

The Sufficiency of Scripture part 2 And Hearing the Voice of God (HVG) Theology

Advocates of HVG false theology say:

1. God is a communicating God, therefore He will speak to His people today just as He did in biblical times.
2. God wants and needs to speak to his people to provide direction for daily living.
3. Christians should expect to hear from God.
4. Christians must learn to listen for his still small voice by cultivating the attitude necessary to hear from God.
5. Hearing from God outside scripture is essential for a personal, living, and intimate relationship with Him.
6. The inability to hear God speak renders the Christian incapable of knowing and obeying God's will.

The John 10 HVG false argument:

1. Jesus promised to speak to His sheep.
2. We should expect regular communications from the Shepherd in impressions, promptings, and feelings.
3. All Christians possess an ability to hear and recognize the Shepherd's voice.

4 key John 10 verses for HVG theology

John 10:3 "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

John 10:4 "When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

John 10:16 "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd.

John 10:27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;

JOHN 10

- The problem with the interpretation that believers hear the voice of God is that Jesus Christ himself says he is using a figure of speech in John 10.
- The words of the passage from John 10:1 to 16 are a figure of speech and cannot be taken literally. This imagery pictures the human response to the effectual, divine call to salvation and does not actually say that Christians can hear the voice of Christ.

John 10:6 This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were

which He had been saying to them.

Acts 2 a key passage for HVG proponents

- Act 2:17 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;

This passage is used to say God is presently speaking to Christians in visions and dreams.

- However, when we read from Acts 2:1-41 we find that Peter is explaining why or how the people are hearing the Galileans speak in languages they cannot know. Peter quotes Joel because Joel's prophecy speaks of God pouring out his Spirit. He is not saying Joel's prophecy is being fulfilled. The fulfillment of Joel's prophecy is about the Day of the Lord which is at Christ's future return which has not yet happened. The pouring out of the Spirit found in Joel's prophecy, which is quoted in Acts 2:17-21, is an explanation of what happened that day in Jerusalem which explains how Galileans are speaking in languages they could not know.

The full quote of Joel by Peter

- Act 2:17-21 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS; [18] EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy. [19] 'AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW, BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE. [20] 'THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME. [21] 'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.'
- What is being described by Joel in Joel chapters 2 & 3 is the tribulation and the Day of the Lord. You cannot pluck out Acts verse 17 from the tribulation/ Day of the Lord and make it apply to today.

The focus of Acts 2 is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

- Act 2:33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear."
- Act 2:38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- We have disarmed the Hearing the Voice of God advocates in their misuse of Scripture in John 10 and Acts 2. So you will not be caught by surprise by these interpretations.
- None of the individuals needed to learn to hear from God
- There was no doubt that the Lord was speaking
- When God, Christ, or Holy Spirit speaks it is an audible voice
- No terminology such as... 'I felt the Lord leading' or 'I had peace about what I was to do'
- The message was clear and beyond misunderstanding.
- What occurred in Acts was infrequent and is not what is being taught today.

Acts accounts of God speaking(30-62 AD)

15 distinct times in which God spoke directly to individuals (two through angels)

8:26-29 an **angel** of the Lord spoke to **Philip** saying.... (31 AD)

9:4,10 **Saul**, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"....

9:10 the Lord said to him in a **vision**, "**Annanias**."..... (34 AD)

10:3, a **vision** an **angel** of God who had *just* come in and said to him, "**Cornelius!**"(a centurion)

10:11-16 in a **trance**... **Peter**... saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down (37 AD)

11:28 a **prophet** named **Agabus** stood up and *began* to indicate by the **Spirit** that there would certainly be a great famine (42 AD)

12:7-8 an **angel** of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; the angel said to him (42 AD)

13:2 the **Holy Spirit** said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and **Saul** (48 AD)

16:6-7 having been forbidden by the **Holy Spirit** to speak the word in Asia **Paul, Timothy & Silas** (49 AD)

16:9-10 A **vision** appeared to **Paul** in the night: a man of Macedonia

18:9 And the Lord said to **Paul** in the night by a **vision**, (51 AD)

21:4 and they kept telling **Paul** through the **Spirit** not to set foot in Jerusalem (59 AD)

21:11 **Agabus**...he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands, and said

22:17-21 I fell into a **trance**, and I (*Paul*) saw Him saying to me (34 AD)

23:11 the **Lord** stood at his (*Paul*) side and said, "Take courage; (59 AD)

Acts accounts of God speaking:

- God takes the initiative

Other false ideas from HVG theology

- **I Heard the Still Small Voice** (1 Kings 19:12)
- **The Verse Jumper off the Page** (Fortune Cookie Bible) a verse has only one meaning that which the original author communicated
- **God Gave Me a Sign** (Clues or Bread Crumbs)
- **God Opened a Door** (Doors are opportunities to Choose in wisdom , Closed or Open is not a sign) 1 Cor 16:8-9; 2 Cor 2:12-13
- **I Put Out a Fleece** (Judges 6-7) a descriptive not prescriptive example; doubting God and asking for sign is not a commendable action.
- **I Had a Peace About It!** Typically sights Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts – context is peace in conflict not decisions
- **I Felt Led** Romans 8:14 & Galatians 5:18 The sons of God "put to death the sins of the body" because they have the Spirit of God and are led by Him – not a recipe for decision making or hearing the voice of God
- **I Had a Dream** (Joel 2:28 also no dream vocabulary found in scripture))
- **I Saw a Man in White** – What are we to think of conversion stories that relate seeing bright lights and a man dressed in white. Common in Muslim conversions.

Have you heard a similar story

- The Lord led me to volunteer for the children's ministry. I felt an impression that I should volunteer for it. The Lord opened that door while praying about it. I sensed the Spirit whisper in my ear, 'You Lead.' I asked the Lord to confirm His will through my fleece. I decided if the position wasn't filled by next Sunday, I would take that as

the Lord's confirmation that I should volunteer, I prayed about it again and heard the still small voice nudging me to volunteer. On Saturday, while reading through t 2 Kings 19 I saw these words in verse 3: ' For *children* have come to birth and there is no *strength* to deliver.' The words 'children' and 'strength' jumped off the page at me. I felt the Holy Spirit speak to my heart through that verse and promise me *strength* to serve in the *children's* ministry. I sense a peace fill my heart. On Sunday the Lord confirmed the fleece when I heard the position was still open. I volunteered.

Claims of conversions through dreams and visions should be rejected.

1. These accounts don't conform to the revealed God-ordained means of evangelism.
2. The finality of God's revelation in Christ makes dreams unnecessary.
3. The apostles gave no indication that they believed Jesus would appear to other people after His ascension.
4. The apostles warned against believing in visions.

the revealed God-ordained means of evangelism

1Co 2:3-5 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Rom 10:14-15 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

2Ti 4:5 ... do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Mat 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The finality of God's revelation in Christ

Heb 1:1-2 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also

he created the world.

No indication that Apostles believed Jesus would appear to other people

Act 1:11 and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

1Jn 1:1-4 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— **that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us;** and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

1Pe 1:8-9 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1Co 15:7-8 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

The apostles warned against believing in visions

Col 2:18-19 Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about **visions**, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

2Co 11:13-15 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.