

## Listening to God

### Psalm 25:14

#### What are the blessings of listening to God?

- The Holy Spirit is our helper and teacher (John 14:16-17, 26)
- The Holy Spirit can testify with our spirit about our true identity (Romans 8:16)
- The Holy Spirit can address specific areas of sin and wounding in our lives so we can become more like Him through sanctification (John 16:8, Romans 15:16)
- We can experience God in greater ways, including the gifts of the Holy Spirit (Luke 8:18)
- God can give us specific instructions so we can obey Jesus in a host of ways (Acts 8, 9, 10, 13, 20, 21)

#### What are primary ways God speaks?

1. His Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
2. Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17, 24 and 1 Corinthians 2:16)
3. Holy Spirit through other believers (Exodus 4:15-17)

#### How can we start or grow in listening to God?

Set aside quiet time in your routine

Ask God an open ended question

Write down what you think God is saying to you

Meditate on God's Word, whatever you're reading

Listening is also a team sport...make time to listen to God with friends, family or small group

Consider what might be getting in the way of hearing

(Not believing God speaks, business and distraction, habitual unrepentant sin, self-reliance, fear of what God might say, enemy warfare (Daniel 10), over-dependence on logic and reasoning, unwillingness to obey)

#### Discerning the voice of Jesus v the voice of the enemy.

Is is consistent with the Bible and Jesus's character? (John 1:1)

Does it lead to spiritual life or death? (John 10:10)

What is the fruit? (Matt 7:15-21)

Ask God to confirm it by speaking it again or seeing it happen

Ask a more mature believer who also listens to God

#### Does is sound more like Jesus's voice or the voice of the enemy?

Voice of Jesus	Voice of the Enemy
Consistent with the Bible (Jn 1:1)	Avoids or twists Bible or takes it out of context (Gen 3:1, 2 Cor 11:3, Luke 4)
Speaks in present tense - I AM How to deal with past (1 John 1:9) How to deal with future (Matt 6:34)	Speaks to keep you in the past-guilt Speaks to keep you in the future-worry
Peace/assurance (John 14:27)	Confusing or accusing, esp constantly demeaning ( Gen 3:1, Rev 12)
Leads you to obey God (Jn 14:27)	Leads you to sin, not obeying God (1 Jn 3:8)
Conviction of sin (John 16:8)	Condemnation from of sin (Rom 8:1)
Leads to life to us and others (John 10:10)	Leads to death in us/others (John 10:10, 2 Cor 4:4)
Affirms our identity in Him to be children of God and ministers of the gospel (Rom 8:16, 2 Cor 3:6)	Accuses and says our identity is from our past or sin (Rev 12:10)