1. **The Heart Behind God’s Voice**: God loves us and desires to talk to us
2. Scriptures:

* John 10:27, “*My sheep hear My voice*”
* John 10:37, “*Jesus said, ‘Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice’*.”
* SOS 1:2, “*Let him kiss me with the kisses of His Word*.”
* Jeremiah 33:3, “*Call to Me and I will answer you and I will show you great and mighty things you do not know*.”
* Matthew 4:4, “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God*.”

1. The Still Small Voice: His voice comes in many forms; He uses a ‘special language’ to speak to us in ways we can understand Him best (words, interrupted thoughts, ideas, pictures, video, impressions, our senses, spontaneous flow of words)

* No shame or condemnation even when He is correcting; He is not mean, confusing, frightening, or forceful
* Sweet and kind, gentle, loving, calm, sometimes firm
* Outside our experience with most people

1. Why does God speak:

* He is a talking God *(Genesis 1 – spoke creation into being)*
* His Name is “The Word”…He likes speaking *(John 1:1 “The Word became flesh and dwelt…”*
* He wants to give good things to us that are about Him *(Matt. 7:8-11 “For everyone who asks receives and he who seeks finds …”)*
* He is love. Most of all, He wants to show us His love by talking to us. *(John 10:14 “I am the good shepherd and I know …”)*

1. **His Voice is Hidden for the Hungry**: Only the hungry and humble will seek after the treasures hidden within His voice; those who are hungry will hear
2. Scriptures:

* Proverbs 25:2, “*It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of the king to search out a matter*.”
* The Parables of Jesus~ Matthew 13:10-13, 16:13, “*Blessed are your* ***eyes*** *because they see and your* ***ears*** *because they hear*.”

1. How to hear His Voice:

* His Voice is only heard by the Spirit
* I Corinthians 2:9-14, Paul is speaking to us about the ways of the Spirit.
* Verse 14 the word, “Natural” is the man who is governed by his environment.
* One stumbling block to hearing is that we try to train the natural man to pick up His Voice.
* It’s not anything we can do in the natural to hear, but hearing is by the Spirit of God.

1. **God’s Goal is Relationship**: Prophetic voice is to draw us into a deeper relationship with Jesus and relationship with others to be restored
2. Honoring & Restoration

* Malachi 4:5-6, Malachi said that in the last days God would send Elijah the prophet to restore relationships
* John 13:35, “*By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*
* 2 Corinthians 5:16, “*Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh.”*

1. God’s chief love language to our hearts: Words of affirmation

* Hearing God’s voice is how the Bride of Christ will mature

1. We speak what God’s opinion is of someone

* I Corinthians 14:3, “*But he who prophesies speaks* ***edification,*** *and* ***exhortation*** *and* ***comfort*** *to men. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church*.”
* **Edify**: Build up (Identity)
* **Exhortation**: Stir up (Draw near~ encouraging us along in our maturity; growth; journey)
* **Comfort**: Comfort (bring peace)

1. **Testing the Voice**: The more we know Him, the less we will be deceived
2. I John 4:1, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God…”

* Does what you are hearing line up with the Word and the character and nature of God?
* Journaling is a great way to hear God’s Voice~ dialoguing with Him

1. **Practicing Listening Prayer**: Hearing God’s Voice
2. Position your heart to receive

* Quiet place
* Bible, journal
* Set your mind on Jesus (focus on a verse)
* Tune into any spontaneous thoughts/words/etc…
* Write down what you hear & then respond

1. Expect God to speak to you in the 3 categories: **Build Up, Stir Up, Bring Peace**

* What is one reason You are pleased with me?
* Jesus, when you look at me, tell me what you see?
* What word or promise in Scripture do You have for me today?
* What do You want to say to me right now?
* What question should I ask You?
* Is there anything hindering my relationship with You right now?
* What super power do You say I have?
* What Bible character do You say I am like?
* What makes a friendship with You special?
* What can I do to hear Your Voice better?
* How can I grow in my friendship with You?