

Voice Recognition

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

John 10:27

Seeing, tasting, touching, smelling, and hearing are the five senses God has given us to experience our physical existence in this world. When one of our senses is exposed to an area of its intended purpose, an imprint is deeply embedded in our brain. The experience will cause us to naturally remember how something sounds, smells, feels, tastes, or looks. If someone suddenly lost their eyesight, they would still be able to recognize the voices of those familiar to them. Today's verse speaks of believers being able to hear the voice of our Good Shepherd.

The tenth chapter of John pictures the intimate relationship between a shepherd and his sheep with the spiritual application being the believer's relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. From this teaching, we learn that not only does the Good Shepherd know His sheep by name but He guides, feeds, and protects each of them. The sheep recognize the shepherd's voice and follow him.

As believers, do we recognize the voice of our Good Shepherd? How does He speak to us? Does He still call our name? Before our conversion, God's voice was speaking to us to turn from our way and come to Him. At first, we may not have recognized that beckoning voice; but eventually, when we heard and yielded to His calling we entered into His sheepfold. Today the Lord's voice is heard through His word, His creation, prayer, our spirit, and the many teaching circumstances ordained by Him. Sadly, believers often have their spiritual hearing diminished by the interruptions and distractions of this life. In Matthew 11:15 Jesus offers the admonition "*He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*" Because the Lord calls us by name, we share an intimacy with Him, and as we grow in that closeness we sense when He is speaking specifically to us. God's word rises to a new level of impact when we sense He is speaking directly to us. At times His voice will be convicting, or with a tone of warning, while at other times it will be comforting and consoling. Whatever the circumstance, the Shepherd's voice is calling us to follow Him. When we do, we will find ourselves in greener pastures and beside still waters. There will be times when strangers will call out for us to follow them, but because we are familiar with the Good Shepherd's voice, we can follow His lead.

As you travel through this day, keep your ears turned heavenward to hear the Shepherd's voice saying "Follow me."

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