

# The Gathering

## Hearing and Discerning God's Voice

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale  
Ray of Hope Christian Church  
Tuesday, October 18, 2022



He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. His sheep follow him because they know his voice.

John 10:3-4



Every day of our lives  
we have a myriad of decisions  
and choices to make.



# Discussion:

So, what decision are you struggling with, right now?



With all the events that happen  
in our lives, we are always  
in need of a timely, specific word  
from the Lord.



People ask me all the time.

Does God speak to you? How does he speak? Is it an audible voice? How does one know that God is speaking? How does one distinguish his voice from all the others?

How do you distinguish God's will for your life from your own desire?



Modern Christians sometimes struggle because we must relate to an invisible God. We do not hear an audible voice.

We do not feel his physical touch.

How then does one have a personal relationship with one we cannot see, hear, or touch?



Idols have mouths but  
they cannot talk.

Psalm 115:5



What pleases God is being in intimate relationship with you and me.  
What also pleases God is being intimately involved in our lives.



All of us have had or are having difficulty discerning God's voice, especially since we live in such a noisy world.



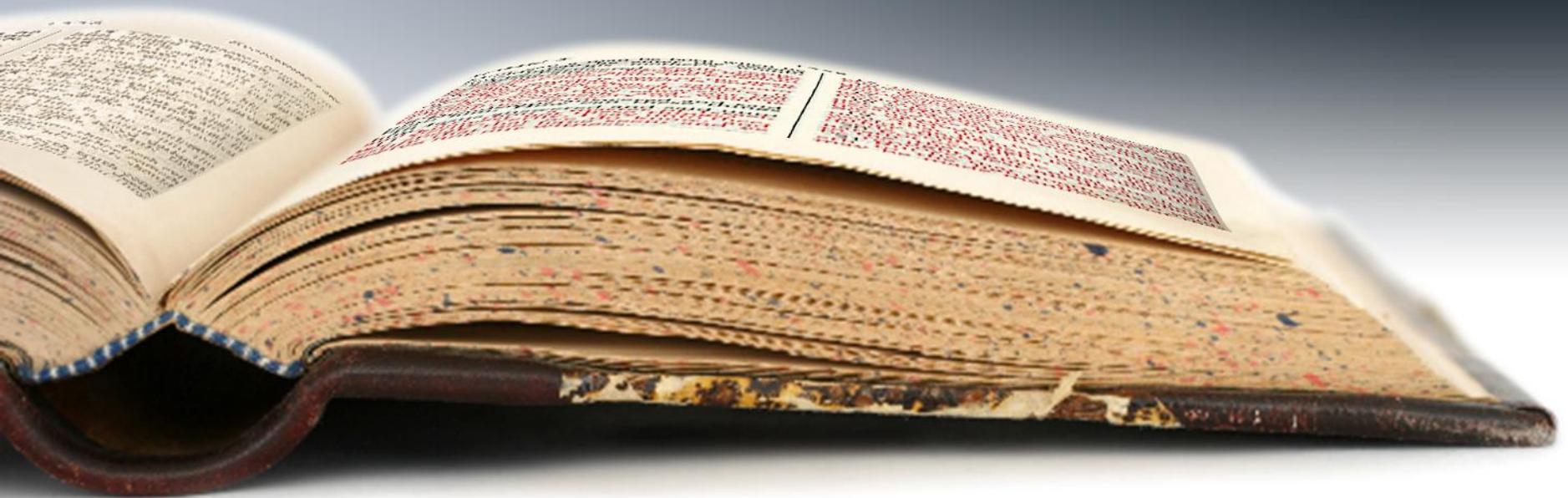
# This lesson is designed to:

1. Help you understand how we fail to hear God's voice.
2. Help you hear and recognize God's voice over all the other voices that are constantly screaming at you, including your own?



There are several reasons why we are unable to discern God's voice.

