

Obstacles to Hearing God

1. We do not believe God is speaking constantly.

"The Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, 'He ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am. You called me.' And Eli said, 'I did not call you, go back and lie down.'" 1 Samuel 3:4-6

2. Our sinful nature. We are dull of heart.

"You will be hearing, but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's heart has become calloused. They hardly hear with their ears." Matthew 13:14-15 (quote from Isaiah)

3. We are too busy.

"Martha was distracted by all the preparations." Lk. 10:40

"Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." Lk 5:16

4. We do not listen.

"Mary sat at the Lord's feet listening to what [Jesus] said."
Luke 10:39

5. We have been trained to be rational, not intuitive.

"These are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words." 1 Cor. 2:13

Safeguards to Hearing God

1. Know the Scriptures. Be a person of the Word.
2. Be closely connected to mature Christians. Let them give discernment and wisdom on important words you hear.
3. Be cautious about hearing subjective communications if suffering from depression or mental illness.
4. Do not act on any word you think is from God if any possible harm may result.
5. Look for confirmations.
6. If the Word is from God, it will glorify God and move people's attention to Jesus Christ.
6. Always remember that even if you are confident that the words you hear are from God it is always possible it is not.