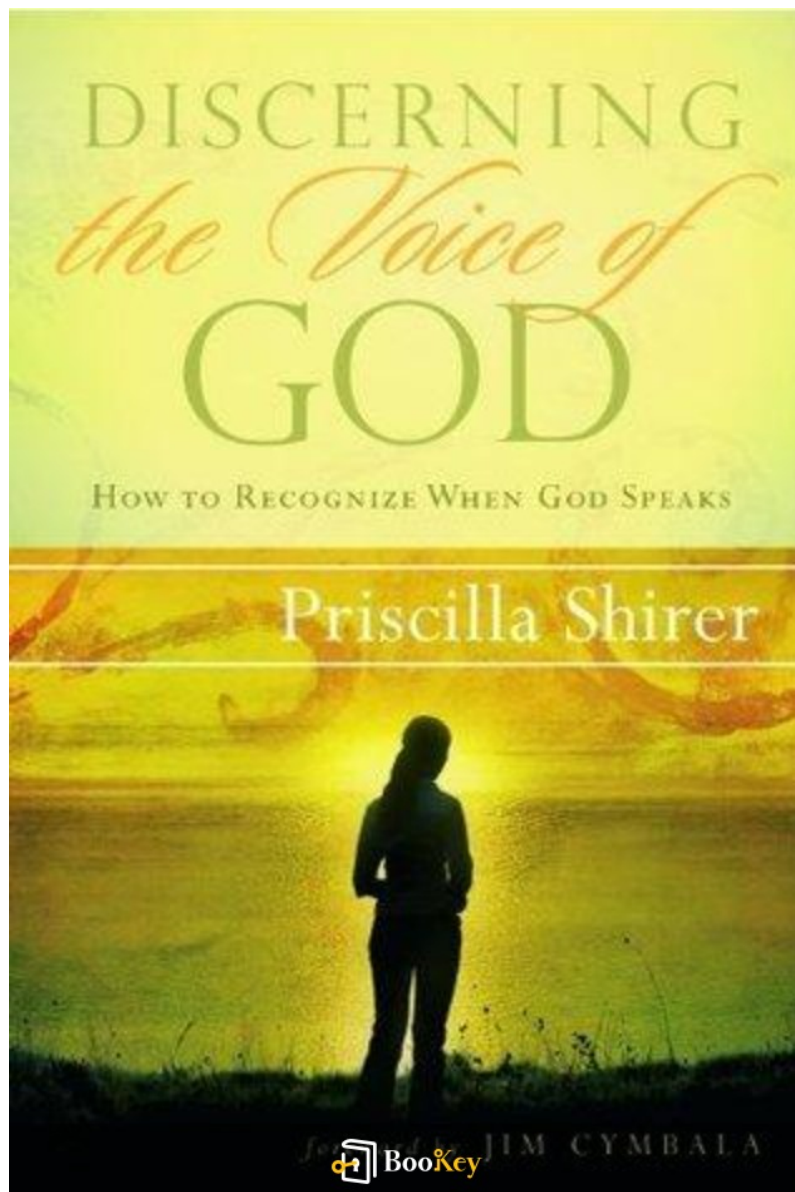


# Discerning The Voice Of God PDF

Priscilla Shirer



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# About the book

Book Overview: "Discerning the Voice of God" by Priscilla Shirer

In her inspiring work, "Discerning the Voice of God," Priscilla Shirer invites readers into a profound exploration aimed at enhancing their connection with the Divine by identifying and understanding God's voice. The book combines insightful reflections and practical guidance rooted in biblical teachings to tackle the common challenge of seeking divine direction amidst the overwhelming noise of everyday life.

Shirer focuses on dismantling confusion and doubt, offering readers a clearer perspective on God's methods of communication and intentions. For those who find it challenging to listen for God amid the turmoil of existence, or for those yearning for a deeper relationship with Him, this book serves as an essential resource. It provides valuable strategies for tuning one's heart to the subtle, yet persistent, messages from God.

Embark on this transformative journey to learn how to discern the voice of God and embrace the deep peace and sense of purpose that comes from truly listening to Him.

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# About the author

Profile: Priscilla Shirer

## Overview:

Priscilla Shirer is a multifaceted leader in the Christian community, recognized for her contributions as an author, speaker, and actress. With a passion for ministry, she focuses on empowering women through the teachings of the gospel.

