

Identifying the Voice of the Lord

November 26, 2023

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So many have asked over the years, "How do I know if I am hearing the True and Living God and not the devil?"

Every true believer can identify the voice of God by following a few suggested guidelines.

1. Be very familiar with the written Word of God. Whatever God's voice tells us will be consistent with His written Word; not contrary to His Word. Many things concerning "God's will" are plain on their face in the Bible. Let's take time to do some research on a general topic, finances or relationships, for example, and pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal to us God's heart and mind. Check out whether that little "desire of your heart" is determined by God's written Word to be "good" or "evil," "righteous" or "sinful." Jesus countered the voice of Satan with the written word rightly applied.

2. Start by obeying the plain, obvious commands of the written Word first and foremost. Remember, hearing God's voice results in our obedience to it. We want to obey truth, not lies, so we must become most familiar with truth. As we obey the obvious, God will lead us into greater revelation of Himself, of truth, of the obedience of Christ, of His obedience on our behalf.

3. Recognize and discern between the characteristics of God and those of Satan, between truth and deception. In John 8, Jesus responded to the Pharisees, the outwardly righteous religious leaders of His day. He cut to the core of their beings. He distinguished Himself from those whose father is the devil. Study the attributes of God and let God speak for Himself. God is who He says He is, not what you think He is. The God in our minds and hearts must align with the God of the Word. Satan lies, murders, and steals. He uses deception, mixes truth with error, hates God and God's people, and never has our best interest in mind. God tells the truth, brings life, gives, loves, and always has our best interest in mind. Satan rebukes in order to condemn and lead us to kill ourselves in some way. God rebukes in order to conform us to Jesus Christ and lead us to love and live in the light of His countenance.

4. Become familiar with God's ways by studying Bible characters as examples. God came to Gideon, for example, and called him a mighty warrior. He gave Gideon a call, commission, commands, and His commitment to the process. Gideon's response was something like, "Who, me?" Does it remind us of Moses and even the disciples?

Jesus took ordinary men who were in the fishing business and told them He would make them fishers of men if they would follow Him. Jesus often did the unexpected, and unreasonable. God's wisdom differs from human wisdom, and many times what God's voice may tell us will conflict or clash with what we determine to be natural or reasonable. God sent Moses back to Egypt, let Daniel enter the lions' den, and Jesus

sent out the disciples with a gospel that would turn the world upside down and inside out.

Another thing. God moves us out of our comfort zones and doesn't tell us to do things that gratify the flesh, that involve carnal instincts or clattering, or that speak to the old sensual nature. Instead, we are to be crucified with Christ, crucified to the world, and crucified to the flesh with its passions and lusts (Galatians).

We see in our Bible examples how God challenges faith, stretching individuals in order to strengthen relationship with Him. Many times there is a "GO" in order to "COME" closer to Jesus. As the disciples received the call and commission to "Go and make disciples" and take the gospel to all creation, they received specific commands and also Jesus' commitment that He would be with them always, even unto the end of the age.

Separation unto God involves separation from the world and from the sensuality of the fleshly nature. It will take courage and a fear of the Lord that overrules other fears. It will take a desire to know the One, true and living God that exceeds lesser desires.

5. Pray. We communicate with God and He communicates with us. Learn to be still and know that He is God. Learn to wait before Him and listen. Have a clearly defined enemy, declare war on Satan and evil, and follow the rules of the war between Christ and Satan, between those who are Christ's and those who are not.

Renounce the hidden things of darkness openly. Tell the spirit world that you hear the voice of the Good Shepherd, and the voice of a stranger you will not follow. When you receive a directive, write it down exactly and examine it with Scripture. Look for pepper in the saltshaker, and if in doubt, ask the "voice" to identify itself out loud and make itself known. If you are hearing God, you will discover that God is never offended' He tells us to test the spirits. He will identify His own Voice in no uncertain terms until all doubt is removed. Remember, anything that is not of faith is sin, so when in doubt don't.

