The time came when Merci realised medicine would never offer lasting wellness. Her symptoms intensified until she was confined to a wheelchair, totally dependent upon others, and unable to talk.

Merci relied heavily upon her Christian faith. She believed in God's healing power, and on a few occasions at church, she experienced supernatural healing and was able to walk! But sadly, she did not keep the healing, and her feelings of joy repeatedly faded into confusion as debilitating symptoms returned.

She asked, Lord, what am I doing wrong?

God's response came in an unexpected way. One night, flipping through the channels, she paused on a program she had bypassed before. This time, it seemed the man teaching was staring straight at her, and she found herself listening intently as he spoke with a strong Texan accent.

He said, "What you're doing wrong is that you're not praying right." As he defended his point with scriptures, his words pierced Merci's heart. As Hebrews 4:12 says:

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

That night, Andrew Wommack's Gospel Truth broadcast gave Merci the answer that changed her life forever.

Merci discovered that she didn't have to wait for healing encounters like she initially experienced. God's healing power already resided within her as a believer (Rom. 8:11). Because healing was already purchased by Christ (1 Pet. 2:24), she could access it at any time. She changed the way she prayed, activating her faith in Christ's finished work. From that moment on, she began to receive a progressive healing, which restored her fully to life. And she learned how to stop any symptom in its tracks if it tried to return.

Thanks to our friends and partners, Merci said goodbye to monthly hospitalisations. She is completely healed, walking, talking, and enjoying family. The symptoms that crippled her for over twenty years are gone!

Because you made God's Word available, Merci learned the simplicity of effective prayer founded on God's Word, and it changed her life forever.

Visit awmi.net/MerciSantos to learn more about Merci's story!



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9 September

Charis Open Days

Dumfries, Exeter, Walsall, Yorkshire



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Charis Instructor,
Arthur Meintjes
will be at Charis
Walsall Open Days
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Featured Testimony

“ He began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave him utterance. ”

Michael rang for prayer for salvation and baptism of the Holy Spirit. The minister lead him into prayer for salvation and baptism in the Holy Spirit, Michael spoke in tongues then he felt tingling in his body. Miraculously that also had an effect on his body as he can now bend to grab something on the floor. He could not do this before.

Agree with a prayer minister today. Call our UK Helpline on +44(0)1922 473300, Monday to Friday 8am - 9pm

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