## Background:

- Family Influence: Daughter of Dr. Tony Evans, a prominent pastor.
- Education: Holds a Master's degree in Biblical Studies from Dallas Theological Seminary.

## Contributions:

- Written Works: An accomplished author with a series of best-selling books and Bible studies, Priscilla aims to deepen believers' understanding of the Scriptures and foster spiritual growth.
- Popular Titles: Renowned for her book "Discerning the Voice of God," which emphasizes the significance of developing a close relationship with God.

## Acting Career:

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- Priscilla has also made a mark in the film industry, featuring in faith-driven movies, most notably "War Room."

### Impact:

Through her engaging teaching style and heartfelt messages, Priscilla Shirer continues to inspire and guide individuals seeking a stronger faith and a deeper connection with God.

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# Discerning The Voice Of God Summary

Written by Listenbrief

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# Discerning The Voice Of God Summary

## Chapter List

1. Understanding the Importance of Listening to God's Voice in Our Lives
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3. Overcoming Obstacles That Block Our Ability to Hear God
4. Practical Steps to Cultivate a Habit of Seeking God's Guidance
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# 1. Understanding the Importance of Listening to God's Voice in Our Lives

Listening to God's voice is a profound and transformative experience that lies at the heart of a vibrant spiritual life. In her book "Discerning the Voice of God," Priscilla Shirer emphasizes that understanding how to hear God is not merely a theological exercise; it is essential for navigating the complexities of life in alignment with His will. As individuals, we often find ourselves at crossroads, faced with decisions that can significantly shape our personal and spiritual trajectories. In these moments, discerning God's voice is not just beneficial; it is critical.

The importance of listening to God begins with an acknowledgment of His longing for relationship. Throughout the biblical narrative, we see a God who desires to communicate with His creation. From Adam in the garden to Jesus praying in solitude, the Bible reveals a deep yearning for dialogue. This relational aspect underlines that God's voice is meant to guide us, comfort us, and empower us toward living out His purposes.

When we actively listen to God, we align ourselves with His plans rather than merely relying on our limited perspective. For instance, consider the story of Samuel in 1 Samuel 3. In the stillness of the night, Samuel hears God call his name. Initially, he does not recognize the voice, mistaking it for Eli's. However, through guidance from Eli, Samuel learns to respond,



“Speak, for your servant is listening.” This tale underscores the necessity of being attuned to God's call and highlights the rewards that come from heeding His voice. Samuel's eventual obedience led him to become a pivotal prophet in Israel's history, underlining the notion that listening to God can have far-reaching implications.

Moreover, listening to God's voice helps cultivate a heart of discernment, enabling us to differentiate between our inner thoughts and divine guidance. In a world saturated with noise and conflicting messages, understanding what God is saying can be challenging, but the effort is worthwhile. The discernment process allows us to make choices that reflect our values and beliefs, rooted in a deep trust in God's character and promises.

Priscilla Shirer also highlights that when we listen to God, we become part of an intricate narrative that is not solely about our individual lives but also involves the broader community of believers. For example, when the early church met to pray and sought the Holy Spirit's guidance in Acts 13, they not only listened for direction for their mission but also sought the confirmation of their communal understanding of God's will. Their collective sensitivity to God's leading resulted in the spread of the Gospel in unprecedented ways.

Furthermore, listening to God enriches our faith journey. Each time we

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discern and obey His voice, our trust in Him deepens. It is like a muscle that grows stronger through practice. By participating actively in this process, we cultivate spiritual sensitivity, which equips us to hear God through various means, whether through Scripture, prayer, circumstances, or the counsel of others. The more we engage with God's voice, the clearer it becomes in our lives.

In a practical sense, this understanding deems listening to God's voice essential as we navigate life's uncertainties. For instance, a person may find themselves struggling with a career decision, feeling torn between financial security and a passionate calling to serve in ministry. In such a scenario, prayerfully listening for God's voice could provide clarity, leading to a choice that aligns with His will and instills peace in the heart.

In conclusion, the significance of listening to God's voice cannot be overstated. It is foundational to our relationship with Him and essential for fulfilling our purpose. By embracing the practice of listening—through prayer, studying Scripture, and engaging with our spiritual community—we not only draw closer to God but also equip ourselves to lead lives that reflect His glory and truth. As we commit to this practice, we learn how God speaks and begin to recognize that our lives, too, can echo His voice in a world that so desperately needs to hear it.

