

Hearing the Voice of God, pt.5

5.2.03

How do I know if it's me or the Devil or God?

Intro. 1. This is the most often asked question. 2. Sometimes you will absolutely know. 3. Other times, There will always be ambiguity to some degree (1 Cor.13.9f., 12). I believe God allows that so that we will seek. What God desires out of us is a people who will voluntarily choose to follow Him, so He's always arranging the circumstances of our lives or allows things to see if we will still choose to follow Him (Example of email from an antagonist that was inviting a response and I had a great response, but I chose to do what was right in God's sight.) What does that have to do with hearing God's voice? God remains quiet to see if we will keep following Him and will we pursue Him as a friend. God doesn't want us to view Him as an ATM (you plunk in a few #s and get what you need until you need more money) but as a friend. (Example of finding a home. Had me stressed and wondering why I wasn't hearing from God. Finally said okay God I'm going to continue to draw close to you, and if you don't speak about a house that's okay; You're more than an ATM, you're a person and I'm no longer going to strive for an answer. When we find the house that you want for us we will hear your voice.)

If it's the Devil or Flesh

1. It may sound spiritual but it will lead you away from God's best
 - a. Adam & Eve (Gen.3)
 - b. Jesus & the temptation (Matt.4)
 - c. David & #ing the troops (1 Chr.21)
 - d. The Devil will try to undermine God's standard; it will sound good but is a diversion from God's known will.
 - e. Ask yourself, "The word I'm receiving is it taking me closer to God's best or is it a diversion

2. It exalts you -

- a. The flesh loves to be first. It loves to look good. “Look what this will do for me! It makes look stronger, better than others . . . once this happens those people will regret their actions towards me.
 - i. Satan’s temptation of Jesus (L.4.6f.)
 - ii. The crowds who wanted to make Jesus king (john 6.15)
 - b. God may want to highly exalt you, but that’s not what you are seeking.
 - c. Consider the false prophets: They prophesied what others wanted to hear (Ahab & the false prophets, 1 K.22) and out of their own minds (Jer.23.16)
 - d.
3. It won’t bear witness with your spirit
- a. God usually confirms things in our spirit.
 - b. If someone gives you a word, it will usually confirm what the Lord is already doing in your life. If someone gives you a word and it doesn’t really apply to anything in your life, then hold it loosely.
 - i. Prayer Team & brochure.
 - ii. They miss it sometimes
4. Condemnation and accusation are not the voice of God.
- a. What you hear is: You’re a hopeless hypocrite; you’ll always have this problem; if you really loved God you would . . . or you wouldn’t . . .; you hear, “How can I bless you when you don’t even . . . how can I use you when . . . “
 - i. You feel like you can never get out of this place; this darkness swirls around you
 - b. The HS convicts us and then leads us into freedom

If it’s God

1. It will line up with the Word of God.
 - a. He may contradict our interpretation of the Bible but not the actual teaching of Script
 - i. Acts 10
2. It will bear witness with your spirit (Ro.8.16)
 - a. It will bring forth peace in your spirit – Col.3.15
 - b.
3. Other godly people will discern it is from God.
 - a. We don't want people's opinion or advice. We must discern His will.
4. It sounds like God.
 - a. The HS doesn't nag, whine or argue. He is persistent
 - b. It's calm, quiet and confident
 - c. Remember: His voice is different from ours – Is.55.8f
 - i. The religious leaders thought they knew what God's will was. They had large portions of Scripture memorized and still missed God, b/c they thought his voice would sound like their voice.

The Key to everything is: FRIENDSHIP

It's not that complicated. Hearing God's voice can't be put into some formula. You don't go through complicated equation to recognize the voice of your friend. You recognize the voice of your child, parent, friend b/c of friendship. You know people's voice by spending time with them.

III.– Being at Ridgmar Mall in FW at a indoor playground with 60 other children all screaming, laughing, etc. I knew my daughter's voice when she cried.

Mary Magdalene didn't recognize the resurrected Jesus (John 20) but she recognized his voice when he called her name.

It's friendship not based upon what He can do for you. Have you ever had a friendship based on what you could provide for the person? They were your friend b/c you gave them _____. The fair-weather friend.

Some are asking, "Why would a friend withhold vital information?"
Because of Is.55.8f. It gets back to trust and do you trust your Friend?