

CLOTHED WITH POWER 4

Hearing the Spirit's Voice

VOICES

- * There are numerous VOICES demanding to be heard, IDEAS competing for attention, INFLUENCES pushing their agendas.
 - * On a good day, we're CLEAR what God's WORD says. At other times, it can be a SWIRL & we feel like we're being BUFFETED.
- *Is all this a struggle for you? If so, how often? What brings it on?*

1. CONSCIENCE → Inbuilt MORAL COMPASS, sense of RIGHT & WRONG ... CONSTRAINING voice.

2. INTUITION → GUIDING voice ... Spiritual PERCEPTION or INSIGHT.
→ *Do you recognise the voice of the human spirit? How often do you hear either a constraining word or a guiding word? Can you give an example?*

3. FLESH → Our DESIRES, IMPULSES, MOODS, LUSTS, OVERREACTIONS.

4. EXPERIENCE / TRAINING → Deeply ingrained HABITS, PRINCIPLES, REACTIONS that can be very hard to SHAKE.
→ *Which of that last pair (3 + 4) speak loudest in you? Is what they tell you always problematic or can it sometimes be helpful? In what ways can they potentially stop us hearing from God?*

5. THE WORLD → Worldly AGENDAS, LIFESTYLE suggestions, philosophical IDEOLOGIES (2 Cor 10:1-5).
→ *Has this voice become louder and/or stronger in the 21st century?*
→ *How is the 'god of this world' trying to indoctrinate us? What are his tactics? To what is he attempting to make us conform?*

6. DEMONS whispering LIES in your ears → The Devil operates in the realm of SUGGESTIVE THOUGHT (Eph 6:12).
→ *What lies does the devil try to whisper in your ears? Can you see any patterns? Why do you think he attacks you in that way?*

7. The HOLY SPIRIT (Rom 8:14, Gal 5:25).

3 MAIN WAY THE HOLY SPIRIT SPEAKS TO US

1. THE SPIRIT REVEALING THE WORD (Psalm 119:105)

- * His guidance always takes you TOWARDS the Word, never CONTRADICTS the Word, always EMPHASISES the Word.
- *How does the Lord use the Word to speak to you? Why is a Word-filled heart the most reliable guide?*

2. THE INWARD WITNESS

- * INNER KNOWING, GUT FEELING, HUNCH, IMPRESSION, NUDGE (Acts 27:9-10, 15:28, Rom 8:16).
 - * Do you feel AT PEACE?
- *How would you describe the inward witness? How often do you sense it? What does 'peace' have to do with it? Can you think of examples of times you've either listened to it & been grateful or ignored it & been sorry?*

3. THE STILL SMALL VOICE (1 Kings 19, Isaiah 30:21)

- * DROPPED into your spirit ... Often UNEXPECTED & comes as a flash of INSPIRATION.
 - * CLEAR, AUTHORITATIVE & WISE.
 - * Peterson: "Everybody else is NOISIER than God."
- *Ever heard what you'd describe as the 'still small voice'? Any examples you can share? Why do you think God chooses to whisper quietly?*

DISTINGUISHING THE VOICES OF SHEPHERD & STRANGER (Psalm 23)

v1: The Shepherd is saying, 'YOU CAN!' The Stranger keeps telling you, 'YOU CAN'T!'

→ *How does the voice of the Shepherd tell you that you can? For you personally, how does the Stranger discourage you into believing you can't?*

v2: The Shepherd leads you into PEACE; the Stranger into TURMOIL.

→ *What are the 'green pastures' or 'still waters'? How does the Shepherd lead you there? Where would the Stranger rather you went & why?*

v3: The Shepherd's language is RESTORATION & RIGHTEOUSNESS; the Enemy's is DESTRUCTION & SIN.

→ *How does the Shepherd restore? How does the Stranger destroy? How does that distinction help you distinguish the two voices?*

v4: The Voice of the Shepherd strengthens FAITH; the voice of the Stranger feeds FEAR.

→ *What fears in you does the Enemy love to feed? While he's stirring that, what is the Shepherd usually trying to tell you?*

v5: The voice of the Shepherd will remind you of your ANOINTING; the voice of Stranger encourages you to follow your FLESHLY IMPULSE.

→ *How does the Enemy usually distract you from the anointing on your life? How does the voice of the Shepherd lead you away from trying to do it in your own strength?*

v6: Shepherd's voice is MERCIFUL & CONVICTING; the Enemy's voice is DEMEANING & CONDEMNING.

→ *What is the difference between conviction & condemnation? How does the Enemy try to pile on condemnation? How often do you hear the Enemy trying to convince you to 'condemn' others?*