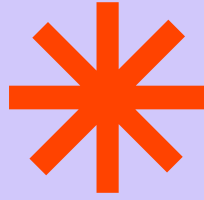


Leaders Gathering



Encouraging and empowering mission minded leaders.

Faith to Hear From God

BIG IDEA:

How do I know if I'm hearing from God? This is a question that most of us have either been asked by someone else or have asked of ourselves. We need to know the truths about hearing from God so we can discern God's voice from the world's voice or even our own.

Truths About Hearing God

- **God Speaks to People**

- We see these phrases throughout scripture: "and God spoke to..." and "the word of the Lord came to..."

- **The Holy Spirit Lives in Us**

- He is a person who speaks, leads, guides, and teaches

- **Your Ability to Hear Matters**

- Your ability to hear from God will determine the quality of your relationship with the Lord and your effectiveness as a Christian

- **Hearing Takes Faith**

- Hearing from God takes faith
- Sometimes we will not be 100% sure we heard from God. It takes faith to move forward

- **His Voice is Learned**

- This is something you develop over time, just like getting to know someone. We become more and more sensitive to His voice
- According to scripture, God's voice gives direction, correction, encouragement, rebuke, remind, foretelling

- **There are Two Forms of God's Word**

- Logos - the written word
- Rhema - the revealed word

- **God is Always Speaking**

- God has spoken from the beginning and is continually speaking
 - It's up to us to position and posture ourselves correctly to hear what He is saying
-

Nine Principles in Decision-Making

1. Read God's Word for Scriptural Revelation

- The scripture claims about itself that it is the "Oracle of God." (speaking place)
- God speaks primarily through His word
- God's word brings clarity to any sensing, leading, or dreams and visions
- God will not speak to you something that contradicts His word or character
- God can only pull out of you what you've deposited in. If you will fill your spirit with the word, God can pull it out of you to lead and direct your life

- **Questions to ask:**

- Is this biblical?
- Am I violating scripture or scriptural principles in any way? Am I making it say what I want?
- Have I read large sections of the Bible and had any verses speak to me or my situation?

- **Bottom line:** When the scriptures bear witness

2. Use the Cross as a Filter

- God desires transformation more than information
- More concerned about who you are becoming as opposed to where you are going

- **Questions to ask:**

- Am I submitted to the Lordship of Christ?
- Do I want God's will more than mine?
- Have I yielded my life and future to Him?
- Is this selfish? Am I only thinking about myself?
- Am I tempted to do things out of pressure and not based on following Jesus?

- **Bottom line:** When you are walking in obedience to Christ

3. Have a Renewed Mind

- Not every circumstance will have a clear command. You will have to use wisdom

- Difference between what's good and what's best
- This may be permissible, but is it beneficial?

- **Questions to ask:**

- Is this good judgment?
- Am I thinking clearly?
- Am I being conformed to the world in any way?
- Am I in a hurry to make decisions?
- Is this wisdom?

- **Bottom line:** When you are thinking clearly

4. Receive Wise Counsel

- "Wisdom in a multitude of counsel..."
- God can and will use people to help bring direction
- "When it doubt, go with authority" - Ed Bledsoe

- **Questions to ask:**

- Do key people in my life confirm this?
- Have I received counsel from mature people?
- Am I surrounding myself with people that tell me what I want to hear?

- **Bottom line:** When you find sincere and godly counsel

5. Pray Through the Holy Spirit

- Follow peace

- **Questions to ask:**

- Has God spoken to me to confirm this?
- Am I being led by the Holy Spirit?
- Am I confused in any way? God is not the author of confusion

- **Bottom line:** When God's peace rules your heart

6. Wait on the Lord

- God's voice is sometimes like sitting on a beach ball in a pool. It will keep coming up and won't leave you alone
- Sometimes God may have you pass up what's good to get to what's best. Outwardly this looks great, but inwardly you sense something not sitting right

- **Questions to ask:**

- Do I have peace that this is the will of God?
- Does my spirit bear witness?

- **Bottom line:** When your heart doesn't condemn you

7. Observe Your Circumstances

- Sometimes closed doors are giving you direction to something else

- **Questions to ask:**

- Is there an open door from the Lord and have circumstances lined up?
- Are you trying to force it?

- **Bottom line:** When circumstances confirm God's will

8. Be Sensitive to Supernatural Confirmation

- **Questions to ask:**

- Have I received any supernatural confirmation?
- Have I received a prophetic word or supernatural provision?
- Is this something only God could have worked out?

- **Bottom line:** When God confirms it with a sign

9. Look for Godly Fruit

- **Questions to ask:**

- What fruit will this produce or is this producing?
- Am I growing as a follower of Jesus?
- Is this causing me or others to stumble?

- **Bottom line:** When there is good fruit
-