

CHARIS CHRISTIAN CENTRE
SERMON NOTES

DATE : 14.9.2008 & 21. 9.2008
SPEAKER : REV. LAWRENCE YAP
TOPIC : **THE 3 DYNAMICS OF HEARING GOD.**
(Part 1 – 3)
TEXT : JER. 6:16; HEB. 1:1-2 & PROV.3:5-8

For many of us, just as we struggle with of our Quiet Time, we also struggle in the area of learning to **hear the voice of God with consistency.**

For many of us when we talk about ‘discerning the voice of God’, we are always bugged with the questions, “Was it GOD or was it just me? How can I know in the given situation whether the voice I hear is the voice of God or the voice of the devil or is it just my own thoughts?”

Know that God has given us 3 main beacons that will lead us to the way of God & help us navigate into the harbour of decisions. When these 3 beacons are present & in alignment, then you can have the assurance to proceed with the plans or decisions that you have been praying about.

1. THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

What do we mean by the “**leading of the Holy Spirit?**”

- **Who is the Holy Spirit?** It is not any abstract force but God’s Spirit Himself: the 3rd Person of the Truine God. He is our Counselor, Comforter, Advocate, & Encourager; He gives us peace,; He leads & convicts us of the truth. When we accepted the Lord Jesus into our life, the Holy Spirit dwells within us with that acceptance.
- Rom. 8: 15-16 = He has sent the Holy Spirit to speak to into our spirit and by Him we cry, “Abba, Father.” His Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.
- The Holy Spirit speaks to us by that still, small voice in our inner man. (Heb. 3:7)
- The Holy Spirit impresses upon our spirit with a vision or a thought. (Acts 16: 9-10)
- The Holy Spirit prompts us to take a certain action or “caution” us with a “check.” (Acts 16: 16-18)

What disrupt our hearing in the Spirit?

Hebrews 3 warns us about the deceitfulness of sins & Verse 15 says, “Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in rebellion.”

- **Disobedience and seared conscience will harden our hearts and make us insensitive to the voice of God.**
- Rom. 7:15 = “I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate, I do.” This is the “tussle” (struggle) that goes within ourselves: the tussle between the soul, spirit & body.

What should we do?

Rom. 12: 1-2 = “...to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – that is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good and pleasing and perfect will,”

- We have to surrender our body to God as our physical body is limited.
- We have to be transformed by the renewing of our mind. We need to change our belief system. If our mindset is not changed in alignment to God’s Word, we will have conflicts with ourselves & with people around us.

2. THE GUIDANCE OF THE WORD.

- Psalm 119:105 = “Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”
- The Bible is the progressive revelation of God. God will build up what He had already said; God does not contradict His Word. Therefore, the Old Testament complements the New Testament: the OT laid the foundation for the NT revelations.
- As such, the Bible serves as a “plumb line” to test whether what I heard or felt is of God or not & also to help us evaluate false teachings.
- John 6:27, Matt.27:5 & Luke 10:37
- “Christianity is not a hobby. It is a lifestyle. The Leading of Holy Spirit gives us the Guidance of His Word.

3. THE PROVIDENCE OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

- What do we mean by this?
Read Acts 11:1-18 & Judges 6:36-40. From these scripture passages, there were **the Leading of the Holy Spirit, Guidance of the Word & providence of circumstances** for both Peter (Acts 11:1-18) & Gideon (Judges. 6:36-40) .
- Does it mean that when we have confirmation from the leading of the Holy Spirit and the Guidance of His Word but we encounter a closed door, then it is not God's will?
- **We must know the character of our God: He is a gracious Father! God always has a reason for His delay even though the “3 beacons” are in alignment.**
- **In the case of ‘circumstance being not appropriate’, we are to seek counsel from our Pastors & church leaders & this is the reason why God gives us Pastors/leaders for our church. But of course, the final decision is still yours.**
- **Rom. 1:1-15** = Here, we read about Apostle Paul. He wanted to go to Rome but not then as later circumstances had changed. And when he did go to Rome, he went as custody of the Roman Empire. God had allowed such circumstance because He wanted Paul to preach the gospel to the elite part of the Roman Empire, people of higher hierarchy.
- **Gen. Chapters 30-50** = The story of Joseph is another good example that showed that God had turned what man had intended to harm to become something good for His glory.
- **Isa. 55: 8-9** = **‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.’**