

# Hearing God: Of Course He Loves You

Ephesians 2:12–13; Psalm 34:18; 1 Peter 4:7; Romans 8:38–39

May 10, 2026

Rev Joe Sanders

First Baptist Church Coshocton, Ohio

I think I told you that I hear voices in my head. There is the voice of my dad telling me to get going. There is the voice of my mom saying why do today what you can do tomorrow. Which is really strange because that wasn't her attitude. Then there is my own voice over analyzing everything. Somewhere in that space is God's voice. Which voice do you think gets pushed aside first?

I share this not so that you'll think I'm a little crazy, but to let you know that God is speaking. Through all the chatter and noise that's in you head, God is talking to you. The Lord always wants us to know that He loves us.

***Ephesians 2:12–13 (NLT) In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.***

**God has spoken, calling you from your sin to be with one with Christ.** You have been saved because God called you out of your sin. You have not always been a Christian. You may think you have been because you grew up in Christian home. There was a time in your life when you did what you wanted. You practiced doing things that kept God out of first place in your life.

Your words have not always signified that God was Lord of your life. Even your thoughts betrayed God. During those days you were outside of God's family. You were not a brother or sister of Jesus. You weren't an aunt, uncle, grandparent in God's family. You weren't a child of God.

That means you could not claim any of the promises of God. You couldn't claim that Jesus was with you. You couldn't claim that you had any power, wisdom, or knowledge but your own. Your life was driven only by your desires. As someone who wasn't in God's family, your only hope was in yourself. When you failed you may have blamed others, but you were the only one responsible. That responsibility is very heavy, without relief, and little satisfaction. Hope was wishing and dreaming something could happen. It was based only upon your personal motivation and strength. Living for your own pursuits is what kept you going.

It was the voice of God that convinced you to give your sins to Jesus. Let me define sin, just in case you're uncertain. Sin is putting God in any place but first place in your life. Think about how quickly and easily we put something or somebody or ourselves first and God somewhere down the list. A person is sinning when God is not the first choice, comes across the finish line first, or the most important leader in their life.

You were there once. It's impossible for any human being to put and keep God first. Our stomach rumbles, our eyes see shiny things, our ears hear sweet sounding music, our desire to be independent speaks the loudest. But, God was talking to you. God was showing Himself in all that He created. God was turning your circumstances so you could hear Him. However, you weren't listening. You were focused on something else. God brought people into your life who loved Jesus and it was

apparent in their words and actions. God put in you specific situations where it was hard to ignore God's voice. Somehow you did it anyway.

God knocked on the door. God rattled your house. God shone a bright light in your face. Some how in all those circumstance you heard God calling you. You heard God tell you to leave your sin and come to Him. You heard God say He wanted to be with you. You heard God say He would forgive you because He loves you.

***Romans 8:38–39 (NLT) And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

**If we aren't listening we won't hear God say He loves us.** We let a lot of noise enter our lives and very little of it says we are loved. I live one block from the train tracks. That is one long, one short, one long, then two shorts blasts on the horn. It's a very loud horn. The news is noise all the time. The news that we hear is almost always bad. There are wars and rumors of wars, droughts, famines, poverty, human trafficking, and everything else.

Almost all the noise that we hear has nothing to do with Jesus and God's love for us. We are bombarded with negativity, hatred, violence, and corruption. People are attacking one another day after day.

God loves us. Those who love God are reminded of His love when we read the Bible and spend time with other believers. The news can't keep God from loving us. The wars, violence and hatred can't keep God from loving us. The selfishness and negativity can't keep God from loving us. The political leaders, ideologies can't keep God from loving us. Culture movements and societal shifts can't keep God from loving us.

I look through the Bible and find account after account of sinfulness, selfishness, wars, and hatred. No matter what was happening God always loved His people. I consider the people like Daniel living in a foreign land, God loved him. Think about Joseph and his brothers who sold him, God loved him. God even loved the brothers who sold their brother.

Since God loves us, God will not stop talking to us. God will always be sharing with us that He loves us. More than anything else in all the world everyone wants to be loved. The nicest people you know want to be loved. The crazy people you know want to be loved. The mean and angry people want to be loved. God has the capacity to love each one. God has the capacity to speak to each one.

Who do you think is going to be most responsive to hear the voice of God? Is it the person who doesn't know God or the person who loves God? The answer is obvious. There is a correlation between our love for God, the amount of time we spend listening and then being able to hear God. It is knowing two things: one that God is speaking and two that we are ready to hear.

Our God, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit are speaking. God speaks because He loves you as an individual. God knows you and knows your joys and sorrows. In the middle of all of life God is sharing His love with you. We have to train ourselves to listen. That training begins with being genuine, sincere, and honest with God. We do this in our talking and in our listening.

