

How to Hear From God

“How to Discern It’s really God’s Voice (How God Affirms His Voice) (1 Corinthians 2:6-15)

(Military Boot camp: Navy ROTC: All these voices shouting at you: [How can you tell which is the one you need to obey](#))

Main Point: God is always communicating His heart to us. Are we truly listening? God confirms His voice above all others so that when He speaks there is NO doubt it’s Him!!

1 Cor 2:6-15 “Yet we [Paul] do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; ⁷ but we speak God’s wisdom in a mystery [new revelation -new truth to Jews/Gentiles not previously revealed in O.T.], the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory [That God would come in form of man, die for our sins, be resurrected, =all people everywhere could be saved/God’s sons]; ⁸ *the wisdom* which none of the rulers of this age has understood [Then & now: Politicians, Gov’t leaders, Professors, Media, Celebrities, Business Leaders=Majority reject Christ/Truth]; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; ⁹ but just as it is written: “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And *which* have not entered the human heart, **All that God has prepared for those who love Him.**” ¹⁰ [a] For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who among people knows the *thoughts* of a person except the spirit of the person that is in him? So also the *thoughts* of God no one knows, except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God. ¹³ We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, [b] combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*. ¹⁴ But [c] a natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ But the one who is spiritual discerns all things, yet he himself is [d] discerned by no one. This text is helping us understand that God is communicating truth to this world & YOUR heart (**IF** you are tuned in to listen). – Deuteronomy 29:29 “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, so that we may follow all the words of this Law.”

If we want to discern God’s voice against all other voices, the Lord affirms His voice and confirms His message to our hearts through at least these 7 different ways:

1. The Spirit of God

A. God uses His **Holy Spirit** (that lives within each Believer as a gift from God) to lead us. Comfort us, help us, teach us, convict us, walk with us, empower us, embolden us, give us peace/Joy, revealing and CONFIRMING God’s **TRUTH** to us.

-Ephesians 1:13 “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed [stamped] with the promised Holy Spirit -who is the deposit/guarantee of our inheritance [heaven] until we take possession of it.”

-Romans 8:14 “Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God”

Vs. 12: Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God.

B. The Holy Spirit is a **Mediator** between Jesus and the Father and us – **revealing His will** for our lives and His purpose, His calling, and His anointing over us.

-John 16:13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come."

Vs. 10: For to us God revealed *them* (the plans God has for us- truth, and our future in Him) through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

C. The Holy Spirit is the **Author** of Scripture (2 Pt. 1:21 "For prophecy never had its origin in the will of men; but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit").. The Spirit confirms the Word and the Word affirms the Spirit

- The Spirit Guides us to all Truth (**I never discover Truth: Truth is revealed by the source of all Truth: God Himself -through His Spirit which lives in you**)

-John 14:26 "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

-Romans 8:26-27 "Now in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with ^[a]groanings too deep for words; ²⁷ and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the ^[b]saints according to *the will of God.*"

Here are 6 more ways that God confirms His Voice when speaking to your heart:

2. Scripture- Word of God gives clear and concise directions for every area of our life: When you read Scripture, you are reading the words and thoughts of God Himself (which apply to our lives) – in every generation, in every language, in every culture.

-When I come to Scripture, the Author Himself is present to Instruct me.

***This is why the leadership at the WELL takes this so seriously. '50's-90's -Inerrancy Battle (Is the Bible God's Word fully or just contain God's Word)**

On our Church Website: Very 1st statement=fundamental statement about Theological Beliefs: *The Holy Bible is true, authoritative, and sufficient to lead every part of humanity, the Church, and the world toward eternal good. The Bible leads us to know God and how to love, worship, and serve Him. We hold that the Bible is inerrant in the original autographs without any mixture of error*

-Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to ^[a]judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

-2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is ^[a]inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for ^[b]rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man *or woman* of God may be ^[c]fully capable, equipped for every good work."

-Psalm 40:8 "The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the Word of our God stands forever."

3. Sanctification – Pursuing holiness before the Lord in all areas of our life. (Not for salvation, but *b/c* of salvation. A desire for holiness is demonstration that we have *been* saved/transformed & though we are already declared justified/righteous before a holy God through the work of Jesus on the cross, we are all called to be holy (1 Pt. 1:16) and we are gifted the Holy Spirit to help us daily in our sanctification.

***If we want to confirm the voice of the Lord in our life, we need to seek His Presence out; to seek Him is to desire His holy Presence in our life=everything changes (dirty cup)**

-1 Kings 9:3-5 "And the Lord said to Solomon, "I have heard your prayer and your plea which you have offered before Me; I have consecrated this house which you have built, by putting My name

there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there ^[a]always. ⁴ As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and honesty, acting in accordance with everything that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My ordinances, ⁵ then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever; just as I promised to your father David, saying, You shall not be deprived of a man on the throne of Israel.'

