

Week 19

Listening To God

“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone into the world.” – 1 John 4:1

John warns the Christians to test the spirits, because not every message is from God. But some messages are from God. Scripture gives several examples of different ways that people have “heard” the voice of God. Sometimes God speaks to us through the Scriptures and we see in them an insight or understanding pertinent to our prayers and life experiences. Sometimes God speaks through the words of others. In 2 Samuel 16, David is cursed out by a Benjamite from the clan of Saul. David’s advisors want to use force to quiet the scoundrel, but David says, *“If he is cursing because the LORD said to him, ‘Curse David,’ who can ask, ‘Why do you do this?’ ”* David recognizes that God sometimes speaks through the words of others. God also speaks to us using nagging thoughts, unsettled spirits, inaudible nudges, etc. All of these “spirits” must be tested to see if they are from God or not.

Training ourselves to discern the voice of God from among all the other voices requires practice and sensitivity. While there is no simple and absolute method, there are some things to consider:

- Learn to tell the difference between the spirit of your own desires and the Spirit of God. Be careful not to simply claim that God wants you to do “this” or “that” because the feeling is strong and persistent. Our own desires are strong and persistent.
- Learn to pay attention to the little things. There are hints and clues that don’t always fit with our rationalizations. Pay attention to the “still small voice” and test it in prayer with God.
- Experiment with journaling during and after your prayer times. Write about the questions you have, write about the inner struggles, the decisions, and the things you discern about God’s will for the situation.
- Listen to what other people say to you. Perhaps there is a message of God even from the scoundrel cursing you.

This Week

- Take time to write down the things you “hear” and “discern” from God. Journal during and after your prayer time.

Week 19

May 9-15

Sun	<i>What specific action can you do this week related to your growth goals?</i>			9
Mother's Day	Hebrews (6)			
Mon	Deu 11	Acts 2	Psa 91	10
Kenykay Flick				
Tue	Deu 12,13	Acts 3	Psa 92	11
Wed	Deu 14,15	Acts 4	Psa 93	12
Thr	Deu 16,17	Acts 5	Psa 94	13
Fri	Deu 18,19	Acts 6	Psa 95	14
Sat				15