

Recognizing God's Voice

John 10:11: NIV I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 10:9 NIV I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture.

John 10:14 NIV "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.

John 10:27-28 ESV My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. **28** I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

John 10:16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So, there will be one flock, one shepherd.

How does God Speak?

- 1) Through the Bible
- 2) Through the Voice of the Spirit
- 3) Through Dreams and Visions
- 4) Through Creation and all of Nature

Psalm 19:1-4 NIV "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. **2** Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. **3** They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. **4** Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world..."

- a) Creation is beautiful and powerful. And it speaks revelations and warnings.

Romans 1:18-20 NIV The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, **19** since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. **20** For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his **eternal power** and **divine nature**—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

- 5) God Speaks through Gentle Whispers.

- a) In 1 Kings 19 we have the story of Elijah the great prophet of God.

(1 Kings 19:2-3a NLT): "May the gods strike me and even kill me if by this time tomorrow I have not killed you just as you killed them." **3** Elijah was afraid and fled for his life..."

verse 4, Then he went on alone into the wilderness, traveling all day. He sat down under a solitary broom tree and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life..."

19:11-12 The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

Recognizing God's Voice

(remember: my sheep hear me, recognize my voice, refuse the voice of a stranger and they follow me.)

1 John. 4:1 LIV "Don't always believe everything you hear just because someone says it's a message from God. **Test it** first to see if it really is..."

1) Does it agree with the Bible?

Luke 21:33 TLB And though all heaven and earth shall pass away, yet my words remain forever true.

2) Will it make me more like Christ?

Phil. 2:5 NCV "In your lives you must think and act like Jesus Christ!" KJV says, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus"

Christlike Filters:

James 3:17 "the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

- i) PURE and SINCERE
- ii) PEACE LOVING
- iii) CONSIDERATE and FULL OF MERCY
- iv) IMPARTIAL
- v) SUBMISSIVE

3) Does it concern my responsibility?

Personal Prophetic Words

- a) God will use you to confirm what He's already said to them.

- b) Trust God to speak to that person first!
- c) If God does talk to you about something outside of your responsibility it is probably for the purpose of intercession.

4) Does Godly counsel agree?

- a) Proverbs 12:15 The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.
- b) Proverbs 19:20-21 Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise. Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.
- c) Proverbs 24:6 Surely you need guidance to wage war, and victory is won through many advisers.

5) Does it produce peace?

1 Cor. 14:33 NKJV "God is not the author of confusion"

- If you are confused, pressured, overwhelmed and driven to make a hasty decision it is not God speaking to you or you simply are not hearing God clearly.
- Example: Acts 21 Paul is at Philips house.

Phil 4:6,7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."