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## 2. Developing Spiritual Sensitivity to Recognize God's Communication

Developing spiritual sensitivity to recognize God's communication is a foundational aspect of deepening one's relationship with God. This involves cultivating an attunement to divine whispers that are often overshadowed by the noise of everyday life. Priscilla Shirer emphasizes that each believer is equipped with the ability to hear from God, but this requires intentional effort and a heart that is open to divine guidance.

The first step in this development is creating a posture of receptivity. This means being intentional about setting aside time for prayer and reflection, approaching God with an expectant heart. It requires a belief that God desires to communicate with us—that the Lord, who created the universe, longs for fellowship and connection with His creation. A significant aspect of this receptivity comes from reading and meditating on Scripture. The Bible is not just history or moral instruction; it is the living Word of God, and through it, He reveals His character, promises, and will for our lives. By immersing ourselves in Scripture, we train our spiritual ears to recognize God's voice.

Additionally, cultivating spiritual sensitivity requires a commitment to silence and solitude. In our fast-paced world filled with distractions and constant noise, finding moments of quietude can be challenging yet

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essential. Silence allows us to remove external distractions and tune into our inner selves, facilitating a better receptivity to God's voice. For instance, when Jesus often withdrew to lonely places to pray, He demonstrated the importance of solitude in hearing God. It is in these quiet moments we can reflect on our experiences, listen to our hearts, and discern the gentle nudge of the Holy Spirit.

Moreover, practicing mindfulness and awareness of God's presence throughout our day-to-day lives significantly enhances our spiritual sensitivity. This means keeping an eye out for the small ways God may be speaking to us. It could be through a chance encounter that sparks inspiration, a thought that reoccurs, or even lessons learned during trials. Keeping a journal to record these experiences can help in recognizing patterns and understanding how God communicates uniquely with us. For instance, someone may start noticing that every time they express gratitude, a feeling of peace envelops them—this is God communicating His affirmation of their thankfulness.

Emotional maturity also plays a critical role in developing spiritual sensitivity. This involves recognizing our emotional responses and learning to manage them appropriately. For example, if you are in a state of anger or anxiety, these emotions can cloud your ability to hear God's voice clearly. Learning emotional regulation—such as through prayer, meditation, or

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counseling—enables one to approach God without the fog of overwhelming feelings, allowing for clearer communication.

Furthermore, being part of a community that shares the same values strengthens our ability to discern God's voice. Engaging in discussions with others who are on their spiritual journey provides insights and encourages mutual learning. Group prayer, Bible study, or simply sharing testimonies of how God has spoken to us can illuminate our understanding and recognition of God's voice.

Lastly, it is important to be aware that developing spiritual sensitivity is a journey, not a destination. Each individual's journey is unique, and what works for one person may differ for another. Therefore, an attitude of patience and persistence is vital. One might need to practice these principles consistently, over time, in order to attune their spirit to God sufficiently. Like learning a new skill, it requires practice and dedication. As we make this an ongoing part of our lives, we will find it increasingly natural to hear God's voice amidst life's chaos.

In summary, developing spiritual sensitivity to recognize God's communication involves creating a receptive heart, embracing silence, practicing mindfulness, and engaging with community, all while understanding that this is a gradual process that demands patience and

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commitment. As we embark on this journey, we become more aware of God's presence and more attuned to His whispers, leading us to a richer and more fulfilling relationship with Him.

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### 3. Overcoming Obstacles That Block Our Ability to Hear God

In “Discerning the Voice of God,” Priscilla Shirer emphasizes the critical importance of overcoming various obstacles that hinder our ability to hear God’s voice. These barriers can take many forms, including distractions, doubts, and a lack of spiritual discipline, and understanding them is crucial for developing a closer relationship with God.

One of the primary obstacles Shirer identifies is the noise of everyday life. In today’s fast-paced society, it is all too easy to become overwhelmed by the constant flow of information and activity around us. The hustle and bustle—whether it’s the demands of work, family obligations, or the endless stream of digital notifications—can drown out the still, small voice of God. Shirer invites readers to reflect on their own lives and consider the distractions that may be pulling them away from intimacy with God.

For instance, an individual caught up in a busy corporate job may find themselves so consumed by deadlines and meetings that they neglect to spend quiet time with God. This situation highlights the necessity of carving out specific moments in our day dedicated solely to listening and seeking God’s presence. Shirer encourages readers to establish a consistent schedule for prayer and meditation, a practice that invites peace and serenity, allowing God’s voice to break through the clutter.