1. Often when we desire a thing and pray about it, we are so blinded by our own desires that we fail to hear what God is saying to us.



Prayer, as you know, is ardent  
desire, expressed.



2. We don't hear God because we are impatient. There are those times when God isn't saying no, he is just saying, wait!



3. We don't hear God because, we do not have a have a clear signal.



God wants us to trust Him, but God also expects us to use common sense, to evaluate the situation and ask some pertinent questions.



God does not foster and finance  
our dreams unless they are  
in line with his destiny for us.



Everything is perfectly  
lined up/there are no hitches.



We don't hear God  
because we are  
“listening to the wrong voice.”



## There are the voices of:

- Well-meaning parents and family members who want the best for us.
- Friends and colleagues with their expert advice on every matter.
- The “know it all” who is just trying to get in your business, but who nevertheless has a good point.



The people who we allow  
to speak into our lives  
have influence over us.



# Discussion:

Whose voice has the greatest influence in your life? Are they giving you godly and wise advice or simply their well-intentioned opinions?



Only God is omniscient. Only God knows everything. Only God knows the end from the beginning, and He will make it known to us.

Isaiah 46:10



Often, God's voice  
gets confused with others.  
It may be Satan's voice we hear.



- Satan has a way of distorting the truth.
- Satan's voice often brings confusion.
- Satan manipulates the circumstances so that things aren't always as they appear.



# Discussion:

Share an instance where you failed to hear God. Why do you think this happened? Was it one of the above reasons or something else?



The most important reason we fail to hear God is because we do not recognize God's voice.



My sheep know my voice.



Some of us do not know the voice of God, because we are not accustomed to hearing it.



# Romans 8:14-15



We don't recognize God's voice  
because we are not maturing in  
our relationship with God,  
getting to know His voice.



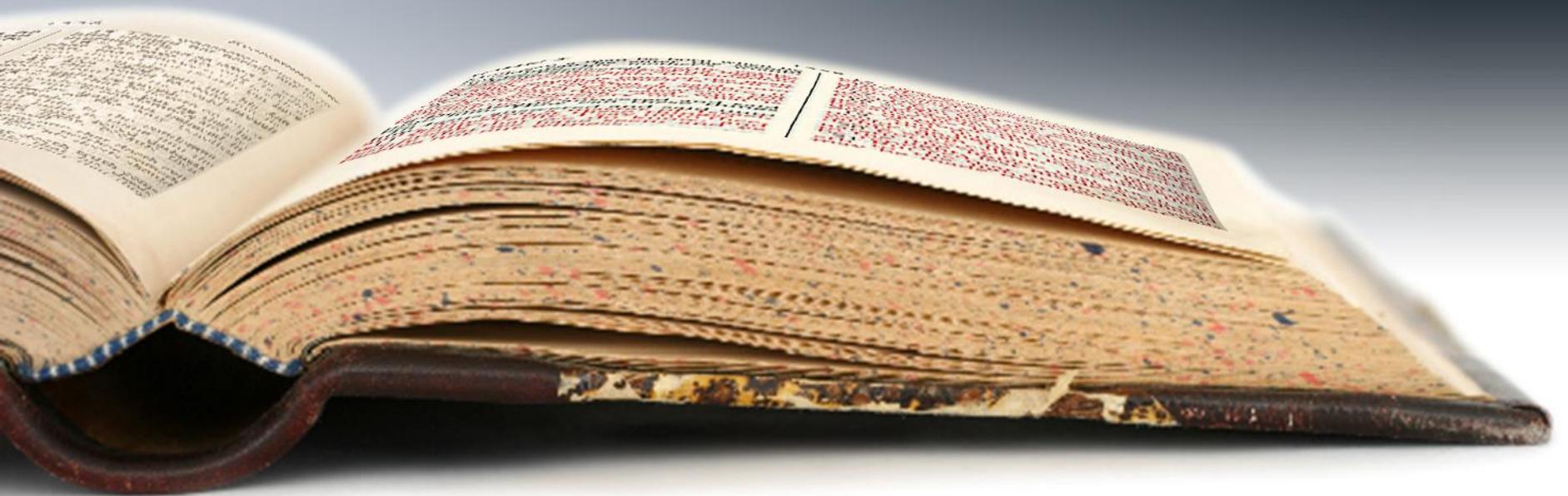
# I Samuel 3:10



We often do not recognize God's voice because we expect God to speak in grand, spectacular ways.



