

A person is walking away from the viewer down a dirt path that leads towards a sunset. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong backlighting effect. The foreground is a field of tall, dry grass. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

# How to Consistently Receive God's Will for Your Life

You Must Personally Hear  
God's Voice Consistently



# 1 Samuel 3:1

Meanwhile, the boy Samuel served the Lord by assisting Eli. Now in those days messages from the Lord were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon.

# 1 Samuel 3:2

One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place.



# 1 Samuel 3:3

The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was.

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Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.



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A third time the Lord called,  
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went to Eli and said, “Here I am.  
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Then Eli realized that the Lord was  
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So Eli told Samuel, “Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.



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The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground.



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And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord.

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The Lord continued to appear  
at Shiloh, and there he  
revealed himself to Samuel  
through his word.



A person is walking away from the viewer down a dirt path that stretches into the distance. The path is flanked by tall, golden-brown grass. In the background, there are rolling hills and a dramatic sky with large, dark clouds and a bright, glowing sun or moon low on the horizon, creating a silhouette effect on the person and the clouds. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

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# **The Voice of God**

**A specific communication from God directly to you, that is clearly distinguishable from your own inner voice. It comes in many ways, shapes, or forms. God's voice is heard Spirit to spirit so it can be hard to quantify at times.**



# Backstory of 1 Samuel 3

- The time frame is during the end of the time of Judges, where “all the people did what was right in their own eyes”.
- At that time messages from the Lord were rare because most of Israel was not focusing on listening to God.

# Backstory of 1 Samuel 3

- Eli the priest's sons were extremely wicked and corrupt.
- They focused on satisfying their selfish desires, which is why I believe that visions from the Lord were quite uncommon.
- Samuel is Hannah's son who was given to the Lord as a child.



# Principle #1

**Although many who faithfully serve the Lord have a hard time personally hearing God's voice, it is not because the Lord is failing to speak on a consistent basis.**

# 1 Samuel 3:1

Meanwhile, the boy Samuel served the Lord by assisting Eli. Now in those days messages from the Lord were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon.



**Were messages from the  
Lord rare because God  
wasn't speaking? Or  
because most people were  
not listening?**

# 1 Samuel 2:12

Now the sons of Eli were  
scoundrels who had no  
respect for the Lord or for  
their duties as priests.



# 1 Samuel 2:22

Now Eli was very old, but he was aware of what his sons were doing to the people of Israel. He knew, for instance, that his sons were seducing the young women who assisted at the entrance of the Tabernacle.

# 1 Samuel 2:23

Eli said to them, “I have been hearing reports from all the people about the wicked things you are doing. Why do you keep sinning?”



# 1 Samuel 2:24

You must stop, my sons! The reports I hear among the Lord's people are not good.

# 1 Samuel 2:25a

If someone sins against another person, God can mediate for the guilty party. But if someone sins against the Lord, who can intercede?"



# **1 Samuel 2:25b**

**But Eli's sons wouldn't listen  
to their father, for the Lord  
was already planning to put  
them to death.**

# 1 Samuel 2:27

One day a man of God came to Eli and gave him this message from the Lord: “I revealed myself to your ancestors when they were Pharaoh’s slaves in Egypt.



# 1 Samuel 2:28

I chose your ancestor Aaron from among all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer sacrifices on my altar, to burn incense, and to wear the priestly vest as he served me. And I assigned the sacrificial offerings to you priests.

# 1 Samuel 2:29

**So why do you scorn my sacrifices and offerings? Why do you give your sons more honor than you give me—for you and they have become fat from the best offerings of my people Israel!”**



# 1 Samuel 2:30

Therefore, the Lord, the God of Israel, says: “I promised that your branch of the tribe of Levi would always be my priests. But I will honor those who honor me, and I will despise those who think lightly of me.

# 1 Samuel 2:31

The time is coming when I will put an end to your family, so it will no longer serve as my priests. All the members of your family will die before their time. None will reach old age.



# 1 Samuel 2:32

You will watch with envy as I pour out prosperity on the people of Israel. But no members of your family will ever live out their days.

# 1 Samuel 2:33

The few not cut off from serving  
at my altar will survive, but only  
so their eyes can go blind and  
their hearts break, and their  
children will die a violent death.



# 1 Samuel 2:34

And to prove that what I have said  
will come true, I will cause your  
two sons, Hophni and Phinehas,  
to die on the same day!

# 1 Samuel 2:35

Then I will raise up a faithful priest who will serve me and do what I desire. I will establish his family, and they will be priests to my anointed kings forever.



# 1 Samuel 2:36

Then all of your surviving family will bow before him, begging for money and food. 'Please,' they will say, 'give us jobs among the priests so we will have enough to eat.'"

# Principle #1

**Although many who faithfully serve the Lord have a hard time personally hearing God's voice, it is not because the Lord is failing to speak on a consistent basis.**



# Principle #2

**All genuine believers in the Lord  
can and do hear the voice of God;  
but way too often, we fail to  
consistently discern when we are  
hearing God's voice.**

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# Why Do We Fail to Hear?

**We are misinformed theologically:**

- **Do you believe that God still speaks today?**
- **Do you believe that God wants to specifically speak to you?**
- **Do you understand that you have a responsibility to invest in hearing His voice?**

# Why Do We Fail to Hear?

**It takes time, effort, and focus.**

- **We are simply too busy.**
- **We don't practice quietness, stillness and listening.**
- **We've deafened ourselves to our Master's voice.**
- **Because the voice of our desires is louder than His voice.**



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# Principle #3

**There can be no personal, intimate relationship with our heavenly Father, if we do not hear Him speak to us personally.**



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**Christian parentage and religious instruction will lead to intimately knowing the Lord only if one invests in hearing God personally.**

# John 10:25

Jesus replied, “I have already told you, and you don’t believe me. The proof is the work I do in my Father’s name.



# John 10:26

But you don't believe me  
because you are not my sheep.

# John 10:27

**My sheep listen to my voice;  
I know them, and they follow me.**



# John 10:28

I give them eternal life, and they  
will never perish. No one can  
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# Principle #4

**Being able to hear God personally  
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# Principle #6

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# Principle #7

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A person is walking away from the viewer on a dirt path that leads towards a sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, golden glow that fills the sky and the foreground. The sky is filled with large, dark clouds that are illuminated from below by the sun. The foreground is a field of tall, dry grass. The person is wearing a light-colored dress and a backpack. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

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