



Session 6 Hearing God for Guidance, Prophecy, and Ministry Prayer

I. A. Key Scripture

John 10:2-5 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

B. Renounce any lies that would keep you from hearing the voice of the Good Shepherd.

II. Hearing God's Voice for Guidance in Making Important Decisions.

A. God gave us a mind and free will so we don't have to seek him for every decision we make during the day, but we should always consult Him for major decisions.

B. We can expect God to guide us; this is what a loving Father does. Many scriptures assure us of this fact.

Psalm 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

Isaiah 30:21 Your ears shall hear a word behind you saying, "This is the way, walk in it whenever you turn to the right or to the left."

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.

Romans 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

C. God is our guide, but He doesn't give us a map. We may just get the next step, not necessarily the final destination. Why? Because He wants to be part of the journey. This is where He teaches us His ways and refines us so we become more and more like Jesus.

D. 6 pillars of guidance from Mark Virkler's *Life Enrichment And Review* Notebook p. 28. Most or all of these should line up before you make a major decision.

1. God's voice through illumination/revelation of Scriptures.

2. God's voice through illumination of your thoughts.

3. Discernment in your heart – peace or unrest. "Knowing in your knower."

4. The discerning counsel of others. ***"In the multitude of counselors there is safety."*** ***Prov. 11:14*** Get input and confirmation. Should be from people who are mature in the Lord and can hear His voice.

5. Life's circumstances – open or closed doors or other indications.
6. Hearing God's voice through dreams, visions, prophecy, and journaling.

E. Immature guidance - What **NOT** to do:

1. Failing to get adequate confirmation
2. Opening the Bible at random
3. Searching the Bible until you find what you wanted to hear
4. Following the advice of other Christians without hearing from God yourself
5. Ignoring godly counsel and just following your feelings

III. Prophecy

A. We can all learn to give prophetic words, but not all are true prophets.

Acts 2:17 Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.

1 Cor. 14:31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

- B. Prophecy will bubble up as you tune in to the spontaneous flow of thoughts or pictures coming from the Holy Spirit. Don't force it.
- C. Wait for the Holy Spirit to give you something to share. It could be one word, a thought, a flow of thoughts, or a picture in your mind.
- D. Allow yourself to be put in a demand situation; trust that God will meet you; and speak it out.
1. Say, "I believe that the Lord is showing me..."
"I think the Lord is saying to you that..."
 2. Afterward, ask for feedback. Did this bear witness or not?
- E. You may feel a physical sensation in your body that prompts you to speak.
- F. You may have a scripture pop into your mind to share. The Word is powerful!
- G. The Holy Spirit may give you a word of knowledge – a revelation that you would not otherwise know.
- H. Suggestions from Kim Maas (*in Charisma Magazine online 12/07/19*): "Your prophetic gift will not grow unless you use it. Here are four practices believers can use to initiate and grow in the prophetic gift that God has freely given them." These are:
1. You have to read your Bible. One of the ways we test a word of knowledge always is by Scripture. Words need to line up with Scripture. (Not identical but *consistent* with Scripture).
 2. Every chance you get, practice the gift of prophecy. There are several ways to practice, and one is to *journal every day*. Get up in the morning, have your time with the Lord, and then get out

your journal and ask God a simple question like, 'What's going to happen today?' 'Who's going to call me?' 'What are people going to need from me today?'

3. Give prophetic gifts and cards to people in your life. Ask the Lord to give you a scripture or a word that will encourage them or speak to their future.
4. When you're going someplace during the day, ask the Lord to make you sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit, and be aware if you have something to share with that person. Pay attention to people who walk by and God may highlight someone for you. The Holy Spirit will lead you from there.

IV. Hearing from God When You Pray for Others

A. 5 step model (John Wimber and Randy Clark's model)

1. The Interview – ask questions, but don't let the person ramble
2. The Diagnosis – ask Holy Spirit for insight on how to pray. What is the Father doing?
3. Prayer Selection – for physical or emotional healing? Deliverance? Petition or declaration? etc.
4. Prayer Engagement – follow the Holy Spirit's direction, work as a team.
5. Post-Prayer Direction – get feedback, give encouragement, homework

B. Wait, don't feel pressured.

C. What do you see? What do you sense? Are there spontaneous thoughts or pictures coming to your mind? Are you getting a word of knowledge or scripture?

D. Pray with eyes open so you can see manifestation of Holy Spirit on the person.

E. "I believe I have a word for you..." not "Thus saith the Lord" type prophecies. Or "I'm seeing a picture of _____." Does that have meaning for you?

F. Holy Spirit may lead you to do a prophetic act.

G. Remember that LOVE NEVER FAILS (even if you were a little off base)

H. Always remember that you CAN hear God's voice!! (John 10:2-5)