# I Kings 19:12



God often speaks to us in a  
“gentle whisper” or a  
still small voice by his Spirit,  
speaking to your spirit.



- The Holy Spirit leads us into all truth.  
John 16:7
- The Holy Spirit reveals to us the secret things  
of God. I Corinthians 2:9-10



God wants us to be  
absolutely sure.



God made the offer in James 1:5,  
If any of you lacks wisdom, he/she  
should ask God, who gives  
generously to all without finding  
fault and it will be given to him/her.



I will instruct you and teach you in the way  
you should go. I will counsel you and watch  
over you. Do not be like the horse or the  
mule, which has no understanding but must  
be controlled by bit and bridle.

Psalm 32:8



God knows best and will teach  
us if we will listen.



I am the Lord your God who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go. If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your righteousness like the waves of the sea.

Isaiah 48:17-18



God works together in all things for the good of those who love him and are called according to his good purpose.

Romans 8:28

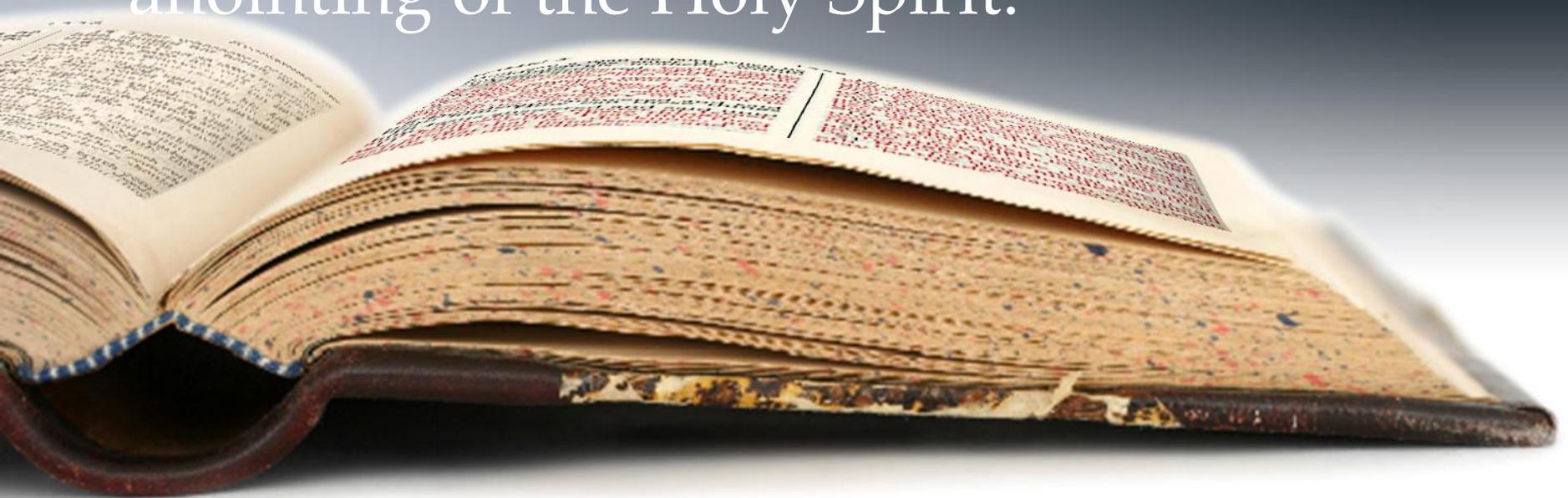


How does one discern  
God's speaking?



