

## I. Ministry Series--How to Hear God's Voice and How to Know What is God and What is Not

Directions for the student of The Ministry Series: Focus on one question at a time. Read the question and answers. Look up scripture whenever possible, because reading the bible passages will help you understand the concepts and remember them more clearly. Learn the underlined parts of the answers. Be able to say the underlined parts, either in your own words, or by quoting word-for-word. When learning scripture, be able to say the scripture reference and the underlined parts, using either the NKJV (quoted here), or another translation (show your tester). Repetition aids memorization. Therefore ask three different people to test you, so that you are tested three separate times on every item. You may study the questions in any order you want. You may answer a question a little at a time, with study intervals between test sessions. If you answer a question a little at a time, ask your tester to check the parts of the answer you know with small check marks (and put small initials on their check marks). Ask your tester to sign the left margin when you know all the parts of a question. You have completed a question when it has three different signatures in the margin beside it. Have fun!

### 1. What are some of the ways God spoke in the Old Testament? (Know at least 5)

- a. God spoke to Daniel through the word of God, Daniel 9:2.
- b. God spoke to Elijah through a "still, small voice," 1 Kings 19:11-13.
- c. God spoke to Samuel by audible voice, 1 Samuel 3:1-15.
- d. God spoke to Moses face to face, Numbers 12:8
- e. God spoke to Abraham, by open vision (seen with physical eyes), Gen.12:7;17:1;18:1
- f. God spoke through visions (most likely seen with spiritual eyes) to Abraham, Gen. 15:1-6; Isaiah, Is. 1:1; Ezekiel, Ezekiel 1:1; Daniel, Dan. 8:1; and several others.
- g. God spoke to Daniel through night visions, Daniel 2:19 (sleeping, but not a dream).
- h. God spoke through dreams to Jacob, Laban and Joseph, Gen.28:12; 31:10, 24; 37:5-9.
- i. God gave Noah specific instructions to build the ark, Gen. 6:5-22.
- j. Similarly, God gave the Temple builders a Spirit of wisdom: the wisdom, understanding, knowledge and ability to design and craft specific items, Exod. 31:1-4.
- k. God spoke through angels to Daniel, Dan. 9:21; Samuel's mother, Jud. 13:3.
- l. God spoke to Moses through a burning bush, Exodus 3:1-7; in a cloud, Exodus 34:5.
- m. God spoke to the Hebrews in the Exodus by appearing to them as a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, Exodus 13:21-22; 40:34-38; Numbers 9:15-23;10:11, 34
- n. When the Temple was dedicated, a cloud of God's glory filled the Temple, so that the priests could not minister, 1 Kings 8:10-11; 2 Chronicles 5:13-14
- o. God transported Ezekiel in the Spirit, Ezek. 8:1-18; 11:1, 24
- p. God appeared as the "Angel of the Lord," the pre-incarnate Christ, to Hagar, Jacob, Gen. 16:7-11; 21:17; 32:24; Moses, Ex. 3:2; Israel, Gideon, Jud. 2:1; 6:11-18

### 2. What are some of the ways God spoke in the New Testament? (Know at least 5)

- a. God sent His Son, as attested by the Gospels Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- b. God bore witness by signs and wonders that Jesus was the Son of God, Matthew 11:5.
- c. Peter, James and John saw Jesus transfigured, and heard God's voice, Mark 9:1-10.
- d. When Jesus died on the cross, the earth shook, darkness covered the land, and the veil in the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom, Matthew 27:45, 51, 54.
- e. In the book of Acts, God poured out His Spirit on the new church, coming with the sound of a mighty rushing wind, and appearing as visible flames of fire on the heads of believers. He filled them with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke in tongues, Acts 2:2-4.

- f. God bore witness by signs and wonders when the word was preached by Peter, Paul, Philip, James, Stephen and several others, Mark 16:20; Acts 6:8; Heb. 2:4.
- g. God gave specific direction by inner voice, or through dreams and visions to the church at Antioch, Acts 13:1-2; Ananias, Acts 9:11; Peter, Acts 10, Paul, Acts 16:6-10.
- h. God sent angels to Zacharias, Mary, Joseph and Philip, Luke 1:11-2:14; Acts 8:26
- i. Stephen had an open vision of Jesus Christ at the right hand of God, Acts 7:55.