Doubt is another significant hurdle described in the book. Many struggle with insecurities and question whether they are truly capable of discerning God's voice. These doubts often stem from past experiences or a lack of confidence in their spiritual maturity. Shirer argues that overcoming this obstacle requires understanding our identity in Christ. We are children of God, and as such, we have access to His wisdom and guidance. By reinforcing our faith and belief in God's ability to communicate with us, we can chip away at the doubt that obstructs our spiritual hearing.

To illustrate this point, consider the story of someone battling fears of inadequacy and unworthiness. This person might say, "Who am I to think I can hear from God?" This internal dialogue not only deters them from seeking God but also potentializes spiritual blindness. By actively engaging with Scriptures that affirm God's desire to speak to us, and through prayer that reminds us of our position as loved and valued children, we can replace those doubts with confidence.

Another obstacle highlighted by Shirer is unconfessed sin, which creates a barrier between us and God. Sin can cloud our judgment and inhibit our ability to receive guidance from the Holy Spirit. When we harbor sin or unresolved issues in our hearts, it becomes difficult to tune into God's voice. It is essential to maintain a posture of repentance and honesty before God,

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ensuring that our hearts and minds are open for communication. Shirer explains the necessity of regular self-examination and seeking forgiveness, which fosters a clearer connection to God's instructions.

Moreover, Shirer addresses the tendency to overcomplicate our understanding of God's will. She points out that believers often look for dramatic signs or overwhelming experiences to validate God's messages. However, this expectation can lead to frustration and a feeling of disconnection. Recognizing that God often speaks in simple, gentle ways can help recalibrate our approach. Developing sensitivity to the small nudges or quiet impressions from the Holy Spirit allows us to be more attuned to God's guidance in our daily lives.

In summary, overcoming obstacles to hearing God's voice involves addressing distractions, dismantling doubts, engaging in repentance, and simplifying expectations of divine communication. By identifying these barriers, believers can take practical steps toward cultivating a deeper spiritual awareness. Shirer's insights serve as a call to all of us to pursue a more profound connection with God, revealing that hearing His voice is a journey that requires intentional effort and spiritual diligence.

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## 4. Practical Steps to Cultivate a Habit of Seeking God's Guidance

Cultivating a habit of seeking God's guidance is a vital aspect of a believer's spiritual journey. It is essential to establish a consistent practice that helps us draw closer to God and enhances our ability to discern His voice amidst the noise of daily life. Here are some practical steps that can assist in this endeavor:

1. **\*\*Establish a Dedicated Time for Prayer and Reflection\*\***: Setting aside a specific time each day for prayer creates a sacred space where you can focus on communicating with God. This could be in the early morning, late evening, or any time that suits your schedule. During this time, engage in prayer not merely as a monologue but as a dialogue. Speak to God and then spend time in silence, allowing space for Him to respond. Journaling can also be an effective tool during these moments, as it helps capture thoughts, prayers, and any insights that emerge during your quiet time.

2. **\*\*Incorporate Scripture Reading into Your Routine\*\***: Scripture is the primary medium through which God speaks to us. Regular reading of the Bible not only helps in understanding God's will but also makes us more attuned to His voice. You might want to follow a reading plan that covers various books of the Bible, or focus on specific themes that resonate with your current life situations. As you read, reflect on the passages and their



implications for your life. Ask God for understanding and insight into His word, which will enhance your ability to hear Him more clearly.

3. **\*\*Practice Active Listening\*\***: Listening to God requires more than just hearing; it involves being fully engaged in the moment. To practice active listening, remove distractions around you, whether physical or mental. This can include turning off your phone, finding a quiet space, and focusing solely on your time with God. Listen for His still, small voice, and watch for any signs or nudges that may guide you during this time. Active listening can also extend to being attentive to sermons, teachings, or wise counsel from trusted spiritual mentors.

4. **\*\*Seek Community and Accountability\*\***: Engaging with a community of believers can significantly enrich your spiritual journey. Join a Bible study groups, prayer circles, or fellowship meetings where you can share your experiences and learn from others. Being part of a community offers opportunities for mutual support and accountability, which can inspire you to maintain your habit of seeking God's guidance. Hearing how others discern God's voice can provide insights and encouragement in your personal quest.