-Ps. 5:2-5 Listen to the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God, For to You I pray. ³ In the morning, Lord, ^[a]You will hear my voice; In the morning I will present *my* ^[b]prayer to You and be on the watch. ⁴ For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil can dwell with You. ⁵ The boastful will not stand before Your eyes; You hate all who do injustice."

-Psalm 17:3-6 "You have put my heart to the test; You have visited *me* by night; You have sifted me and You find nothing; My intent is that my mouth will not offend. ⁴ As for the works of mankind, by the word of Your lips I have kept from the ways of the violent. ⁵ My steps have held to Your ^[b]paths. My feet have not slipped.⁶ I have called upon You, for You will answer me, God; Incline Your ear to me, hear my speech.

-If we want the Lord to confirm His Word in our life, we need to pursue what HE has already revealed to us *IN His Word.* (If we have been disobedient to what He has already clearly revealed in Scripture, open rebellion against His truth/holy standard for our lives, why would we think He would just overlook our disobedience and bless us with a fresh Word/confirm?)

4. Self-denial (self-restraint) of food (fasting), or of media, or any types of distractions. If we want to hear the voice of the Lord and discern His particular voice against the world's, then we need to quiet the other voices/distractions in our life. **Solitude**- Getting alone for a season to focus on the Lord and His Presence.

-There is a biblical connection between choosing righteous self-denial of worldly things in order to get more of God, and be more in tune to His Spirit. Yet, in this generation, it seems too a radical thing to attempt.

-Galatians 5:16 "*But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh*"
Jesus instructs us to Fast:

-Mt. 6:17-18 "*But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*"

-Ezra 8:23 "*So we fasted and sought our God concerning this matter, and He ^[a]listened to our pleading.*"

-Joel 2:12 "*Even now,*" declares the Lord, "*return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.*"

-Acts 13:2 "*While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off."*

-Acts 14:23 "*And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.*"

¹⁹ He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry for help and save them." -The Lord has and does answer prayer and confirm His voice in our life through continued, expectant prayer with a view toward self-denial – and a Hunger for His Presence

-What would it look like for you to give up something which has been a big distraction for you?

-Ask the Lord to help you identify, ask friends for accountability. Try 2 weeks. Less X, more God!!

5. Serenity – Spiritual Peace -When God is at work in us, He gives us a spiritual peace that is supernatural and that peace leads to Joy – which nothing on this earth can touch -rooted in Hope.
-John 14:27 “Peace I leave you, My peace I give you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. ^[a]Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor ^[b]fearful.”
-Phil 4:6-7 “Do not ^[a]be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all ^[b]comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”
-John 16:33 “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”
-Isaiah 26:3 “You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.”
-2 Thess. 3:16 Paul prays for the Church: “Now may the **Lord of peace** himself give you peace at all times in every way.” – God gives peace to those who seek it; God answers through peace; He confirms His voice through spiritual peace = **you can't fake it to yourself**. Either have it/don't ☺

6. Shepherds and Saints: Those trusted people in your life who will always point you back to Jesus, His work on the cross, and the truth of the gospel – no matter what *-even when you don't want to hear it!*

-****VS. 13:** *We* also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.
-Prov. 1:5 “Let the wise listen and add to their learning, let the discerning get guidance.”
-Prov. 12:15 “The way of the fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to godly advice.”
-Prov. 15:22 “Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.”
-Prov. 19:20 “Listen to godly advice and accept instruction and in the end you will be wise.”
-1 Thess. 5:11 “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are doing.”
-Who is in your life as a trusted friend/teacher/pastor to counsel you biblically? Encourage you? **Small Group Leader?** – **Get into a Community Group!**

7. Supernatural Movement of God: Miracles, divine circumstances, healing, deep conviction and repentance, life-transformation, unusual events who glorify God – **=Rare, but possible!**
-John 5:17 “My Father is always at His work to this very day and I too am working.”

*****When we are truly seeking God and earnestly wanting more of Him – He will be found by you – it's a promise:** God wants to communicate to your heart -Your resp. =SEEK Him =Listen *God wants to answer you. He wants you to discern His voice. He's not trying to hide from you!
-Mt. 6:33 “Seek First the Kingdom of God, & then ALL these things will be added to you.”
-Jeremiah 29:13 “And you will seek me and find me when you search for me with ALL your heart.”
-Phil. 4:19 “And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ.”
-Phil. 2:13 “for it is God who is at work in you, both to ^[a]desire and to work for *His* good pleasure.”
-Psalm 145:18-19 “The Lord is near to all who call on Him, To all who call on Him in truth.”

APPLICATION: -If God is not hiding from you, what is blocking you (right now) from Seeking Him? Listening to Him? Enjoying Him?
-How can you invite the Holy Spirit to take control of ALL your life today (Eph. 5:18)? What does it mean that the Holy Spirit wants to guide YOU into ALL Truth? Ask Him to confirm The Father's Voice in your life!
-Which of these seven realities do you need to apply daily to your life to better hear from God? (The Spirit, Scripture, Sanctification, Self-Denial, Serenity, Shepherds/Saints? All of them?)