### **3. What convinces us that God still speaks to us today? (Know at least 5)**

- a. Jesus promised that He would not leave us as orphans, that He would come to us, John 14:18
- b. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to lead us and guide us into all truth. This baptism is for every believer, John 14:16-18; 15:26; 16:13-15, 1 John 2:20, 27.
- c. Jesus promised that He will never leave us or forsake us, Hebrews 13:5
- d. Jesus said that His sheep hear His voice, John 10:3, 16, 27
- e. Jesus promised in times of persecution He would tell us what to say, Mark 13:11
- f. We are told in the book of Acts that God's sons and daughters will prophesy, see visions and dream dreams, Acts 2:17
- g. We are still in the same covenant which started when Jesus died on the cross. Therefore everything we see believers doing in the New Testament is still possible today. There is no scripture that says, "God doesn't do this today."
- h. We are promised guidance in the word of God, Psalm 32:8; Psalm 23:1-3
- i. We are told that God does not change. He spoke to others, and He still speaks today. Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" Malachi 3:6, "I am the Lord, I do not change."

### **4. What are some things you can do which will enable you to hear God's voice. (Know three of these, try for four)**

- a. Read, study, memorize and meditate on God's word. God's word is His voice!
- b. Remember "GIGO" is true. GIGO stands for "garbage in, garbage out" OR "good things in, good things out." To hear God's voice more clearly, decrease the garbage you are hearing and seeing (TV, newspapers, magazines, internet, radio, entertainments, etc.). Instead increase your time hearing good things--time in God's word, in prayer, in His presence, in worship and praise.
- c. Grow in faith and obedience by reading God's word and applying it, cf. Heb. 3:15-19
- c. When God speaks to you, OBEY what God tells you to do, Psalm 95:7-8. (First be sure it is God is talking, 1 John 4:1)

### **5. Why does studying God's word help you hear His voice? (Know all four of these)**

- a. God's word is His voice, 2 Tim. 3:16
- b. Hearing God's word increases your faith, Romans 10:17.
- c. Studying God's word enables you to know His nature and His character. For example, Psalm 103:8-14; James 1:17.
- d. Reading God's word enables you to recognize His voice, because you are already listening to Him in His word, John 10:4-5, 14.

### **6. Should any prophetic word--God's voice either to you or through others--be judged? Why? (Know two of these, try for four)**

- a. Yes, always.

- b. Because 1 John 4:1 tells us to test the spirits.
- c. 1 Thess. 5:21 tells us to test all things.
- d. Prophecy should always be judged, especially by other prophets, 1 Cor. 14:29

**7. What are three possible sources of guidance? (Know all three)**

- a. Your own voice.
- b. The enemy's voice
- c. God's voice.

**8. What are three steps in James 4:7-8 to shut off the enemy's voice?**

- a. Submit to God: Ask God to search your heart for any sin. Repent. Confess that sin and choose to turn from it. Ask Him to cleanse you.
- b. Resist the enemy. Does this out loud, in Jesus name. Say something like, "In the name of Jesus Christ, I resist every demon spirit and command you to flee!"
- c. Draw near to God by worshiping Him, praising Him, or reading your bible out loud, or asking for Him help, telling Him you are trusting Him and thanking Him.

**9. What are three things you can do to shut off your own voice?**

- a. Once you know you are clean before God, 1 John 1:8-9, choose to crucify your flesh with all its passions and desires, Gal. 5:24; 2:20. Choose to be dead to self.
- b. Tell God about all your own good ideas. Tell Him that you are putting these on the altar, and you will not use any of these ideas unless He tells you it is His will for you.
- c. Wait and listen. Do not act on that circumstance until you know God's will in it.

**10. How should every prophetic word be judged? (Know #h plus five of these)**

- a. Judge every prophetic word by the word of God. 2 Timothy 3:16 says that the Holy Spirit wrote the bible. There is only one Holy Spirit, He does not contradict Himself.
- b. Judge every prophetic word by whether or not it is consistent with God's character. God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, Psalm 103:8. God does not condemn His people, Romans 8:1. God does not manipulate His people by fear, covetousness or pride. 2 Timothy 1:7; Luke 12:15; James 3:15-16. God never causes confusion, James 3:15-16.
- c. Judge every prophetic word, and people who give prophetic words, by the standard in James 3:17-18: Those who give prophesy should be "pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy."
- d. God's word always comes with peace, James 3:17. If there is no peace, it's not God.
- e. Jesus said we would know false prophets by their fruits, Matthew 7:15-20. Judge the fruit of a prophetic word. Ask: What is its effect on you? Fear? Confusion? Or does it edify, encourage, and comfort you, as 1 Cor. 14:3 says?
- f. Ask if that word draws you to God, or drives you away from Him.
- g. Always ask if a prophetic word witnesses to your spirit. Remember that God's Spirit lives in you, Romans 8:9. He will give you an inner witness if a word is from Him.
- h. Test the spirits! Demonic spirits cannot say that Jesus is Lord, or that He has come in the flesh, 1 Cor. 12:3; 1 John 4:1-3. Say "In the name of Jesus Christ, I command this spirit who is talking to me to tell me if Jesus Christ is Lord, and if He has come in the flesh." Demonic spirits will deny or disappear. The Holy Spirit will be pleased that you are testing the spirits, as He asked you to, 1 John 4:1.