***Psalm 34:18 (NLT) The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.***

**Even in our most desperate and frightening moments the Lord speaks into our pain.** All of us have pain and suffering in our lives. We have all been brokenhearted or crushed in spirit at some point in our lives. We most often turn to God in those moments. We want the promise to be fulfilled. We are seeking the closeness of the Lord. We desire the rescue of the Lord.

Our pain is often so great, the crushing of our spirit is so deep that we cannot hear or see God. But in these moments, God is speaking. In these moments our God is reminding us of His love. God's love appears as a believer comes alongside of you. God's love is experienced as a Word of Scripture comes alive. Then we know that the promise is true. That it was true when life was a blessing. God's promise is true when we are brokenhearted and crushed.

Speaking this passage of scripture when our heart breaks and when our spirit is crushed draws us near to the Lord. This is more than a clever phrase or an mantra. This is speaking the truth to the our Rescuer. As we speak the truth giving Jesus our pain and suffering we experience His power and His hope, His peace.

I have discovered in the midst of my tears that God speaks peace to my spirit. The broken heart, the crushed spirit is filled with the emotions of sorrow, sadness, grief, fear, anxiety. In the midst of these emotions I need to hear God's peace. I need God's peace. Speaking the truth, claiming the promise brings God's peace. God speak His peace into my life.

Jesus wants to speak to your broken heart and your crushed spirit. He has been broken by our sins. He has been crushed by our unfaithfulness. He knows what we are experiencing in our lives. He has lived this life. His Father spoke to Him. The Father proclaimed Jesus as His Son. This brought peace, hope, faithfulness to the Jesus as He faced the worst of life.

Jesus has made it possible for you to hear the Father speak to you. His life, death, and resurrection has put you in a right relationship with the Father. You can now hear Him tell you that you are loved. You can now hear that no matter what attempts to break you, you are loved. You can now hear that regardless of what seeks to crush you, you are loved.

Speak this passage of scripture against the attempts to bring you down. As your day, your week, begin to mount up in opposition to you, proclaim God's rescue, God drawing near you. God will speak peace into your life. He will say He loves you. Your hearty and soul will be renewed.

***1 Peter 4:7 (NLT) The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers.***

**We must always to be ready to listen and hear God speak.** I don't always hear Jesus speak to me while I'm praying. There are times that I stop praying and start doing. As a result I haven't given Him time to speak. While I'm praying I'll stop and the only sound is the neighbor mowing the grass or the birds singing. In these moments I'm guilty of wondering where God has gone. I'm waiting for an answer, but I don't hear what I want.

Did you hear what I said? Regardless of who we think we are or how we pray God will give us His answer. Being ready to listen is surrendering my ideas and my agenda to God. If what I'm praying

isn't in God's will, part of His plans and purposes, then I might not hear God speak to me. Have you been there? Have you wondered why God wasn't answering? Have you grown weary of the silence? Just as God is telling you that He loves when you are suffering, God will tell you how to live your life. His silence needs to speak volumes to us. I have been there, then did my own thing, and eventually figured out that God's silence was telling me no to my desires.

Being ready to listen means confessing that God has a better plan than you do. Our willingness to admit that we aren't listening and that we only want to receive our answer pulls the cotton out of our ears so that we can begin to hear.

Approaching God with praise and thanks is our confession that we are less and God is greater. It is an act of proclaiming God is awesome and we are His creation. It's announcing to God that He can say whatever He wants and we will follow Him. We are created to praise God and bring glory to His name. We are created to bless God with our lives. We are created to make disciples because Jesus has made us His disciples. We are created to be in a right relationship with God.

The best way to hear God's voice is be in a healthy relationship with Jesus. Give up your dreams, your desires, and your plans. Stop thinking about how God is going to help you. Stop acting like God saved you so that He could fulfill your selfish thoughts.

Start confessing Jesus as your Lord. Begin your prayers with praise and thanks giving. Thank Jesus for your salvation. Name your blessings, count the ways God is good to you. Not just what God did for your ten years ago, but God is doing for you today, right now. Give God the glory for everything that you are.

Are you tall or short, thin or thick, healthy or in pain, wealthy or poor, bold or quiet? Give God the glory. The Lord made you. God created you as you are. Jesus redeemed you.

Be honest with Jesus when you pray. He is the Savior and you are not. Make a time for prayer and listening. Don't let anything get in your way.

Jesus loves you, He gave His life for yours. Jesus is with you, His Holy Spirit has taken up residence within you. Jesus is speaking to you, listen and be ready to hear His voice.