# God speaks to us in a variety of ways:

- Through his word as we read, study, and meditate upon it.
- Through other people as they preach, teach, prophesy, and exhort us under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.



# God speaks to us in a variety of ways:

- Through Christian literature.
- Through dreams and visions.
- Through the events and experiences in our lives.



God speaks to us uniquely.



God speaks to us in ways  
that match our personality  
and our character.



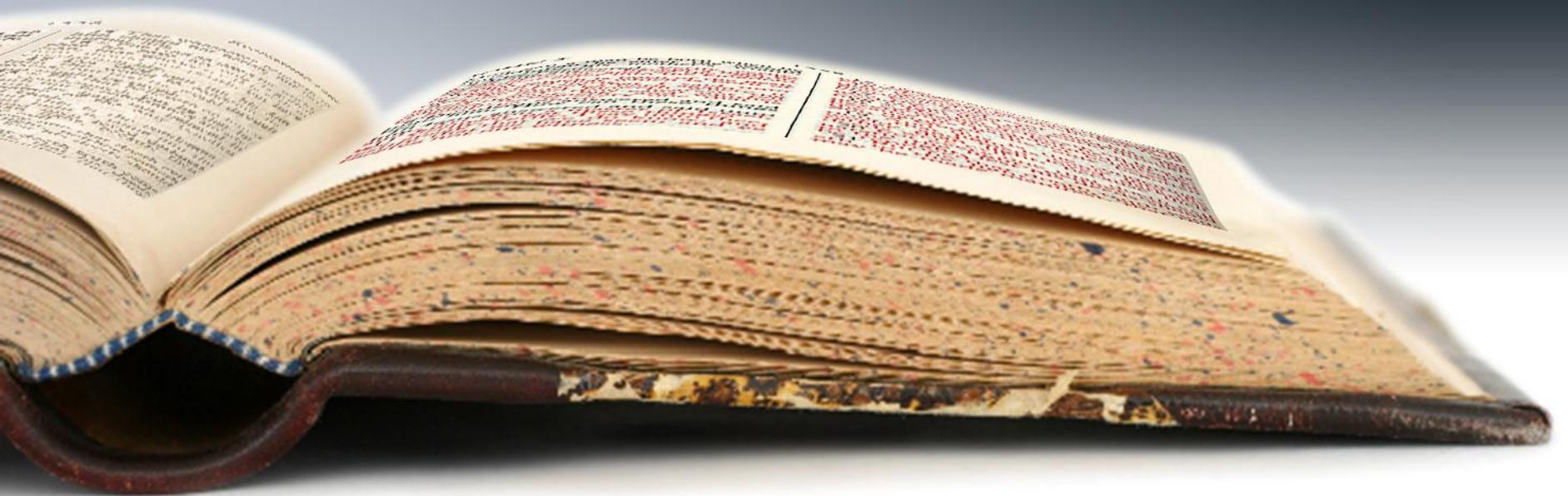
# Acts 9:1-9



God speaks to us personally.