5. **\*\*Cultivate a Heart of Obedience\*\***: An important aspect of seeking God's guidance is being prepared to act upon what you hear. Cultivating a



heart of obedience means being willing to follow through on God's direction, even when it may be challenging or uncomfortable. This is often where growth occurs and faith is deepened. Reflect on past instances where you felt impressed to act in a certain way, and consider how obedience in those situations impacted your life. Sometimes, God's guidance may not come in the form you expect, but obedience is crucial in recognizing and responding to it.

6. **\*\*Use Journaling as a Tool for Reflection\*\***: Keeping a spiritual journal can help you track how God communicates with you over time. Document your prayers, any specific guidance you feel you've received, and the outcomes of following that guidance. Reviewing past entries can reveal patterns in God's messaging, helping you to discern His voice more clearly in the future. This practice promotes reflection and growth, enabling you to see how God has been active in your life.

7. **\*\*Pay Attention to Circumstances and Community Confirmation\*\***: Often, God speaks through the circumstances of our lives and the voices of those around us. Pay attention to the events, opportunities, and challenges that arise, as they may be elements of divine direction. Additionally, consider seeking counsel from wise and trusted individuals in your life. They may provide perspectives that illuminate your situation and assist in confirming the guidance you believe you've received from God.



Incorporating these practical steps into your daily routine will nurture a habit of seeking God's guidance. As you intentionally make time for Him and consciously listen for His voice, you will find that your ability to discern His will becomes sharper. This habit, rooted in faith and practice, transforms not just how you hear God but also deepens your relationship with Him, leading to a more fulfilling and obedient walk in your spiritual journey.

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## 5. Embracing the Transformative Power of Obeying God's Voice

Obeying God's voice is a profound act that carries the power to transform our hearts, minds, and lives. In 'Discerning the Voice of God,' Priscilla Shirer emphasizes that obedience is not simply a matter of following rules or adhering to a checklist of spiritual duties; it is an expression of our relationship with God, rooted in trust and love. When we choose to obey God's voice, we open ourselves to the possibility of profound change and growth.

The transformative power of obedience is multifaceted. First, it deepens our relationship with God. As we begin to recognize His voice and respond to it, we cultivate an intimacy with Him that is essential for spiritual growth. In the process of obeying, we learn to rely on Him more fully, developing a deeper faith. This is similar to any personal relationship: trust and connection grow when we listen to and act upon the desires and guidance of the other.

Surrendering to God's voice can also lead us to discover our God-given purpose. Many people find themselves at a crossroads in life, unsure of the direction they should take. When we tune into God's guidance and respond in obedience, we often find that He reveals our path more clearly. For instance, a friend of mine felt a strong prompting from God to leave her



stable job and pursue a career in ministry. Initially, this decision seemed risky and uncertain. However, upon obeying God's call, she found fulfillment and joy that she had never experienced before, illustrating how obedience can lead us to our true calling.

Moreover, obeying God's voice often brings about a transformation in our character. Shirer emphasizes that obedience is not solely about external actions but also involves a heart change. When we choose to submit to God's instructions, we often find that our attitudes, desires, and priorities shift to align more closely with His will. This transformation is essential for spiritual maturity and can lead to an increase in fruitfulness in our lives. For instance, someone struggling with bitterness may find that through the obedience of forgiving others, they experience a profound healing, releasing the burden of anger and experiencing peace.

Furthermore, the act of obedience can have a ripple effect, impacting those around us. When we obey God's voice, our lives can serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration to others. For example, a leader in a community may follow God's call to serve the homeless, inspiring others to get involved in outreach efforts. The resulting collective action can bring about positive change and transformation not only within individuals but across communities.

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Finally, Shirer highlights the importance of understanding that obedience to God's voice is often accompanied by spiritual warfare. It is important to acknowledge that the Enemy works to distract and discourage. Therefore, embracing the transformative power of obeying God's voice requires diligence and commitment. We can find strength in prayer, community support, and the encouragement of scripture to persist in our obedience, even when it feels challenging or daunting.

In summary, embracing the transformative power of obeying God's voice is a life-changing decision that deepens our relationship with Him, leads us to discover our purpose, reshapes our character, influences those around us, and equips us to face spiritual challenges. The journey of obedience ultimately propels us into a deeper faith and a more satisfying life, making us vessels for God's work in the world.

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