

accident when she was 17, she recognises that real freedom and joy come from God. She may be physically restricted, but spiritually she's free.

Joni's message touched me and helped me revamp my attitude. It also made me realise that I can't hear God's words if I don't listen. In fact, the Bible says that believers who truly follow God will hear Him. Jesus said, *"He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God"* (John 8:47).

Are you listening to God? He's always ready to speak if you're ready to listen. Here are a few suggestions to help you hear God's voice:

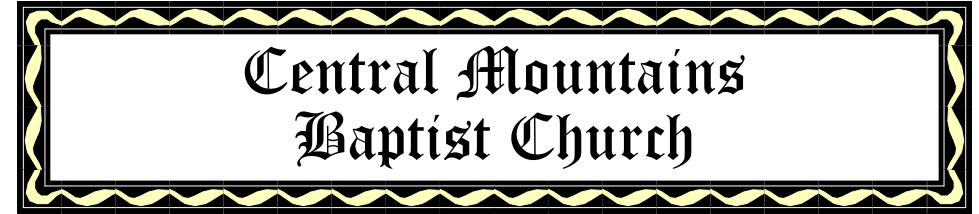
1. Make sure you are a Christian, and if you are, make sure you stay in close fellowship with God.
2. Listen to good Christian preaching and good Christian music.
3. Read books that will guide you to deeper spiritual understanding.
4. Ask for and apply advice from Christians you respect.
5. Read God's Word.

This is not an exhaustive list, but it's a good way to start hearing God speak to you. Knowing how to listen is the key to hearing God. —AB

REFLECTION

- What are you struggling with right now?
- How has God spoken to you or someone you know?
- What are some ways you can begin listening to God?

God speaks in many ways to those who listen.



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Listen Up!

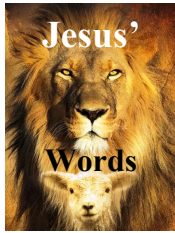
It's easy to think that God doesn't speak directly to His followers any more. We don't see too many prophets on the street corners decrying our nation's sin. There aren't too many folks who can legitimately claim to have heard the voice of God. No new Scripture is being written.

But God does communicate with believers. He does it through Scripture, through the words of fellow believers, and even through books, Mp3's, podcasts, and much more.

Recently I spent the morning being resentful. I was feeling boxed in. Too many responsibilities meant that I couldn't do the things I really wanted to do. I found myself getting more and more unhappy with my circumstances.



Then, as I listened to a podcast, I heard Joni Eareckson Tada talk about the freedom she has found in God. Despite being confined to a wheelchair since a diving



Detecting Fakes

(Matthew 7:21) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

In John 8:37-59 are seven traits of the Pharisees that are typical of all spiritual counterfeits:

1. Counterfeits claim to _____, verses 41, 54



"I know God"

2. Counterfeits do not _____, verses 42, 55,



Christian look-alike?

3. Counterfeits _____ **God the Son,** verses 37, 40, 42, 48-49, 59



Pirated software

4. Counterfeits reject the _____, verses 37, 40, 43-47,

School and Mosque Ndungu Kebbe



5. Counterfeits do not understand _____, verses 50-52, 56-59,

(Exodus 3:14) And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." ...' "

6. Counterfeits are not like the _____ **of the faith,** verses 39-40

(Genesis 15:1-6) After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." [2] But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" [3] Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" [4] And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." [5] Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." [6] And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

7. Counterfeits live in _____, verses 38, 41, 44

(Matthew 5:21-22) "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' [22] But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.