

Sermon notes: 30 July 2019

Hearing God Part 5

“This also comes from the Lord of hosts, Who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in guidance” - Isaiah 28:29

Introduction: One thing that God says about Himself is that He is *excellent in guidance*. He feels very strongly about guidance:

1 Chronicles 10:13 - *So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the Lord, because he did not keep the word of the Lord, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance.*

God is *wonderful in counsel and excellent in guidance!* He is so serious about guidance that He sent the Holy Spirit to be our guide, our counsellor, our comforter, our stand-by and our advocate.

Looking back at all the years I have been a Christian, I can certainly testify to that. I can certainly say that God is excellent in guidance.

Today, I would like to share with you, 3 sure ways not to miss the voice of God in your life. These are the 3 basic principles that I have learned and that have helped me find God's guidance accurately every time. I call it the 3 C's.

1. Conscience.

I realised early in my Christian walk that if I wanted to know the 'what' and 'how' and 'when' of the will of God, I needed to first locate the '*where*'. *Where* could I find His voice?

The Holy Spirit speaks to your spirit and, as we saw last week, the voice of the spirit, is the "conscience". You need to give attention to your conscience if you want to hear from God accurately. You need to make sure that you have a conscience that is clear, obedient and good:

- a) A conscience without offense (a clear conscience)

Acts 24:16 - *This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men. [NIV: a clear conscience]*

Offense will hinder the voice of God.

Ephesians 4:30-32 - *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*

The Holy Spirit will not speak if He is grieved.

b) An obedient conscience

1 Timothy 4:1-2 - *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ²speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.*

In other words: desensitized, calloused and unresponsive. That kind of conscience will be open to deceiving spirits but not the Spirit of Truth.

c) A good conscience

1 Timothy 1:19 - *having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck,*

This is absolutely crucial to hear from God: to have a clear conscience, an obedient conscience and a good conscience.

We need to attend to our inner life and the inner motivations of our hearts.

2. Community

This is the second C. The first C (conscience) is your inner life, the second C has to do with coming together with others: Community.

There is no such thing as an isolated believer. We belong together, we are members of the Body of Christ, we are a community of Christ's followers.

God speaks corporately and what he says corporately is not less important than what He says personally, in our hearts.

1 Corinthians 14:26 - *How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.*

- a) *Whenever you come together* – not 'if you come together'
- b) Tongues, revelation, interpretation of tongues – God speaking corporately through the gifts of the Holy Spirit or through the teaching of the pastor.

If we want to be led by the Holy Spirit, we cannot neglect the 'coming together' and what God will say in that context.

3. Consecration

This is the third 'C'. The first has to do with your inner life – your conscience, the second with your life in community (assembling with other saints) and the third has to do with your life with God: consecration.

Romans 12:1-2 - *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.² And do not be conformed to this world, but be*

transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

I realised from my earliest days of walking with the Lord that in order to know and prove the perfect will of God I needed to present my life to Him on daily basis. I learned to do that and keep that daily appointment with Him and His word.

Psalm 37:23 - *The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way.*

You don't need to have daily prophecies, angelical visitations, signs and wonders – everyday - to know if you are in the will of God. Sometimes God may choose to do any one of those things, at times you may go through a season with none of these things happening. In fact, you may never see an angel in your life, however, a sure way to know that you are in the will of God is to do Romans 12:1-2: Consecration.

Conclusion

In your quest to hear the voice of God and walk in the will of God for your life, you won't go wrong if you attend to these 3 Cs: Conscience (keeping a clear conscience), Community (coming together with other believers to hear God corporately) and Consecration.

Remember: God is wonderful in counsel and excellent in guidance!