

# Listening to God

Read [Psalm 46:1-10](#)

## LESSON 6

# THE HALLMARKS OF GOD'S MESSAGES TO US

Jesus said of those who follow Him,

**“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand” ([John 10:27–29](#)).**

What a great statement of hope and comfort that is to us! We can know the voice of the Lord. As we follow His voice and do what He says to do, we will never perish, and neither will we ever be snatched out of His hand.

“But,” you may say, “how can I be sure that the voice I’m hearing is truly the voice of God?”

There are five identifying hallmarks of God’s messages to us. They are a means of determining whether the voice that we are hearing is truly the voice of God. If you have questions about whether a message is from God, line it up against these criteria:

- 1. The message must be consistent with the Word of God, the Bible.**
- 2. The message will usually be in conflict with the mainstream of conventional human wisdom.**
- 3. The message will clash with fleshly gratification and basic human lusts.**
- 4. The message will challenge one’s faith to rise to a new level.**
- 5. The message will call for personal courage to do what God has said to do, or to change in one’s life what God has said to change.**

As we begin our study of these identifying traits of God’s messages, let me point out that the first of them, consistency with the written Word, is always our first recourse in determining the validity of a message we believe to be from God. God never contradicts Himself. What He has set forth as truth in the past is truth now.