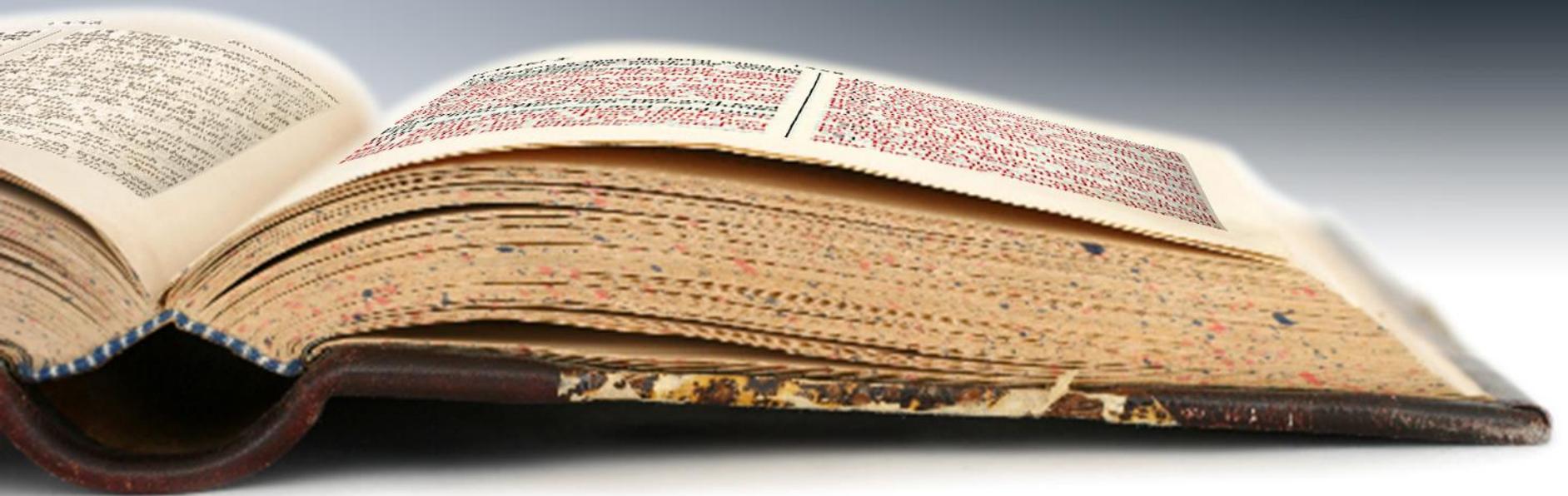
# Exodus 33:11



Prayer is an intimate relationship  
with God/talking face to  
face/hearing and getting to  
know God's voice.



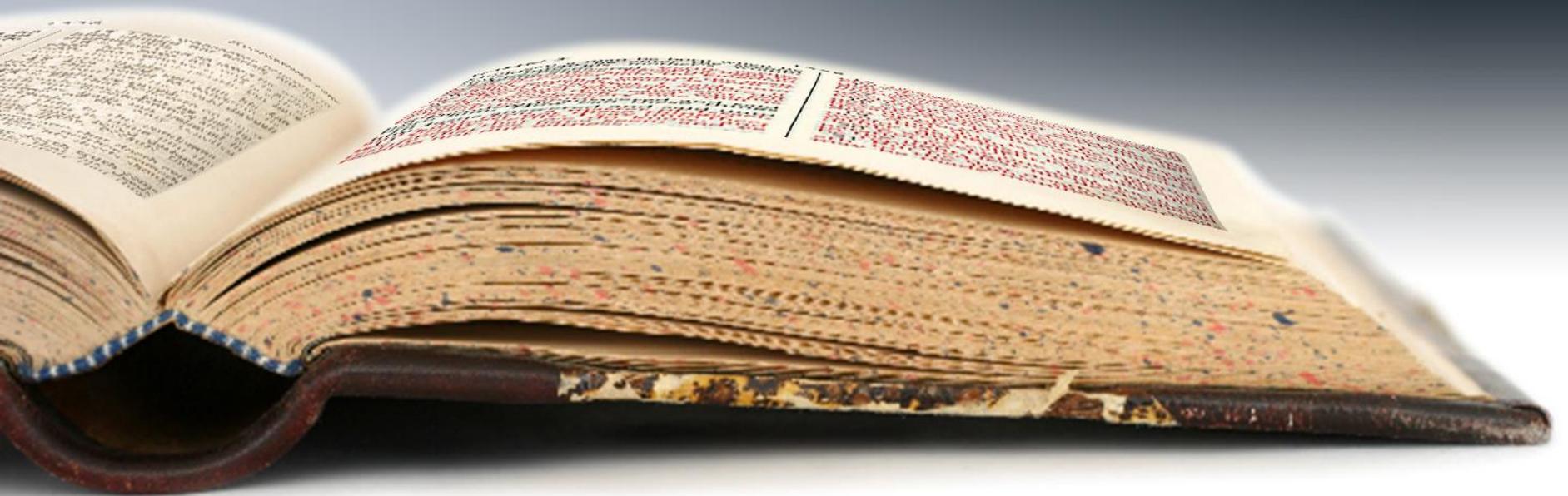
Prayer is first and foremost,  
communion with God.



