

Hearing God's Voice

Jesus said - "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them and they follow me" (John 10:27)

It is God's desire to speak to us. Our responsibility is to position ourselves to hear from Him. This mentoring tool will take you through helpful steps in hearing from God.

How Does God Speak?

The primary way God speaks to us is through the Bible. We are told in 2 Timothy 3:16 *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness"*. God may also speak to you in other ways. He may give you a picture in your mind, or a dream, He may speak through an inner voice or through other people. God may give you peace or make you feel unsettled in your spirit to give you direction.

Testing What We Hear

It is essential that we test what we see and hear because it may be from God, the enemy, ourselves or another person. Whenever we believe God has spoken to us, we should test what we have heard or seen (1 Thessalonians 5:21) to ensure it was from God. We test it by:

- Checking it with the Bible - God will never contradict His Word.
- Sharing it with people we trust. As you start out, it is helpful to share with another follower of Jesus what you sense God is saying - especially with words that are directive. E.g. "Go to China!"
- Ensure it is *"encouraging, comforting and strengthening."* (1 Cor. 14:3). Even when God speaks to correct/rebuke us, it is done with love and leads to encouragement, comfort and strengthening.
- If you receive a word for someone else. Always share the word by saying "I sense God is saying" Don't say "thus sayeth the Lord". We want people to have the opportunity to test the word and throw it out if needs be.

Let's Listen to God!

- Spend a few moments thanking God for His goodness.
- Confess any sin as prompted by the Holy Spirit.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to come and speak to you.
- Take about 10 minutes and ask;
 - *"Lord, how do you feel about me?"* and
 - *"Lord, what do you want to say to me?"* and then
 - *"Lord have you got something to say to someone else?"*
- Write down what you sense God is saying to you, even if what you sense God is saying seems silly. Ask God what this means to you. If it is for someone else, you can ask God for the meaning; however, you do not need to know the meaning of God's message is up to the person who receives the word.

