

#109 HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Q: "How do you know when you've heard God's voice? I thought I was sure, but then circumstances changed, and people started telling me I should go in another direction. Now it seems like God may have another plan for my life, how can I know for sure?"

1 CORINTHIANS 14:33 "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."

A: You are hearing many different voices speaking to you, like when the Corinthians were rebuked because many were speaking out at once, causing confusion. God is not the author of the confusing mixed messages you are hearing. God is the author of peace.

MARK 4:39-40 "He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, 'Peace, be still!' And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, 'Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?'"

A: God's voice will speak peace into your situation. Being tossed around by every word spoken by well-meaning Christians who advise you, is not what God wants for you to do. God does not operate in confusion. Satan is the author of deception and confusion, and he has not changed his method of operation because it still works.

GENESIS 3:1 "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

Q: "It seems scary to think that Satan could be so powerful, that he could fool someone God had just walked with, and talked to. How can I possibly stand up to that kind of deception or be able to tell when it's the devil or when it is God talking to me?"

A: Satan will come to you every time, asking you just as he asked Eve, "Did God really say? Are these promises really for you? Did you really hear from God? From the beginning of the Bible to today, we can see Satan deceiving God's people. Trials tempt us to question what God has said, but by going through trials we learn to listen to Him and become strong, healed and whole.

JAMES 1:2-4 "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

A: Satan's goal is to get you to doubt what God has said, so he can get you into a tailspin of confusion where you never quite make any decision, but just keep tossing back and forth in fear and unbelief.

JAMES 1:6-8 "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways."

Q: "I do ask God in faith, but when people pray for me, I don't understand how to sort out all the different views of what I should do? How do I know which voice is from God so I can quit being tossed around in confusion? Doesn't the Bible teach us to listen to the wisdom of many counselors?"

PROVERBS 11:14 "Where no counsel is, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety."

A: True, it is wise to seek Godly advice in gathering knowledge about unknown options to make intelligent decisions, but it is a different matter to trust opinions of others more than you trust God in prayer.

A: In Bible situations, before deciding to go to war, a king needed counselors to give knowledge regarding opposing armies. God never meant for counselors to be used as decision-makers for you, but He wants you to learn to hear and trust His voice.

JOHN 10:4-5 "And when He putteth forth His own sheep, He goeth before them; and the sheep follow Him, for they know His voice. And a stranger will they not follow him: for they know his voice."

Sheep follow their shepherd each day, depending on him to lead them to green grass and fresh water and rest. The sheep have learned to trust their shepherd for their every need, every day, by listening for the sound of his voice. When there are several herds and several shepherds at the marketplace, even in the midst of the sound of many confusing voices, each shepherd can call out his own sheep, and each sheep will respond only to the voice of its own shepherd, because it has learned to trust and depend on his voice.

Only by listening for and instantly following the voice of your Shepherd each day like the sheep, will you be trained to hear His voice, even in a storm of confusion.

PSALM 42:7 "Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me."

As you more deeply love the Lord and draw more closely to Him, you will learn to trust Him enough to instantly obey and flow with the steady living water of His voice. Then you will know you have heard Him, and you will be ready to go where ever He leads.

2 TIMOTHY 4:2 "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

God plans far more for you than to just solve your own problems. He has a plan for your life, and wants you to become sensitive to His voice through His Word and His Holy Spirit, so that you will become mature and useful to Him. If you would follow Him, you must be prepared and willing to instantly obey what He puts in your heart to do and say. God wants you trusting, listening, obedient and ready, whether it's raining or the sun is shining, and whether others approve of you or not.

PROVERBS 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

God doesn't want you to trust in differing opinions you have received, seeking approval of others before God, then using their opinions to figure out what is the safest and most popular choice. Following opinions of men will always bring confusion and constant change to your course.

ISAIAH 30:21 "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."

God will direct your path to stability when you are willing to stop leaning on your own understanding and trust Him, and follow the voice that He speaks into your heart.

Prayer: My Father, I come to you with purpose in my heart to leave behind my own way, to completely trust You with all the decisions for my life, in all things. Help me to not be afraid when I cannot see ahead, and follow where Your word and Your voice lead me. I want to love You and trust You more so I will hear the deeper ways of Your heart. I pray You will lead me to a deeper relationship with You Lord, so that I will always hear your call, and follow You, **in Jesus name, Amen.**



HEARING GOD'S VOICE



For reprints call or mail inquiries to:

Faithful Light, Inc.
530 New Los Angeles Ave. #360
Moorpark, CA 93021
(805)523-0088

www.faithfullight.org

“Faithful Light” Copyright 1998-2017 by Diane Gordon

This tract series has grown from the weekly Bible study targeting personal life issues faced by God's people through the pages of the Bible and in our lives today, while looking to the power of God's word, that comes alive through His indwelling Holy Spirit to bring truth, lasting change and wholeness to our lives. We pray these tracts will help you to become more effective in your individual life and in opening doors to express and share your faith, and that many will come to know our God of grace, mercy, love and redemption through your personal ministry to them.