God speaks progressively.



# Genesis 12:1-3



The way to cultivate hearing and discerning the voice of God in an unmistakable way is to:

Be available to God.



The Spirit can prompt us at any moment, but the moment by moment prompting comes as a result of a disciplined time of listening to God in prayer.



The way to cultivate hearing and discerning the voice of God in an unmistakable way is to:

Appoint a time to spend with God.



In the morning a great while  
before day, Jesus got up and went  
to a solitary place where he prayed.

Mark 1:35



The way to cultivate hearing and discerning the voice of God in an unmistakable way is to:

Have the right atmosphere.



When you pray, go into your room  
close the door and pray to your  
Father who is in secret.  
And the Lord will reward you.

Matthew 6:6



The way to cultivate hearing and discerning the voice of God in an unmistakable way is to:

Have the right attitude.



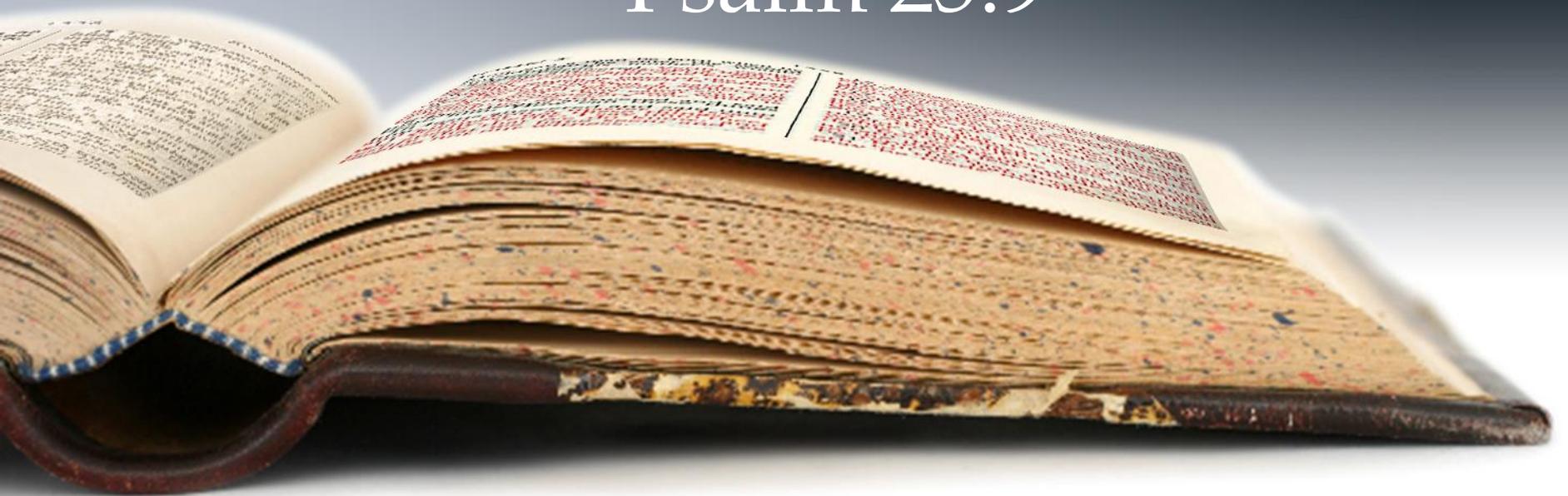
The way to cultivate hearing and discerning the voice of God in an unmistakable way is to:

Expect God to speak to you -  
Jeremiah 29:13



The way to cultivate hearing and discerning the voice of God in an unmistakable way is to:

Be humble -  
Psalm 25:9



The way to cultivate hearing and discerning the voice of God in an unmistakable way is to:

Be honest with God.