6. Seek confirmation. Seek godly counsel. If you get some thought or hear some voice and it seems sketchy, find a pastor or someone well versed in the Word and talk it over before acting. God isn't in a rush, but the devil usually pushes through condemning and controlling thoughts to cause a person to act impulsively and rashly. While God did tell Abraham to go to the mount with Isaac, and Abraham obeyed immediately, it was a three days journey with a lot of time to pray, reflect, have confirmation, etc. God's people are a resource in determining God's will when they are seeking His holiness and purposes in their own life.

7. Respond with a heart to obey and do God's will. God searches our hearts and sees the desires of our hearts. He will help our unbelief and our obedience to the Holy Spirit. Yes, we will be tested in the School of the Spirit, but as we progress, we will know the Voice of the LORD better and better because we will know His character, His thoughts and ways better and better. He will help us discern between good and evil, between Himself and Satan. God's heart is holy, pure, good, and loving. He is trustworthy, and worthy of our worship and our obedience. Hear Him, and you will live. Hear and heed.

8. Minister to the Lord. If possible, have a place where you can come apart, come alone, come away. Be still. Be quiet before the Lord. Loud worship is not necessary; keep it low. Praise focuses on who the Living God is; Lord, You are holy, sovereign, just, true, God only wise, all-powerful, all-knowing, everywhere (omnipresent), ...Honor

the Body and Blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ for His own. Ministering to the Lord is not about US; it's about HIM. Call on the Name of the Lord.

On MCM missions and doing strategies for this and that over the years, we speak forth the Word, the written Word, knowing the True God causes it to manifest in the spirit world and in the physical realm.

Just one mission story as an example. It was about 4:00 a.m. June 28th, 2005, and we were docking in Serbia. The Voice of the Lord was strong in my ear, so I got up and started writing everything down. The word was for Bulgaria. Later, Susan and I examined it, as have others since our return. This is that.

“Now hear what the Sovereign Lord says. I have come to you Bulgaria and as you have abandoned Me and My laws and ways, so I abandon you. Nevertheless there is a remnant which shall be saved so as by fire. These come through much persecution, through the narrow door, but beyond that narrow door is a broad place and there I will meet them in My glory. I am to them the Refuge of the Rock. These are My people and I am their God. I will bless them as they purify their hearts and souls and I will heal their woundedness and reveal Myself to them. To these, take heart. Be strong and of good courage for you shall testify of Me. Vengeance is Mine saith the Lord. I will repay the evildoer to his face as I keep covenant with My elect ones. You will come through both fire and flood (Isaiah 43 and Isaiah 46, all) and will be with you to overcome even death and destruction. I will break bloodguilt off you and your families and deliver you from the oppressor.

Now hear what the Sovereign Lord says. Before you were born I knew you. Before you entered your mother's womb I chose you. I have loved you with an everlasting love and you are Mine. Though the people perish, you resurrect. Fear not. Isaiah 41.10

I come as conquering king to cross your land with the fire of My presence. In My holiness you will find peace as they find wrath, the wrath of the Lamb, for I come to My own to execute My judgments upon the earth and to call the nations to justice and recompense. I am the Lord and Victory is My name. Behold, I stand on your shores a Mighty Warrior, as Jehovah Gibbor, as Lord Sabbaoth, as El Shaddai, as the Faithful Amen.

The people are in darkness, and the land is plagued with their own lawlessness but for My people I command light into their darkness and into their hearts will I give My joy. As I overcame so are they to overcome. Follow the Lamb wherever He goes. The blessings of Abraham are yours only as you keep covenant with Me, for I am the Covenant LORD and My covenants are one and I am One. I am your Shield and exceeding Great Reward as you walk before Me and are holy as I am holy. And how shall you be holy? I have declared you such as justified by faith in My Son and sanctify you by My truth which is in Me. Sanctify, separate, serve, stand still, stand in the Surety of the Covenant and I will provide, protect, pity, preserve, empower, and pursue My enemies to their destruction. Prevail as I prevail.

Prepare for war, but the Lamb shall overcome and the kings of the earth will bow to the Creator/Redeemer and the glory of the LORD will fill heaven and earth. Psalm 24”

(Remember, these words are not in the category of Scripture, which applies to all persons everywhere throughout time.) Amen.

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Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him, and
He will direct your paths. Be not wise in your
own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. (Proverbs 3.5-7)



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