

January 26th, 2025

God Saw That the Light was Good

**Listening Hearts:
Known by the Shepherd, Led by His Voice**

John 10:2-6 NIV

² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

John 10:14-16 NIV

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father— and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

John 10:19-20 NIV

¹⁹ The Jews who heard these words were again divided. ²⁰ Many of them said, "He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?"

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My Notes (observations, insights, thoughts, questions, etc.)

Spiritual Growth is about growing in faith and drawing closer to God each day, not about being perfect.

Seasons of Spiritual Drought in my life aren't because God stopped speaking, but because I allowed obstacles and barriers—whether intentionally or unintentionally—to block my ability to hear Him clearly.

God's voice has the power to break through the silence of my spiritual drought, meeting me exactly where I am and transforming my ordinary, everyday moments into profound encounters with the living God.

The Way Of The Shepherd

- Sheep learn the voice (the sound) of their shepherd before they fully know the shepherd
- The shepherd CALLS His sheep by name before the shepherd can LEAD His sheep...
- Young sheep take a leap of faith, following their shepherd purely by recognizing and trusting the sound of their voice.
- Even at a young age, sheep can distinguish the shepherd's voice from a stranger's. Because of this, they instinctively refuse to follow a stranger.
- Through time and close association, sheep come to recognize and understand their shepherd. What begins as simple trust and faith grows into a deep knowledge and familiarity with their shepherd.

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