The way to cultivate hearing and discerning the voice of God in an unmistakable way is to:

Be Open.



The way to cultivate hearing and discerning the voice of God in an unmistakable way is to:

Be obedient.



Search me and know my heart, test me, and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead in the way everlasting.

Psalm 139:23



How do we recognize God's voice?

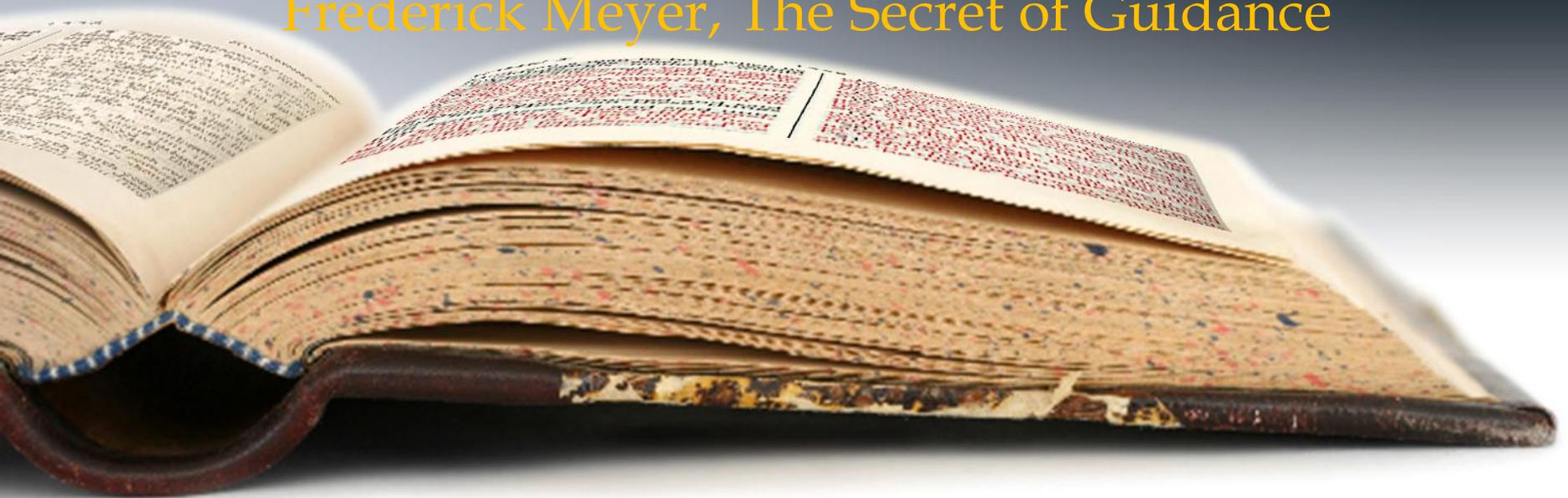


We can recognize God's voice when  
three main indicators are lined up  
and agree – the circumstances of our  
lives, inspiration of the Spirit  
and the Word.



The circumstances of our daily life are to us an infallible indication of God's will when they connect with the inward prompting of the Spirit and with the written word of God. So long as they are stationary, wait. When the time comes for you to act, a way will be opened up through oceans and rivers, wastes and rocks. The three work interdependently – You cannot have one without the other two.

Frederick Meyer, *The Secret of Guidance*



God's leading is always consistent  
with the principles of scripture.



God's voice carries weight and  
comes with authority.



The Spirit of God's voice is a spirit of exalted peacefulness and joy of sweet reasonableness and goodwill.

