



HOW TO RECOGNIZE GOD'S VOICE - 3

Seven Ways to Test an Impression

North Lake Presbyterian Church
Pastor Denny Dennison
January 29, 2012

"Don't always believe everything you hear just because someone says it is a message from God; test it first to see if it really is!

(1 John 4.1 Living Bible)

From Myself ?

Proverbs 14.12

From God ?

Job 33.14

From Satan ?

2 Corinthians 11.14

1. DOES IT AGREE WITH THE BIBLE?

"Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will never pass away."
(Luke 21.33 Good News)

"Even if an angel should preach a different gospel than this let him be eternally condemned."
(Galatians 1.8)

2. DOES IT MAKE ME MORE CHRIST LIKE?

"In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 2.5 NCV)

"If you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition. . . such wisdom doesn't come from heaven. . . but it is of the devil. The wisdom that comes from God is. . . pure, peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy, impartial and sincere.
(James 3.14-17)

3. DOES MY CHURCH FAMILY CONFIRM IT ?

"God's intent is that through the church the manifold wisdom of God would be made known."
(Ephesians 3.10)

"The wisdom of the righteous can save you." (Proverbs 11.9 Good News)

4. IS IT CONSISTENT WITH HOW GOD HAS SHAPED ME?

"we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2.10)

"God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. . ."
(Romans 12.6 Living Bible)

5. DOES IT CONCERN MY RESPONSIBILITY?

"We will all be judged one day, not by each other's standards, or even our own, but by the judgment of God. . . it is God alone that we shall have to answer for our actions."
(Romans 14.10, 13 Phillips)

6. IS IT CONVINCING RATHER THAN CONDEMNING ?

"If we confess our sins to him, God can be depended on to forgive us and cleanse us from every wrong." (1 John 1.9 Living Bible)

"Satan is the accuser of believers." (Revelation 12.10)

The Differences between:

Conviction

From God

"You've sinned"

Condemnation

From Satan

"You're worthless"

7. DO I SENSE GOD'S PEACE ABOUT IT ?

"God is not the author of confusion." (1 Corinthians 14.33)

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. . ." (Colossians 3.15)

Questions for Classes and Groups – Read 1 John 4:1-6 (below)

1 Dear friends, 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. **2** This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, **3** but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. **4** You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. **5** They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. **6** We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit[a] of truth and the spirit of falsehood.
1 John 4:1-6 TNIV

.1. What big test made you nervous?

2. How do people motivated by God's spirit differ from false teachers in their attitude toward Christ? Toward other Christians? To the world?

3. What power enables you to discern and overcome?

4. What helps you to avoid both (a) being close-minded to new insights and (b) being so open-minded your brains fall out? Give an example of (a) and (b).