

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. -1 John 4:1

The three sources of inspiration in prayer: our spirit, good spirit (God, angels) the devil

### **Five Keys for discerning God's voice**

**Key 1:** God speaks according to his true nature

Who does God reveal himself as?

**Key 2:** Understanding that the devil operates through deception

**Key 3:** Necessity of Awareness and Honesty

**Key 4:** The clarifying power of surrender

**Key 5:** Consider the character and effect a word has on you.

**Character Question:** *Is the word compatible with the character and goodness of God?*

*Love and affirmation of identity or accusation and condemnation?*

**Effect Question:** *In what manner does the word come?*

*Fear or Fruits of the Spirit?*

Renouncing words from the enemy and replacing them with declarations of truth.

*In the name of Jesus, I renounce the word that \_\_\_\_\_.* Jesus what word do you want to give me in exchange for this one? (declare it after he reveals the word)

## The 4 Steps to Hearing God's Voice

Habakkuk 2:1-2 "I will stand at my guard post, and position myself (1) upon the rampart; I will keep watch (2a) to see what he will say to me, and what answer (2d) he will give to my complaint. Then the LORD answered me and said: Write down the vision (3); Make it plain upon tablets (4)

### 1) Position yourself in faith to hear.

- a. I have an open heaven over me – *Mark 1: 9-11*
- b. I can hear Jesus' voice – *John 10: 1-5, John 18:37*
- c. I expect to hear his voice because I ask – *Matthew 7:7*

### 2) Prepare and quiet yourself to receive

- a. I will focus my eyes on the image that Jesus wants to give me – *Hebrews 12: 1-2*
- b. I will enter into his presence with praise for who he is and thanksgiving for what he's done for me  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, his courts with praise. – *Psalms 100: 4*
- c. I will engage Holy music or scripture reading to help reset my mind if I'm 'out of it'
  - i. "[Elisha said] now get me a minstrel." When the minstrel played, the hand of the LORD came upon Elisha and he announced: "Thus says the LORD..." – *2 Kings 3:15-16*
- d. I will be real about my problems and ask God direct questions.
  - i. "Ask [questions] and you shall receive [answers]." – *Matthew 7:7*
  - ii. Patrick's favorites: "God, what do you want me to know right now?" & "God, how do you want to love me today?"

### 3) Look for Vision

- a. I will pay attention to the spontaneous flow of vision (seeing), words (hearing) or impressions in your heart (feeling) that flow like a river – "Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture says: 'Rivers of living water will flow from within him.'" – *John 7: 38-39*
  - i. **Seeing** (images/scenes in imagination): "Amen, amen, I say to you, a son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees his father doing." – *John 5:19*
  - ii. **Hearing** (words from the vox interioris – voice of the mind): "I tell you what I have seen in the Father's presence; then do what you have heard from the Father." – *John 8:38*
  - iii. **Feeling** (intuitions or senses upon your heart): "May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones" – *Ephesians 1:18*
  - iv. **Knowing** (information in the form of whole thoughts or impressions): "'For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ." – *1 Corinthians 2:16*

### 4) Write down what you receive

- a. I will honor the word that God speaks to me by writing it in my journal.
- b. I will be open to two-way journaling and engaging further and deeper in the prayer as I write.
- c. I will discern what I write down.